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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 8, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 1

Inside

Back to School
See throughout this issue for stories to welcome the new school year

Vatican says Catholic Christianity necessary for salvation
...PAGE 7

Local News

Sisters of Mercy elect new leadership
...PAGE 5

Centenarian has seen it all
...PAGE 20

Every Week

Entertainment
...PAGES 14-15
Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 16-17

The Catholic News & Herald has resumed its weekly publishing schedule.

Celebrating Jubilee

Smoky Mountain Vicariate gathers for Labor Day Mass

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

BRYSON CITY — Labor Day, and the worship space was packed. People sat in rows of metal chairs in and around Morgan Pavilion in Swain County Recreation Park. Others stood behind the chairs or sat with their children on blankets on the ground. Banners representing the vicariate's churches hung on stands behind the rows of worshipers.

A small bulldog trotted in and out, pausing in front of Bishop William G. Curlin during his homily. "Well, hello, little one," the bishop said.

"This pavilion is normally a place where people have picnics, but today it's the basilica of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate," Father George Kloster, vicar of the vicariate, told the group at the conclusion of a Jubilee Year Mass celebrated by Bishop Curlin and concelebrated by priests from churches throughout the vicariate.

Priests participating were Father Robert Bond, Glenmary, Holy Redeemer and Prince of Peace; Father Ray Williams, St. Joseph and Our Lady of Guadalupe; Father Dennis McGowan, O.S.A., St. John and Immaculate Conception; Father C. Morris Boyd, St. Francis of Assisi; Father George M. Kloster, V.F., St. William and Immaculate Heart of Mary; Father Francis J. Doyle, O.S.A., St. Margaret; Father James P. Cahill, St. Mary; and Father Christopher Nowak, O.S.A., St. John. Rev. Mr. Carl Hubbel of St. William also participated in the service.

During Mass, Bishop Curlin conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on seven candidates — Clarissa Garcia, Brittney Helton, Frankie Heminway, Ashley Korth, Jesse Korth, Chris Norcross, and Christine Tyndall — from St. Joseph Church in Bryson City. Bishop Curlin also blessed a pile of gifts that vicariate churches had donated to the Nantahala AIDS Consortium.

After the service, the pavilion again became a picnic site as attendees helped themselves to the homemade salads, pasta casseroles, baked beans, grilled chicken, hot dogs and desserts they had brought to the event.

They had contributed much else. St. Francis of Assisi parishioners planned the liturgy, using the Mass for the Progress of Peoples to emphasize the Jubilee theme of justice. The Responsorial was, "Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever." St. Francis also provided liturgical items such as vestments, bread, and wine. Parishioners from St. Joseph set up the altar and arranged the chairs. The choir, directed by Joanne Kramer of St. Francis, included members of parishes throughout the vicariate.

The day had a distinctly multicultural flavor. Prior to Mass, John Tyndall conducted a Native American smudging ceremony, asking blessings for those assembled. Petitions of the faithful during the Mass were in English and Spanish, with responses in English, Latin and Spanish. "Espiritu," a Hispanic choir from St. Francis, sang several selections.

Each parish in the vicariate had been asked to donate a specific item — pillowcases, bed linens, books, and books on tape, among other things — to the Nantahala AIDS Consortium. at the Offertory, a basket of the gifts was included. Just before the end of Mass, Father Kloster asked that the rest of the gifts be brought forward. Men and women carried in boxes, baskets, and bags of goods and placed them in front of the altar for the bishop's blessing and presentation to George T. Sherrill of the consortium.

"In lieu of an offertory collection," Father Boyd said, "I suggested we bring gifts for the Nantahala AIDS Consortium because the consortium covers all of the counties in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate."

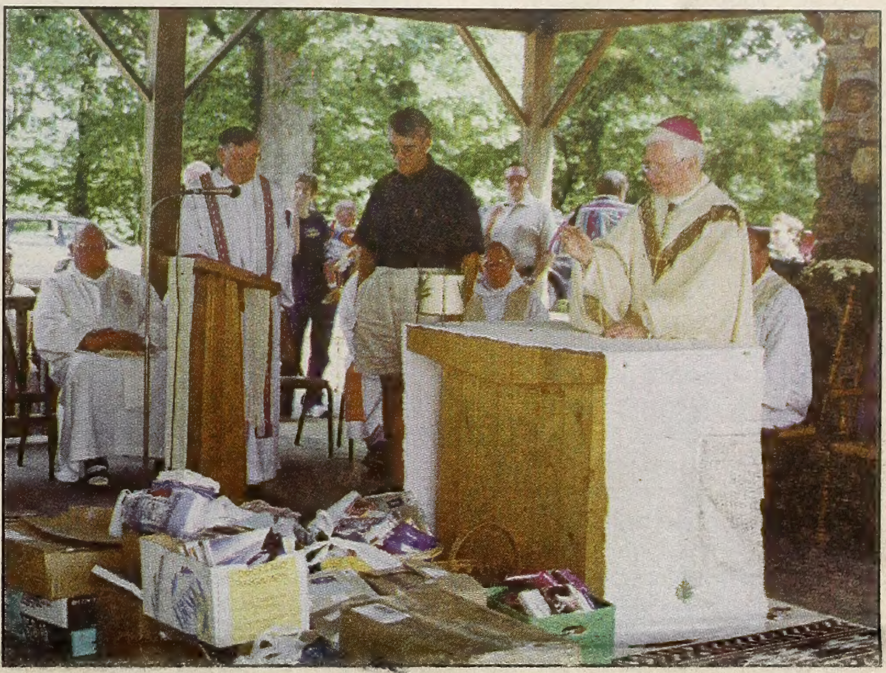

PHOTO BY JOANITA NELLENBACH

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the gifts for the Nantahala AIDS Consortium during a Labor Day Jubilee Mass in Bryson City. At left, standing, are Father George Kloster, Smoky Mountain Vicariate vicar, and George T. Sherrill of the consortium.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Back to School ...
Thousands of young people across the Diocese of Charlotte are heading back to school as fall sets in. Above, a MACS student works on an assignment at All Saints School in south Charlotte.

U.S. bishops shared Irish bishops' concern on readings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops shared concerns about certain New Testament readings on women that the Irish bishops recommended be omitted from their new Lectionary, said a U.S. bishops' official. Father James Moroney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy, said in an interview Aug. 31: "This is an issue that the U.S. bishops addressed 10 years ago and one which I am gratified to see the Irish bishops dealing with as well." A document titled "Domestic Violence," issued Aug. 27 by two Irish bishops' commissions, denounced all forms of violence in marriage and identified seven New Testament readings they said should not be used at Mass because they give "an undesirably negative impression regarding women."

Pope praises Solidarity movement on 20th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Poland celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Solidarity movement, Pope John Paul II praised the union for its work over the past two decades. In an Aug. 30 telegram to Archbishop Tadeusz Goclowski of Gdansk, the Baltic port city where the workers' rights movement was founded in 1980, the pope expressed thanks for Solidarity's anti-communist ripple effect throughout the region. Vatican Radio broadcast in Italian Aug. 31 parts of the telegram, originally written in Polish. "Solidarity," said the pope, "which set off a process of great changes in Poland and in all of Central-Eastern Europe, had as its foundation a common concern for man and his dignity."

Cardinal says Nigerian religious leaders can solve Shariah crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Nigerian cardinal said the adoption of the Shariah Islamic legal system by some states in Nigeria is a mistake which, if not rectified, could create more problems for the country. The president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, said some people in his country do not seem to know that efforts are being made all around the world for harmony among people of other religions. In an interview in Rome in August, Cardinal Arinze said: "I would like those who support this Shariah law, let them take a good look at the world today. Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world, does not have Shariah law." He added that the number of Muslims in all Arab countries together is less than the Muslim population of Indonesia.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Tapestries with images of Pope John XXIII and Pope Pius IX hang from St. Peter's Basilica Sept. 3. Pope John Paul II beatified the two popes along with three other churchmen during a ceremony that drew some 80,000 people.

As Olympics near, evictions increase for homeless

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — As the Olympic Games loom closer, life is getting tough for the homeless and "at risk" living in budget accommodations in Sydney. Welfare agencies are watching developments with trepidation. "Evictions from boarding houses and other cheap accommodation are going through the roof," said Rentwatchers convener Beth Jewell. In the lead-up to the Sydney Games, hundreds of beds in boarding houses in the inner-western suburbs have been closing as owners seek to maximize returns by converting to backpacker hostels and other tourist accommodations.

China reportedly arrests more than 20 underground Catholics

STAMFORD, Conn. (CNS) — The Chinese government arrested a priest, a seminarian, 20 nuns and two lay people of the underground Catholic Church in Fujian province, eastern China, reported the Cardinal Kung Foundation. The Aug. 30 arrests occurred in Qibu township, Luoyuan county, the foundation reported Sept. 1. The foundation, headquartered in Stamford, said 38-year-old Father Liu Shao-Zhang was beaten brutally, causing him to bleed severely and vomit blood. Two of the nuns were released one day later after parishioners paid "a large sum of money" to the Public Security Bureau, it said. The other people remained held and their whereabouts were unknown, it added.

U.N. force seeks church help in reintegrating E. Timor militias

DILI, East Timor (CNS) — U.N. peacekeepers have enlisted the support of priests to help reintegrate militias into East Timorese society. U.N. troops air dropped about 1,000 leaflets in Alas and Same districts in East Timor, about 40 miles east of the border with West Timor, requesting that militias seeking to return to East Timor contact the local church, said Lt. Col. Brynjar Nymo, spokesman for the peacekeeping force. Nymo told Catholic News Service that about five groups of armed militias totaling about 80 to 120 men have returned to Alas and Same and are residing in the mountains. Nymo said that militias have contacted the parish priest there on several occasions, asking if it was safe for them to return to East Timor with their families.

Phoenix bishop slams newspaper for 'hate ad'

PHOENIX (CNS) — Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien was incensed about what he called a "hate ad" directed at Catholics in the Aug. 19 edition of the Arizona Republic, Phoenix's daily newspaper. The full-page ad by the Sweetwater 7th Day Adventist Association referred to the Catholic Church as a beast and the pope as the Antichrist. It was headlined "Earth's Final Warning — What is the Mark of the Beast?" The Sweetwater 7th Day Adventists are from Athens, Tenn., and describe themselves as "not affiliated with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists." Bishop O'Brien said he called executives at the newspaper to demand an apology. At first, executives responded that they were exercising their First Amendment rights in running the ad, but they later agreed to apologize. In its Aug. 26 edition, the Republic ran a letter to readers from David Alley, vice president of advertising, headlined "Offensive ad needed additional scrutiny."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 12
Priests' meeting, Introduction to Hispanic culture and language
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory
September 18 - 7 p.m. Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
September 19 - 10 a.m.
Presbyteral council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte
September 20 - 6 p.m.
Blessing and dedication of new CSS office, Asheville
September 21 - 6 p.m.
MACS Circle celebration, Charlotte
September 23
Homilist for Investiture Mass for Order of Malta
St. Matthew Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

Diocesan planner

September

11 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is hosting a LIMEX Information Session tonight at 7 p.m. for anyone interested in the program. The Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension Program or LIMEX in New Orleans offers a master's of religious education or a master's of pastoral studies to students in partnership with a sponsoring diocese. For more information, call Julie Platte at (704) 847-8047 or Connie Milligan at (704) 535-4197.

13 CHARLOTTE — For those in bereavement ministry or those who are experiencing grief in their own lives, Janice Olive from Hospice of Charlotte is presenting "Bereavement Education: Stages and Tasks of Grief" tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having its monthly meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with lunch and a program presented by the members. A love offering is also being taken from the attendants. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

14 GREENSBORO — Rev. Timothy J. Patterson, rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and a founder of the Servant Leadership School of Greensboro, is presenting "Servant Leadership: Christian Vision for the Third Millennium" at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St. A love offering is being taken at this lunchtime session held from 12:10-1 p.m. For further information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Kabaka Dancers and Drummers of Our Lady

Recent study points to vibrant future for MACS system

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — A recent study of expansion needs within the Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools system yielded a number of recommendations, pointing to one basic theme: growing enrollment demands will likely lead to new Catholic schools in the Charlotte metro area within the decade.

The study, commissioned in mid-1999 by the MACS school board, was conducted by the firm Meitler Consultants, Inc., after lengthy discussion about how to best address the potential enrollment boom within the system.

In January 2000, Meitler surveyed the entire community of families in the MACS system, as well as local Catholic families who do not have children enrolled in Catholic schools here.

The purpose of the survey? To assess opinions on the value of Catholic education, the need for new and expanded facilities, the willingness and ability to contribute financially, and whether parents plan to enroll children in the future.

The findings? Among 17 recommendations made by Meitler in the study, those most urgently agreed upon by the school community are addressing the needs for expanded educational opportunities in the region's northern and southern areas.

The findings? Among 17 recommendations made by Meitler in the study, those most urgently agreed upon by the school community are addressing the needs for expanded educational opportunities in the region's northern and southern areas.

"Part of the plan is an agreement that there is immediate need to address K-through-8 education in the northern area, and in conjunction with that is addressing the needs in the south for middle-school education for students who are already in the system," said Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of diocesan schools.

As the community grows, the diocese reaches out

As growth in the five-county region covered in the study continues at an unprecedented rate, so too grow concerns in Catholic circles for education for a rapidly growing community of young people.

All of Charlotte's Catholic parishes and cultural centers were included in the Meitler survey, as were Holy Spirit Church in Denver, St. Philip the Apostle in Statesville, St. Therese in Mooresville, St. Mark in Huntersville, St. James in Concord, St. Joseph in Kannapolis, Queen of the Apostles in Belmont, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Monroe.

The findings of the survey, along with recommendations from Meitler, were presented in May.

As part of a "10-year vision," the Meitler report notes, the school system could serve families as far north as Statesville, northeast to Concord and Kannapolis, and east and south into Union County and the communities of Weddington and Monroe by 2010.

The Meitler report points to a year 2000 to 2020 overall population growth of 34 percent — or 401,478 people — in the five-county region covered in Meitler's survey. Demographics were furnished by the Office of State Planning and the Office of Planning of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The school board responded to Meitler's recommendations by including the Catholic school community itself. After distributing the results to parents, the school board hosted two town meetings — one at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, the other at St. Matthew Church in south Charlotte.

"The purpose of those meetings was to seek input in order for the school board to take that input as another measure of looking at Meitler's recommendations," said Skube.

At each meeting, the school board listened to concerns of families relative to their regions: In Huntersville, a consensus for at least one elementary school was considered a short-term need. Discussion then pointed further into the future by including talk of possibly building a new high school.

At St. Matthew Church, a parish that is planning expansion within the next two years, those gathered discussed the possibility of partnering with that parish to share facilities for parish and middle-school use. Another priority, they said, was deciding on how to best address the needs of a growing Charlotte Catholic High School community. Options discussed included expansion of classroom, cafeteria and library facilities, as well as the addition of a fine arts center.

The school board met through the summer, poring over Meitler's recommendations, information from the town meetings, demographics, and letters and petitions from parishioners. Following meetings with chancery officials, the school board decided that the elementary school situation in the north and the middle school needs in the south would be the primary focus for now.

MACS' discussions continue with St. Mark Church in Huntersville and St. Therese in Mooresville to discuss

See MEITLER, page 11

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of Consolation Church are having their auditions for the 2000-2001 season today from 10 a.m.-noon at the parish hall at 2301 Statesville Ave. Hopefuls are advised to wear loose clothing, and the auditions are for children ages eight and older and adults of all ages. For more information, call Sandy Murdock at (704) 568-1573.

CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sons of Erin Division, is having its annual "Halfway to St. Patrick's Day" party to raise funds in support of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The party begins at 5 p.m. this evening until 10 p.m. at the St. Matthew Church Ministry Center, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with dinner and music provided by the Celtic Folkers and entertainment by area Irish dancers. For ticket and other information, call Mike Callinan at (704) 841-9195, Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or Gene McCarthy at (803) 831-8381.

FOREST CITY — The Health Council of Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St, is sponsoring its "Unity Fiesta" today from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The event includes health screenings, Polish and Mexican foods, homemade ice cream and games and prizes for children. Proceeds will benefit the church fund. For more information, call Claire Feldmeth, parish nurse coordinator, at (828) 245-4017.

18 CHARLOTTE — There is a free orientation session held from 7-8:30 p.m. about the Weigh Down Workshop program being held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The 12-week classes will begin on Sept. 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the faith formation building. The idea is to replace devotion to food with a stronger devotion to God and spirituality. For more information, contact Carol A. Galimberti at (704) 554-5936.

21 ASHEVILLE — There is a men's cursillo weekend taking place at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., through Sept. 24. For more information, contact Dan Hines at (704) 339-2076.

BELMONT — Catherine's House, 402 Mercy Dr., is having its First Millennium Open House today at 2 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to showcase many of the new programs, offer tours of the facility and present the Mercy Sister Barbara Sullivan Volunteer of the Year Award to Mercy Sister Maureen Dees. Catherine's House provides transitional housing for women and children who are homeless. For further details, call (704) 825-9599.

22 CHARLOTTE — The 5th Annual St. Ann Church Carnival is being held this weekend at 3635 Park Rd from 5-10 p.m. tonight and 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sept. 23. Join the parish for food, games, arts and crafts, music and entertainment, a silent auction and more in support of the activity center debt elimination fund. To find out more about the carnival, to volunteer or to donate items, call Lorelle Grant at (704) 357-0732, Jo Crisp at (704) 543-7311 or Ted Peters at (704) 523-9233.

25 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Independent Schools' College Fair, sponsored by Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte Country Day School, Charlotte Latin School and Providence Day School, is being held at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., tonight from 7-9 p.m. Recruiting and admissions representatives from over 150 scheduled schools are on hand to discuss college options with students and parents. For more information, call CCHS at (704) 543-1127.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Music industry leader gives credit to Catholic schools

By STEVE VIVONA
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Although Phil Quartararo, president of Warner Brothers Music, is responsible for helping guide the careers of big-name artists, he is even more concerned with how to best raise his children in a world surrounded by celebrities.

"In this business we live in a make-believe world," he said. "You travel all over the world. You stay in the best hotels. You eat in the best restaurants. You go from the studio with Madonna to dinner with Eric Clapton. It's ridiculous."

The way you keep it all in check, he said, is to acknowledge that you're very fortunate.

"I am not the star," he said, "but I have a very nice lifestyle. I have a wonderful family." He also acknowledged that Los Angeles, in particular, is a "world of haves and have-nots," which is why he devotes a lot of time to charity work.

Quartararo, who is Catholic, appreared this spring as a guest on "Personally Speaking," a weekly television interview show airing on the Odyssey cable network. The show, funded by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, is hosted by Msgr. Jim Lisante of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Around the time of the taping, Quartararo was interviewed by The Long Island Catholic, Rockville Centre's diocesan newspaper.

In the interview, he attributed his love for music to his father, Ignatius, who provided his family with a steady diet of jazz greats such as Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

Quartararo, a native of Long Island, attended Catholic schools and said his Catholic education taught him "not to mess around." But he said he didn't appreciate the schools' strict academic standards until he was older.

When he was in high school, he said, he had to learn how to study and how to behave a certain way. "At 15 years old that's not a very attractive thing," he said, "but at 25 years old you're pretty happy to have it."

When he was 15, Quartararo had other things on his mind. He already had business cards made up with his parents' phone number. And with the assistance of a neighbor old enough to drive, he began traveling around Queens, Brooklyn and Long Island promising club owners he could provide them with bands.

He didn't have the bands yet, but the following weekend his friend drove him to meet bands, whom he promised club gigs.

Before long, the family phone was ringing off the hook, and his house "became an agent's factory" where, he said, he put things together and took 15 percent off the top.

Today, his challenge is finding new talent that will connect with the public, because for every 10 new artists who are signed, he said perhaps three will make it big.

Quartararo also makes time for charity work, including the recent fund raiser he conducted for City of Hope Hospital in Los Angeles that specializes in treating cancer patients.

Charity work, like his love for music, both stem from his father, a dentist who always made sure that the poor were able to receive medical assistance.

Quartararo, his wife, Carmen, and their two children are parishioners at St. Monica's Church in Santa Monica, a parish that he described as "true to the doctrine, but it's still comfortable enough that it's not abrasive."

Quartararo has met with Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore and Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, about how the music industry and the church can find some common ground.

"I was really impressed to sit with those guys," he said, adding that he was impressed that they took the time and energy to come to Los Angeles to talk with him.

Quartararo said there was "a lot more common ground than people think" between his industry and the church. "We all have the same concerns, the same needs. We're all concerned about the children that will take our place in the world."

Other guests who have appeared on "Personally Speaking" this spring and summer included: former NFL player Mark Boyer, with the Federation of Christian Athletes (April 28); actresses Ann Jillian (May 12) and Catherine Hicks from "Seventh Heaven" (May 19); actors Stacey Keach (May 5), Johnathon Schaech (June 2) and Tom Bosley (June 16).

Other guests include Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services in Washington, (May 26), and Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles (June 9).

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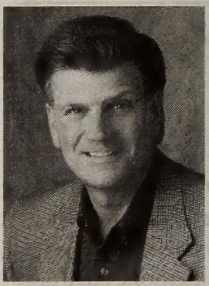

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or call 1-800-353-5949 to order materials to participate. www.samaritanspurse.org

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization.

Sisters of Mercy new elect leadership for four-year terms

BELMONT — The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina elected news leaders this summer during the community's annual chapter.

The new leadership team consists of Mercy Sisters Rosalind Picot, president; Paulette Rose Williams, vice president; Mary Cabrini Taitano, second councilor; Mary Jerome Spradley, third councilor; and Donna Marie Vaillancourt, fourth councilor.

The group of five women religious will serve a four-year term during which they, with the support of their membership, will administer the governance of their religious community.

Sister Marie Chin, president of the Institute of the sisters of Mercy of the Americas, was on hand to administer the oath of office to the president and her team. Mercy Institute represents thousands of women religious in 12 different countries and is comprised of 25 regional communities of Sisters of Mercy, one of which is the regional community of North Carolina.

This is Sister Rosalind's second term as president. Prior to her election in 1996, she served a vice president of the regional community for eight years. She is a graduate of Sacred Heart Junior College and received her bachelor's degree in medical technology from Belmont Abbey College. She completed master's degrees in romance languages and in educational administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She holds a doctorate in educational administration from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She served a vice president of academic affairs at Sacred Heart College. Prior to that, she taught and administered in secondary schools for 22 years.

Sister Paulette, originally from Concord, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina-Charlotte with a degree in mathematics, and she received her master's degree in administration from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. She has taught at Catholic schools in Asheville and Charlotte and began teaching at Charlotte Catholic High School in 1973 in the math and religion departments. She was appointed assistant principal in 1978 and principal in 1980. She served in that capacity for 22 years, until her retirement in June of this year. She served on the 1988-92 and the 1996-2000 Leadership Councils. Until her election as vice president, which is a full-time position, she had planned to minister among the senior sisters at Marian Center.

Sister Mary was born in Hagatña, Guam, and currently serves as diocesan development director for the Diocese of the Carolina Islands in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. Additionally, she has served on the leadership team for the Guam Region as well as serving as principal at the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. She is a graduate of Carlow College in Pennsylvania, having graduated with a bachelor's degree in theology. She also studied for her master's degree in religious studies at Fordham University in New York. Most recently, Sister Cabrini won a grant to fund Women Empowerment Ministry, a five-week pilot women's leadership training program with educational experiences in theology, health education and industry. The grant from the Pontifical Council was one of the 100 Jubilee grants made by Pope John Paul II in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

Sister Mary Jerome has served as a Councilor for previous terms. She is a graduate of Mercy School of Nursing and completed her master's degree at Catholic University in Washington in 1964. At age 35, she became one of the youngest hospital administrators in the nation. By 1974, she was named president of Mercy Hospital and in 1981 was named president of Mercy Health Services. Since the sale of Mercy Health Services to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Hospital Authority in June 1995, she has served as president of Sisters of Mercy Foundation, Inc., in Charlotte.

Sister Donna holds and undergraduate degree in psychology from Sacred Heart College in Belmont, and a master's degree in theology from St. Bonaventure University located in southwest New York. She taught elementary school and later took over as director of formation and vocations for her community. Additionally, she served as dean of students at Sacred Heart College. She is co-founder of the Well of Mercy, a ministry of adults in need of a safe, supportive and spiritual environment, and is located north of Statesville.

Catholic concert series to begin in Greensboro

GREENSBORO --- Aaron Thompson, called one of the best-kept secrets of contemporary Catholic Christian music, leads off a Catholic concert series Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m., at Greensboro College's Gail Bower Huggins Performance Center. He is known for an aggressive guitar and powerful, clear vocals plus trumpet and keyboards combine to captivate audiences with songs bringing God into our everyday lives.

Upcoming concerts also incude:

November 10 - Tom Franzak
January 19 -Greg Walton
March 9 - Wendy Vaughn

A variety of ticket packages, including artists CDs, is available. For information, send e-mail to tczarnomski@prodigy.net, or contact (336) 855-9001. Tickets are $15 at the door, and college students are admitted for $8.

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Beatification of Irish monk helps U.S. woman appreciate cure

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pat Bitzan listened to Pope John Paul II pronounce the beatification decree of Abbot Joseph Columba Marmion, a 34-year-old blessing suddenly came into focus. Sitting near the altar in St. Peter's Square Sept. 3, Bitzan reflected on her miraculous cure from breast cancer in 1966 after praying to Abbot Marmion, a 19th-century Benedictine monk. "Today, I can see the awesomeness of this gift we were given 34 years ago. I feel so humble and grateful that I was allowed to live and raise my children," said Bitzan. As the pope spoke, a tapestry portrait of Blessed Marmion was unrolled on the facade of the basilica for the crowd of 80,000 to see. "It was just so moving. Both my husband and I cried a little," she said.

Pope sends condolences after death of Cardinal Vargas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II offered his condolences to the people of Peru mourning the death Sept. 4 of Cardinal Augusto Vargas Alzamora of Lima. The 77-year-old cardinal was known as a promoter of dialogue within Latin America's Catholic community and in Peru's violence-torn society. Cardinal Vargas, who retired in January 1999 but continued serving at a homeless shelter he founded in Lima, died from complications of a stroke he suffered in May. In a Sept. 5 telegram to the cardinal's successor, Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani Thorne of Lima, Pope John Paul described Cardinal Vargas as "a diligent pastor" known for his "self-sacrificing pastoral work and also for his fidelity to Christ and to the successor of Peter."

Nun-scientist upholds Franciscan tradition of respect for nature

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — A Franciscan nun who is helping turn 600,000 gallons of radioactive waste into glass logs which can be transported for storage says what she is doing is well within her vocation. "I'm a Sister of St. Francis of Assisi, a patron saint of ecology noted for cleaning up Mother Earth," said Sister Ann Gilabert, a radiochemistry technician in the West Valley Demonstration Project. The project is under the control of the Department of Energy, and its goal is to return the area, which was the site of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant, to its natural, uncontaminated state.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Missionaries of Charity pray during a special Mass on the third anniversary of Mother Teresa's death Sept. 5 in Calcutta. Mother Teresa founded the order in 1950 and was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work with the destitute. She died in 1997 at age 87.

Descendant of St. Louis visits archdiocese named after ancestor

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Prince Louis de Bourbon, the senior male descendant of St. Louis, visited the American archdiocese named for his ancestor during a weekend visit which included the Aug. 25 feast of the saint known to his French countrymen as Louis IX. The prince came with two relics of St. Louis, including a piece of the saint's skull, which will eventually reside in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. An Aug. 27 Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis drew 1,000 people, many of whom had come to catch a glimpse of the prince. "The land of the free and the home of the brave is just mesmerized by royalty, aren't we?" said Ginny Bartling, tourism administrator for the cathedral, who helped to arrange a tour of the basilica for Prince Louis.

Bob Newhart to be profiled on A&E's 'Biography'

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — The man some regard as one of the classiest Catholic comic actors working today, Bob Newhart, will get his due sometime this winter with an A&E cable channel "Biography" hour looking at his life and career. No date has been set for the documentary. Newhart, speaking to television writers in Hollywood, elicited laughs when he said his life was "frighteningly boring." Still, "it's a great source of satisfaction to (have) people come and say, 'Thank you very much for the laughter.'" Newhart gets the "class" tag because he has never used foul language in his act, either in nightclubs or on the screen. "That was by choice," he explained.

At Rome conference, 'father' of Dolly advocates limited cloning

ROME (CNS) — The scientist known as the "father" of Dolly, a cloned sheep, took center stage at an international transplant congress to advocate research on human embryos, including their limited cloning. Dr. Ian Wilmut of the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh, Scotland, said that despite the "very important ethical issues" raised by such research, scientists needed the freedom to explore all potential sources of cell matter to treat degenerative diseases. The Scottish scientist spoke Aug. 30 during the morning session of the 18th International Congress of the Transplantation Society. The weeklong meeting in Rome drew some 5,000 researchers and scientists from about 60 countries.

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Vatican says Catholic Christianity necessary for salvation

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Taking aim at the notion that "one religion is as good as another," a new Vatican document emphasized the "exclusive, universal and absolute" value of Jesus Christ and said the Catholic Church is necessary for salvation.

While acknowledging that non-Christians can be saved through a special grace that comes from Christ, the document said the church can never be considered merely as "one way of salvation alongside those constituted by the other religions."

And despite a certain level of communion with other Christian churches, the "church of Christ ... continues to exist fully only in the Catholic Church," said the document, released at the Vatican Sept. 5.

The 36-page declaration, titled "Dominus Iesus: On the Unicity and Salvific Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church," was signed by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In a letter to the world's bishops, Cardinal Ratzinger said Pope John Paul II had approved the document and wanted its contents to be accepted by the entire church.

Cardinal Ratzinger said the document was drafted in response to "the growing presence of confused or erroneous ideas or opinions" in the church generally and in certain theological circles that cast doubt upon Christianity's universal mission.

The text said there was a tendency among modern Christians to be silent about Christ, to consider him as just one historical manifestation of God, to elevate other religions as pathways to salvation, to downplay Scripture and to undervalue the church as an institution. It warned that these ideas are "contrary to Catholic faith" and listed a series of truths it said must be "firmly held" by all Catholics.

> **"The church's constant missionary proclamation is endangered today by relativistic theories which seek to justify religious pluralism."**

"The church's constant missionary proclamation is endangered today by relativistic theories which seek to justify religious pluralism," it said.

One such theory in "radical contradiction" with the Christian faith, it said, is that Christ's revelation is incomplete or imperfect — a reflection of the popular idea that God cannot be fully grasped by any single historical religion.

The document drew a distinction between the "faith" of Christianity and the "belief" of other religions: Christian faith, it said, was the acceptance of revealed truth, while other religious belief was still in search of the truth. But it said this distinction is becoming blurred in the minds of many, and the differences between Christianity and other religions are being artificially reduced "to the point of disappearance."

The sacred writings of other religions may have a value, but the Old and New Testaments are the only such writings inspired by the Holy Spirit, it said.

On the complicated issue of how non-Christians can be saved, the document made several points:

— While salvation is possible for those outside the church, this always takes place through a special grace from Christ and in an "indispensable" though mysterious relationship with the church.

— Theologians are still discussing how God's saving grace comes to non-Christians, but "it would be contrary to the faith to consider the church as one way of salvation alongside those constituted by other religions."

— While Catholics should respect other religions, they must not subscribe to the idea that "one religion is as good as another." Equality in interreligious dialogue refers to equal personal dignity of the participants, not to doctrinal content.

"If it is true that the followers of other religions can receive divine grace, it is also certain that objectively speaking they are in a gravely deficient situation in comparison with those who, in the church, have the fullness of the means of salvation," the document said.

It said it was wrong to consider Jesus as "complementary" to other revelatory and salvific figures in history or to view the Holy Spirit as an "alternative" to Christ working beyond the boundaries of the church.

God's saving plan for all humanity, it said, was "realized in the mystery of the incarnation, death and resurrection of the Son of God" and "no one, therefore, can enter into communion with God except through Christ, by the working of the Holy Spirit."

Any claims of salvific action of God beyond the unique mediation of Christ would be contrary to Christian and Catholic faith, it said.

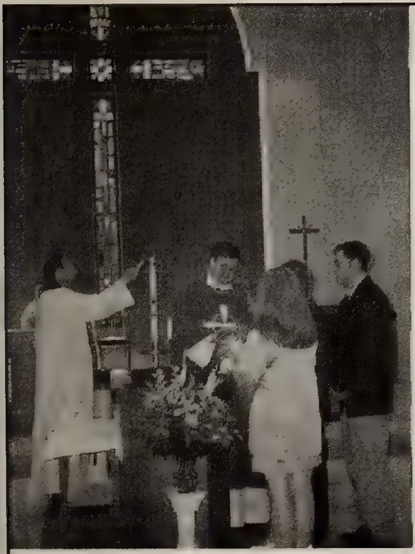
The document said language referring to Christ as the unique and universal savior may seem a slight to other religions, but in fact "such language is simply being faithful to revelation."

In discussing what it described as the essential role of the church in salvation, the document touched on a sensitive ecumenical issue when it stated that "there exists a single church of Christ, which subsists in the Catholic Church, governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him."

The Catholic faithful are required to profess a historical continuity — rooted in apostolic succession — between the church founded by Christ and the Catholic Church, it said.

It noted that the Second Vatican Council also recognized that outside the church's structure "many elements can be found of sanctification and truth." But it said it would be

See Vatican, page 9



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Vatican names seven Diocese of Raleigh priests monsignors

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — Bishop Joseph Gossman took advantage of January's major North Carolina snowfall to do some "snooping" around his office. Unbeknownst to even his closest advisers, the bishop sent to the Vatican a list of seven priests whom he recommended receive the title of "monsignor."

Six months later, Rome sent back its affirmative response. Receiving the honors were Fathers Thomas P. Hadden, James P. Keaney, Gerald L. Lewis, Tim O'Connor, Michael P. Shugrue, John A. Wall, and John J. Williams.

"I want this to be a tribute to them," Bishop Gossman said. "In many ways these men stand out in terms of their commitment, their dedication, their labor for the Kingdom of God."

Bishop Gossman sent to Rome the priests' curricula vitae, as well as his personal observations "as to why the person is deserving of the honor." It was the first time in his 25 years as Raleigh's bishop that he asked Rome to recognize any of his priests with the title.

"Generally I try to support the things that the Church supports and allows," he said. "And since Vatican II, we've never really developed anything else that amounts to that kind of recognition."

Bishop Gossman added that it is "conceivable" that other diocesan priests will be named in the future. Religious priests can also receive the honor, but only through their individual orders and institutions.

Msgr. Shugrue, speaking in his role as vicar for priests, said that members of the Council of Priests had requested in recent years the return of the practice to the diocese.

Msgr. Shugrue said, "in the spirit of cohesion and unity, the entire People of God in the diocese are also honored. If the church is a family, when something like this occurs, it is not meant to be private and personal."

Msgr. Wall also has had a career that has varied between diocesan and pastoral positions, gaining a reputation in the diocese for taking jobs where he was needed the most. Ordained in Rome Dec. 18, 1960, Msgr. Wall has also been rector of St. John Vianney Hall Pre-Seminary in Asheville.

Msgr. Williams was ordained Sept. 16, 1978, at St. Mary, Goldsboro, the only one of the seven who was ordained by Bishop Gossman.

Most, if not all, of his priestly career has been in diocesan parishes. In fact, he has served every one of the diocese's seven deaneries. "I'm very proud of that," he said.

Since 1998, he has been pastor solely of Immaculate Conception and its missions of Posada Guadalupana, St. John in Ingold, and the new community of Santa Clara in Hidden Valley.

For Msgr. Hadden, the honor recognized not so much himself, but the diversity in the Diocese of Raleigh.

He is one of only two active African-American priests in the diocese and the diocesan vicar for African-Americans. But he is also one of the first pastors to regularly celebrate Mass in Spanish.

He has served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Newton Grove and Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte.

Msgr. Keaney, retired since 1994 and having never served in a major diocesan office, is still well known within his Hispanic ministry in the Roanoke Rapids area.

Msgr. Keaney was ordained by Bishop Vincent S. Waters on May 27, 1954, in St. Lawrence in Asheville.

Msgr. Lewis, vicar general and moderator of the curia of the Diocese of Raleigh since 1992, said, "I'm grateful to the Holy Father that he has honored the Church of Raleigh by naming seven of us. It's an honor I don't take personally, but on behalf of all the people to whom I have ministered, and who, in their way, have ministered to me."

Msgr. Lewis was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Waters at St. Mary in Goldsboro, May 11, 1961.

Msgr. Tim O'Connor, at 53 the youngest of the new monsignors, was ordained by Bishop Waters at Annunciation Church in Havelock, March 26, 1973.

He was rector at Sacred Heart Cathedral from 1992 to this summer, when he was assigned as pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes. He also is currently dean of the Raleigh Deanery, diocesan director of liturgy, and diocesan master of ceremonies.

"When papal honors are extended, it's the Holy Father's way of honoring the whole diocese. In essence, the seven of us represent the clergy, and the diocese," he said.

Bishop Gossman will invest the seven new monsignors with the robes of the office during an investiture Oct. 30. The place and time of the event have not yet been determined.

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N.C. native retired Bishop Federal of Salt Lake City dies at 90

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — Bishop Joseph Lennox Federal, retired bishop of Salt Lake City, died Aug. 31. He was 90.

A native of Greensboro, N.C., he was ordained to the priesthood Dec. 8, 1934. Bishop Federal served as priest and bishop under six popes — Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul I, and John Paul II. He was one of about a dozen U.S. prelates still living to have participated as a bishop in all four sessions of the Second Vatican Council.

A Mass of Christian burial was scheduled for Sept. 6 at the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City, followed by interment at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Noting that Bishop Federal had been bishop for nearly half of the 109-year existence of the Salt Lake City Diocese, Bishop George H. Niederauer, the current head, said he would miss the late bishop's "personal kindness and encouragement toward me."

Msgr. J. Terrence Fitzgerald, diocesan vicar general, said Bishop Federal "brought deliberation, patience and fairness to every consideration," including the implementation of Vatican II.

"That careful approach preserved the unity of the Utah Catholic community during a period of rapid change," he said.

On the recent occasion of his 90th birthday, Bishop Federal said, "God has always been good to me, and I cannot but wish that there were some more things I had been able to accomplish.

"I was blessed with a wonderful mother and father," he said, "and a happy and loving family. I have had a happy life in the priesthood and a blessed assignment as bishop of the church in Utah with its dedicated and exemplary members."

Born Jan. 13, 1910, in Greensboro, he was the third of eight children of Margaret Keegan and Howard Charles Federal.

He studied for the priesthood at the Albertinium, the University of Friborg in Switzerland, and at the North American College in Rome. He was ordained in Rome, where he earned a licentiate in sacred theology from the Gregorian University in 1935.

From 1935 to 1951, he served in parishes in Greenville and Swannanoa, N.C. In 1942 he was named a monsignor.

On Feb. 5, 1951, at age 42, he was named auxiliary bishop for the Diocese of Salt Lake City and was ordained to the episcopacy on April 11 that year.

From 1952 to 1960, Bishop Federal served as rector of the Cathedral of the Madeleine. In 1958, he was named coadjutor bishop of Salt Lake City with the right of succession.

Upon the death of Bishop Duane G. Hunt in 1960, Bishop Federal became bishop of Salt Lake City and for 20 years oversaw the development of the church in Utah, especially the implementations of Vatican II.

As head of the diocese he was a builder. He laid the cornerstones and broke ground for numerous chapels, churches and schools and established new parishes throughout the state.

In 1975, Bishop Federal began the extensive renovation of the exterior of the Cathedral of the Madeleine. The following year he ordained 14 Utah married men to the diaconate in the first ceremony of its kind in the diocese.

He also was instrumental in the establishment of Birthright of Utah, a nonprofit organization that meets the needs of pregnant women.

In 1976, Bishop Federal presided over a solemn eucharistic celebration in the Salt Palace. The event honored the bicentennials of the expeditions of Franciscan Friars Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Silvestre Velez de Escalante into Utah and the United States of America. Some 14,000 people participated in the historic gathering.

Bishop Federal retired April 22, 1980, serving as apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Salt Lake City until Nov. 17, 1980, when his successor, Bishop William K. Weigand (currently bishop of Sacramento, Calif.), arrived.

Bishop Federal is survived by three sisters: Sister of Charity Enrica Federal of Emmitsburg, Md.; Celestine Noonan of Glenside, Pa.; and Lillian Madden of Gibbsboro, N.J.; , two brothers, Robert Keegan Federal and William Aubrey Federal, both of Charlotte; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Vatican, from page 7

wrong to conclude from this that "the one church of Christ could subsist also in non-Catholic churches."

The document described various levels in which separated Christian churches share in communion with this "single church of Christ," adding the Christian faithful are "not permitted to imagine that the church of Christ is nothing more than a collection — divided, yet in some way one — of churches and ecclesial communities" or that "today the church of Christ nowhere really exists and must be considered only as a goal."

In laying out its list of positions that must be firmly accepted by Catholics, the document implicitly criticized those who promote a less absolute vision of the church.

These are people who de-emphasize Christ in order to find "common ground," who place great stress on the mystery of creation but keep silent about the mystery of Christ's redemption, and who leave very little room for the institutional church, viewing it as a mere "sign" and an ambiguous one at that, it said.

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Study tracks finances, trends in Catholic elementary schools

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A study released recently by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), reports on the finances and future of the nation's Catholic elementary schools.

According to the Balance Sheet for Catholic Elementary Schools: 1999 Income and Expenses, the average per pupil cost for Catholic elementary school students was $2,823 in 1999. This compares to a projected per pupil cost of $6,600 for government-sponsored schools, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

"Clearly the disparity in the per-pupil costs between Catholic and government schools proves that dollars have never been the reason for Catholic educations success," said Dr. Robert Kealey, executive director of the

Elementary Schools Department at NCEA. "Discipline and values-based education are the fundamental principle that promotes excellence and draws families to our schools. Research studies have shown that parents place their children in Catholic schools for several reasons, because of their high academic standards, their religious formation program and their secure and disciplined learning environment."

Dr. Kealey added that this priority has prompted parents to enroll children in Catholic schools in increasing numbers — new data also released today indicates that Catholic school enrollment has increased steadily over an eight-year period. "This increase is against a backdrop of rising tuition costs," noted Dr. Kealey. "The average tuition in Catholic elementary schools is $1,787, up 8 percent since 1997." Dr. Kealey added that although tuition has increased, the rate of increase slowed nearly 50 percent during the last study period.

The big gap between tuition costs and per-pupil cost is most often closed by parish subsidies (88 percent of the schools receive one) and development programs, he added. In addition, the study reports that over 80 percent of the schools have some form of tuition assistance.

Nearly half of Catholic schools report having an endowment program — up 9 percent from two years ago.

Parents support moral growth

Accelerating parental support bodes well for the future of Catholic education, in spite of the personal financial sacrifice it exacts from many families of modest incomes, said Dr. Kealey.

"Parents recognize the superior academic achievement of Catholic school students over students in government-owned schools, particularly in the inner cities," he noted. "Studies also show that parents acknowledge that children must be exposed to a total education, which includes growth in religious awareness and moral principles."

Regarding academic outcome, Dr. Kealey said that Catholic school students out-scored their public-school counterparts in every area on standardized tests, including reading, math, science and writingaccording to the National

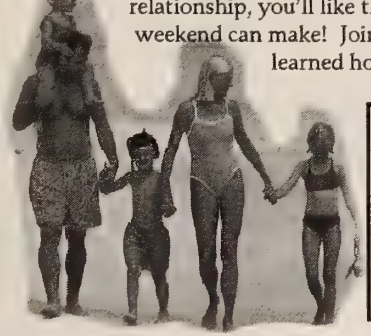
Assessment of Educational Progress (U.S. Department of Education, 1998).

The Balance Sheet indicates that parents are enrolling their children earlier as well as in greater numbers, with some schools receiving registrations as soon as the childs birth. Catholic schools are responding to the great demand for early education: 94 percent of the schools have kindergartens and over half offer pre-kindergarten programs. Early childhood centers are filled to capacity and 40 percent have a waiting list for admission.

Where the Schools Are

Of the 250 Catholic schools built during the past decade, 55% of the elementary and 42% of the secondary are in suburbia.

Source: The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), 2000.



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Meitler study, from page 3

possibilities for the north, while St. Matthew Church remains a strong candidate for expansion in the south, Skube said.

He noted that, if the partnerships are struck soon, the elementary and middle schools could be in operation within the next few years.

"What we are looking at is how to partner with parishes so that, with limited funds and limited facilities, we would utilize the facilities to the best possible potential," he said. Skube noted that such plans would follow models like St. Gabriel School, which is housed in parish facilities. Once school is not in session — in evenings, in summer and during holidays, for instance — the parishes use the facilities for a host of activities and programs. The parish-partnership model is traditionally used in other elementary schools throughout this and other dioceses, Skube said.

Only one elementary school in MACS – All Saints in south Charlotte – is a stand-alone facility not partnered with a particular parish.

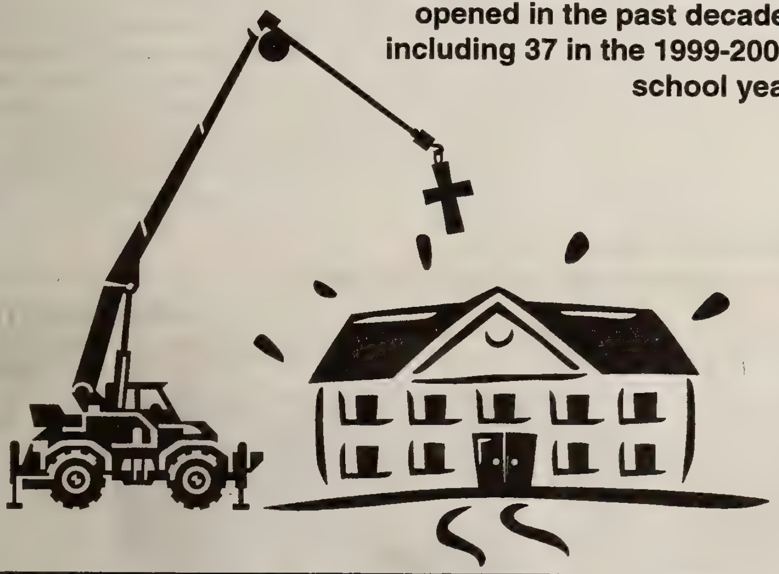
Concerning the possibility of a high school in the north, Skube said, that initial process could takesix to seven years.

"That point in time would be when we have enough students in elementary schools who would go on to attend the high school," he said. "Taking programs and economics into account, we must have a certain number of students to run a Catholic high school, which would be more of a larger facility."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

New Catholic Schools

Over 250 Catholic schools have opened in the past decade, including 37 in the 1999-2000 school year.



Source: The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), 2000.

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Study of Expansion Needs for MACS

The following recommendations concerning existing and anticipated needs in Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools are part of a study conducted by Meitler Consultants, Inc. The diocesan Schools Office is currently focusing most immediately on elementary school needs in the north and middle school needs in the south.

Recommendation 1: Open a new elementary school in the Huntersville area or the Mooresville area as soon as possible. The school should be K-8 with three classes per grade level.

Recommendation 2: Open a new elementary school in either the Highland Creek area or Concord area. The school should be K-8 with two sections per grade level, expandable to three sections at some later date.

Recommendation 3: Within 10 to 15 years anticipate that a third elementary school may be needed in the northern area.

Recommendation 4: Build a new elementary school in the Weddington/Hwy 16 area. This elementary school should be K to 8, built for three classes per grade and potentially expandable to four classes.

Recommendation 5: As population continues to grow, it should be anticipated that another elementary school will be needed on the south side of Charlotte at a later date. It is recommended that the Diocese purchase land for this potential school northeast of Hwy 74 near the county line.

Recommendation 6: St. Gabriel School needs one additional classroom to accommodate four sections of each grade level. The additional classroom is needed in 2003-04.

Recommendation 7: St. Ann School needs two new classrooms to accommodate three sections of K to 5th grade. If preschool is discontinued at St. Ann in 2001, new classrooms will be needed in 2002-03.

Recommendation 8: St. Patrick School needs one new classroom to accommodate three sections of K to 5th grade. The additional classroom is needed in 2001-02.

Recommendation 9: A data based study should be conducted to determine the best site for a second middle school.

Recommendation 10: Steps should be taken to adjust the scheduling and program at Charlotte Catholic High School to accommodate more enrollment so that all graduates from Holy Trinity Middle School will have access to a Catholic high school education.

Recommendation 11: A site for a new high school on the north side of Charlotte should be acquired soon while land is still available at a reasonable price.

Recommendation 12: A new high school on the north side should be planned within the next five to eight years.

Recommendation 13: Steps should be taken to add 6 to 8 classrooms to Charlotte Catholic High School to ease enrollment pressure until a second high school opens. Expansion of the library and cafeteria should also be studies and possibly included in this phase of building.

Recommendation 14: When the new high school has been provided on the north side of Charlotte, steps should be taken to enhance the Charlotte Catholic High School facility by adding a fine arts center.

Recommendation 15: As MACS opens new schools in new areas, parishes served by these schools should become part of MACS. As new parishes are established in the Charlotte Mecklenburg area, they should automatically become part of MACS assuming MACS serves their parishioners.

Recommendation 16: Future site purchases for new parishes in the Charlotte area and in other areas of the Diocese should be large enough to accommodate an elementary school.

Recommendation 17: Parishes should be required to evaluate the need for constructing new education buildings to specifications that could be used as an elementary school.

New school leaders helping to guide young minds

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The sea of education has many vessels sailing on its waters - each bound for similar ports, and two of those scholastic ships have new captains at the helm this year. New, friendly faces are walking the halls of a diocesan elementary and high school this year, and the students, these principals and an assistant principal are adjusting to a new school year and new administrative structures.

Augustinian Father James Cassidy

Education has always been Augustinian Father James Cassidy's main focus even though he made early detours through the military and the trucking industry. After many years of work in education later in life, his focus has led him to his position as principal of Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte.

After six years of the service and his family's trucking business, he entered Holy Apostles' College, where he graduated with a double major in philosophy and English and a minor in secondary education. After student teaching as a college senior, the New York native decided to dedicate his life to God and entered the novitiate at Our Mother of Good Council in New York. As an Augustinian brother, Father Cassidy attended Washington Theological Union in Washington D.C. to study theology, and then, went to St. Thomas University in Miami, Fla., where he earned his master's degree in human resources and taught high school concurrently.

He spent time in Peru as a missionary working to establish education programs and better living conditions and teaching the local parishioners and residents.

Father Cassidy's desire to become ordained led him back to Washington Theological Union to seminary in 1986. In order to do research on his master's thesis, "Just War and Revolution," he spent a couple of months in Nicaragua during the turbulent period of the Contra War. "It was a growing experience," said Father Cassidy of his time spent in the war-ravaged country. "Many people were caught in the middle of it, and it made me angry that people could be completely put through the ringer because of world politics."

He came back from his experience and earned his master's degree in theology and was ordained in 1990. Over the years, Father Cassidy has learned how to juggle many things. He had his own practice in marriage and family therapy, taught high school, served as a guidance counselor and served on the faculty at Washington Theological Union training future priests in counseling basically simultaneously. He later served as dean and director of guidance at St. Augustine Prep, a boys' school in New Jersey, for nearly five years.

Now, Father Cassidy has the task of learning another city and school, but he feels comfortable in his new but familiar environment. "I love teaching and administrative work because young people are our future, and the classroom is where it happens."

Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools said, "Father Jim comes to CCHS with a wealth of experience of being at several different schools run by the Augustinian order in the positions of teacher, administrator and counselor, and his pastoral experience of being involved with parish and missionary work is also noteworthy."

Mark Akerman

Some would say that education runs in Mark Akerman's blood because his father is a college professor, and his mother, now retired, works in university administration. Akerman combined his love of history with his education background to arrive at his current profession as principal of St. Pius X School in Greensboro.

"My first real love was the study of history, and I developed a love for teaching kids about it," said Akerman. "We all need to have an appreciation of where we come from."

Akerman transferred colleges a couple of times because he wanted the personalized attention from a smaller school. Those decisions led him to Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., where he earned his bachelor's degree in history. He began his teaching career at an area high school while still in Boone and returned to Florida, his home state, to teach reading and math.

North Carolina called him back to Appalachian State, and he earned a second bachelor's degree in history education in 1991. He worked as an archivist, and his wife Angie worked as the assistant to the athletic director. The couple moved back to Florida, and their son Cole, now five, arrived. He then began his career in Catholic school system.

Interestingly, Akerman and his wife are both converts to Catholicism.

See PRINCIPALS, next page

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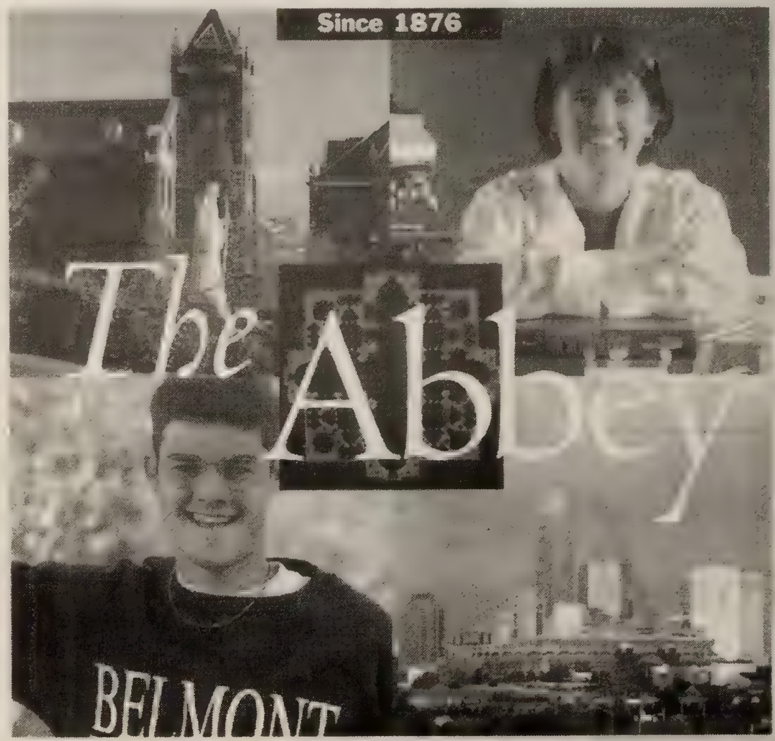

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Catholic schools numbers surge

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Catholic school enrollment increased over the past year by 4,600 students, bringing the total enrollment to over 2.6 million, according to a recent study published by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Thirty-seven new Catholic schools opened for the 1999-2000 school year, bringing the total to 8,144 schools nationwide. "Increased demand for Catholic education, climbing enrollment, and longer waiting lists have fueled the school openings," said Dr. Leonard DeFiore, NCEA president. "We expect this trend to continue throughout the next decade."

Dr. DeFiore made the announcement based on data included in the updated United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 1999-2000, NCEA's annual statistical report on schools, enrollment and staffing. According to Dr. DeFiore, 250 new Catholic schools have been opened within the past decade.

The NCEA president also reported that overall student enrollment has increased by some 86,000 students in the last seven years, while nearly half of Catholic schools have a waiting list for admission. Waiting lists are now the norm in suburban schools, and where scholarship support is available in inner-city schools, excess demand has resulted in lottery-like selection systems.

"It is gratifying that as Catholic schools celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Pierce v. Society of Sisters decision, demand for faith and values-based education continues to grow," said Dr. DeFiore. "These statistics reflect sure and steady growth in the Catholic school system. The confidence in Catholic education is tremendous." The Pierce decision, a landmark Supreme Court ruling in 1925, established the legal right for parents to send their children to Catholic and other private schools.

Reflecting on those students and parents unable to attain slots in Catholic schools, Dr. DeFiore observed, "The good news isn't reaching out to everyonethousands of families remain on admission waiting lists, and thousands more find Catholic education is unattainable due to economic limitations."

Dr. DeFiore continued: "Our greatest challenge in 2000 and beyond is working for a just educational system in this country. Our waiting lists and new schools are a testimony to parents' motivation to choose Catholic schools.

But what about the millions of parents who have the desire but no way to finance their school choice?"

Elementary and Secondary numbers

Dr. Robert Kealey, executive director of NCEAs Elementary School Department, said that the total number of Catholic elementary/middle school students is 2,013,084. "Of special note is the continued increase in preschool admission.

Over 50 percent of Catholic schools now provide preschool programs, and 94 percent have kindergartens. It's clear that parents recognize the value of early childhood education and are looking to Catholic schools for a values-based curriculum and academic excellence," said Dr. Kealey.

Michael Guerra, executive director, NCEA Secondary Schools Department, reported that 639,954 students are enrolled in Catholic high schools, up from 635,742 students last year.

"Naturally we are pleased that enrollments in Catholic secondary schools continue to rise, but there is a long list of those who cannot afford tuition, in spite of financial aid packages available at the majority of our schools," said Mr. Guerra. "Catholic school leaders are therefore essential partners in the school choice movement. We are committed to justice and equal educational choice for all parents and children."

Principals, from page 12

"I was attracted to the Catholic faith because of its sense of tradition and history."

After teaching for two years and earning his master's of education from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Akerman worked as a principal for five years in the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla. It was the superintendent of schools in that Florida diocese who encouraged him to venture out for personal growth and search for open principal positions; his search ended with his new principalship at St. Pius X School.

"My short-term goal is to get to know everyone, and my long-term goal is to make it to June 7," said Akerman with a laugh. "I really want to make sure the school maintains its strong Catholic identity and to develop the relationship between the pastor and the school. He would also like to encourage families to support the local high school and to increase the number of students who attend Bishop McGuinness High School.

"Akerman brings the excellent experience of being a principal of a Catholic school in Florida to St. Pius," said Dr. Skube. "Some of his roots and background are from North Carolina, and we are very fortunate to have him here and working with Father Anthony Marcaccio, the new pastor at St. Pius X Church."

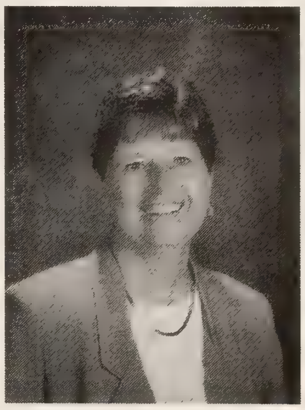
Carmel Kessler

Everything is new to Carmel Kessler — North Carolina, Greensboro, even her position as assistant principal of St. Pius X School is uncharted territory. The assistant principal position is new this year at the school, and Kessler is blazing a trail.

Kessler has bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Kentucky at Louisville, and her love of education is derived from influential teachers in her own life.

"I have had wonderful role models who were teachers, and education is a lifetime commitment," said Kessler. "I have loved every minute of it."

Named after the Carmelite order of cloistered nuns who lived in her hometown in Kentucky, Kessler taught three years of early childhood education and worked for the last 14 years in elementary and middle schools in northern Kentucky, Indiana and Florida. During that time, she and her husband Dave, now a quality assurance manager for elderly residential care, also owned and operated a small restaurant. She raised three daughters Carolyn, Maureen and Anne, who has Down's Syndrome.



"Being a parent with a handicapped child opens your world to new opportunities and challenges, and it has been an unbelievable experience," said Kessler.

Akerman said, "We are both familiar with similar education systems in Florida, and we are each focusing on different aspects of the school, different grade levels, etc. I couldn't be happier with the professional relationship we have developed in such a short time."

Kessler said that she "was in the right spot at the right time" for the new assistant principal position. "I am thrilled to be here, and I am very excited to take on the new challenge of an administrative role."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools

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Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 10 - 16, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 35:4-7, James 2:1-5, Mark 7:31-37; **Monday**, 1 Corinthians 5:1-8, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday**, 1 Corinthians 6:1-11, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday (St. John Chrysostom)**, 1 Corinthians 7:25-31, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday (Triumph of the Cross)**, Numbers 21:4-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Friday (Our Lady of Sorrows)**, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27, Luke 2:33-35; **Saturday (Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian)**, 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, Luke 6:43-49

Readings for the week of Sept. 17 - 23, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 50:4-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35; **Monday**, 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday (St. Januarius)**, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday (Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions)**, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (St. Matthew)**, Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Friday**, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday**, 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics

Technology and Catholic schools

Over 90 percent of Catholic schools have computer labs.

Source: The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), 2000.

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Word to Life

September 10, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B Readings:

1) Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146:7-10
2) James 2:1-5
3) Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Several years ago my husband Tommy had the chance to revisit a firebase in Vietnam where he had been stationed in 1969 during the war. The area was a hill just outside a small town and now overgrown with vegetation. A few Vietnamese children wandered about the site as Tommy recollected, for his journalist colleagues, his earlier experience there. While they walked around, a local constable unobtrusively appeared, probably to see who these foreign visitors were.

With the help of an interpreter, Tommy engaged the man in conversation, and soon the two of them realized, incredibly, that they had both been there at the same time — on opposite sides — in a battle more than 20 years before.

It was an extraordinary moment for Tommy as they quietly spoke about their experience of war, that particular firefight and about their lives since then. They finally embraced and, as they did, all the "baggage" of war that clings for years to those involved fell away. "For me, the war was finally over," Tommy explained.

Tommy had told me how during battles on those Vietnamese firebases the troops couldn't actually see the North Vietnamese soldiers. They would simply fire into an area knowing the enemy was there.

In today's first reading Isaiah tells us how our eyes are opened when God comes to us in his Godly way.

War did not beget peace in Vietnam. Nations finally laid down arms, and peace among people slowly grew through reconciliation — God's vindication after repeatedly dying in that war, as in others before it, for the human sin of all that begets war.

In peace and reconciliation Tommy and this man named Trung could fully see each other now, their eyes having been opened to one another's humanity, because of God's entrance into their relationship. That's how God comes, and that's how he opens our eyes and ears to him. He plunges through the sin and enters on his own terms. When we accept those terms, we come to know him.

QUESTIONS:

What continuing sin or habit in your life keeps you closed to God? Are there "places" in your life where you are afraid to look for fear that God will not go there with you?

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Networks making earnest efforts to serve young viewers

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — If anything good comes out of the rush of media giants buying each other, it's that children's television may get more attention.

ABC's Saturday-morning kids' lineup was moribund until the Walt Disney Co., famous for bringing young ones to the screen, bought it in 1995.

Disney, using its marketing insight, retooled the Saturday shows under a "One Saturday Morning" theme that gave Fox's "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" and similar Saturday shows a run for their money, actually winning the ratings race in 1998-99 — with quality educational programming.

With CBS having been bought by Viacom last year, the same thing could happen again. CBS' shows, while all educational or informational in their approach, were roundly ignored by children last year — and pretty much all of last decade.

But Viacom owns the popular Nickelodeon cable channel, as well as spinoff cable services Nick Jr. and Noggin, and Viacom is giving CBS an infusion of audience-proven Nickelodeon shows to fill up CBS' Saturday schedule for the upcoming season.

An even better bonus: CBS' Saturday kid shows won't have any commercial advertisements. It's a tactic Viacom used when launching the TV Land cable channel four years ago: No commercials until the channel obtained 20 million homes.

There's no stated ratings goal for the CBS shows to reach before ads resume, and the commercial-free kids' block doesn't mean there won't be plenty of promotional ads for CBS or Nickelodeon shows, but it's a welcome respite regardless.

Viacom also owns UPN, but UPN last season brokered a deal with Disney to run a weekday block of Disney-supplied programming totaling 10 hours to appeal to young audiences and meet the Federal Communications Commission's requirement for at least three hours weekly of programming designated as educational and informational.

The WB network is owned by Warner Bros., which has known how to amuse both kids and adults for decades with its "Looney Tunes" and "Merrie Melodies" cartoons featuring the likes of Bugs Bunny and the Road Runner.

When the network first geared up six years ago, it partnered with Steven Spielberg to produce cartoons in the classic Warner Bros. animation style, including the educational, and funny, "Histeria." They've since augmented that approach to create series based on the popular DC Comics — now part of the Time Warner empire — characters Superman and Batman.

But what put WB over the top this past season is the Japanese import "Pokemon," which has spawned two hit movies and a raft of merchandising opportunities.

"Pokemon" has its own offshoot, "Digimon," which airs on Fox and carried it to the top of the ratings when Fox introduced its new Saturday lineup Aug. 19.

Fox had earlier bought Saban Entertainment, which produced "Power Rangers." Saban now produces action-adventure cartoons in the "Power Rangers" mold for Fox, but additional genres of cartoons for the cable Fox Family Channel and the satellite-dependent Fox boyzchannel and Fox girlzchannel.

Where does this leave NBC? It's the only commercial broadcast network to not have a studio partnership (ABC-Disney, CBS and UPN-Paramount, Fox-Fox and WB-Warner Bros.). Likewise, NBC has no investment with any of the studios producing its live-action Saturday programs

SEE PROGRAMS, PAGE 19

"Nurse Betty"

Dark comedy about a small-town waitress (Renee Zellweger), who, traumatized by her husband's murder, confuses fantasy with reality and heads for Tinseltown, convinced she is the ex-fiancee of her favorite soap opera character (Greg Kinnear). Director Neil LaBute's road movie has a dense narrative with well-developed characters but eventually becomes tedious as the finale is dragged out. Some intense violence, an off-screen suicide, a sexual encounter and recurring rough language with some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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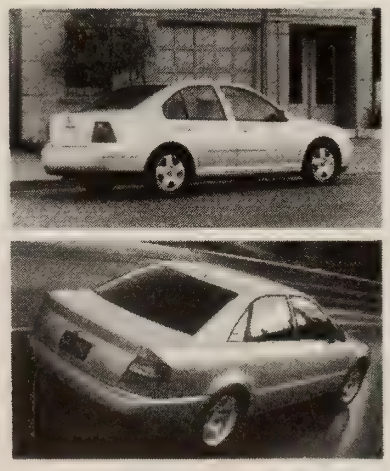

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope praises adoption of children as courageous work of love

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised the adoption of children as a courageous "work of love" and said adoptive families offer a valuable witness to society.

"The existence itself of so many children without families suggests adoption as a concrete way of love," he told some 7,000 participants of the Jubilee for Adoptive Families in St. Peter's Basilica Sept. 5.

"Your decision and your commitment are an invitation to courage and generosity for all of society, in order that this gift be ever greater valued, promoted and legally supported," he said.

The jubilee was organized by the Missionaries of Charity on the third anniversary of the death of their founder, Mother Teresa. Most of the participating families were Italian and had adopted children from India and Romania.

The pope said adoptive families provide a valuable witness in the face of self-centered "contradictions" found in modern society.

He noted that some couples decide not to have children for selfish reasons or are discouraged by economic, social or bureaucratic obstacles. Meanwhile, he said, other couples want a biological child so badly that they turn to "morally reprehensible practices" in medical science, an apparent reference to artificial insemination.

The pope said that adopting children and treating them as one's own "means recognizing that the relationship between parents and children is not measured solely by genetic parameters."

Based on gift of self, the relationship between adopted children and parents "is so intimate and lasting that it is not at all inferior" to the relationship between biological children and their parents, he said.

The pope said Mother Teresa lived her religious title with "a special intensity," becoming a true mother to the poor whom she ministered.

"A mother is recognized by the capacity to give of self," he said. "She never tired of 'adopting' her poor as children."

Pope beatifies two very different popes, three others

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a jubilee liturgy that followed weeks of controversy, Pope John Paul II beatified two very different popes: the universally popular John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council, and Pius IX, who the pope said was "much loved, but also hated and slandered." Celebrating Mass Sept. 3 in St. Peter's Square in front of about 80,000 people, the pope also declared as "blessed" French Father William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Society of Mary religious order; Abbot Joseph Columba Marmion, an Irish-French Benedictine; and Italian Archbishop Tommaso Reggio, known for his service to the young and poor.

Back to School

DR. MICHAEL SKUBE
Guest Columnist

Catholic Schools build community

A basic tenet of the mission of Catholic schools is to build "community". The document "To Teach as Jesus Did" defined Christian community:

"As God's plan unfolds in the life of an individual Christian, he grows in awareness that, as a child of God, he does not live in isolation from others. From the moment of Baptism he becomes a member of a new and larger family, the Christian community. Reborn in Baptism, he is joined to others in common faith, hope, and love. This community is based not on force or accident of geographic location or even on deeper ties of ethnic origin, but on the life of the spirit, which unites its members in a unique fellowship. In this community one person's problem is everyone's problem and one person's victory is everyone's victory."

Thus, the Catholic school community may be identified by members who share faith, hope, and love.

In the "Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School," it is pointed out that great stress is put on the environment of forming the climate of a school in order to establish a climate to assist in the formation process of students. Our challenge is to turn the "schoolhouse" into a "schoolhome" which is a moral equivalent of home for our young which will be responsive to the needs and conditions of the children and their parents.

In order to build community, students, parents, and school personnel need to understand and actively participate in the *shared vision of the Catholic School.* Every aspect of the school community needs to be involved in a carefully planned process to support the philosophy of the Catholic school.

Community is also formed by Catholic schools affirming the *dignity of each student and appreciating student diversity.* Intrinsic to the Gospel-based environment of the school is the realization and implementation of individual dignity.

Catholic Schools form community through the *teaching of peace and justice.* Teachers are urged to cultivate a global consciousness for a more just society and to apply justice principles to the immediate community of the student and the Catholic school. These involve providing the appropriate support of social action and assisting to finding solutions to these issues.

"Lay Catholics in Schools: Witnesses to Faith" summarized the responsibility of the Catholic educator: "The vocation of every Catholic educator includes the work of ongoing social development: to form men and women who will be ready to take their place in society, preparing them in such a way that they will make the kind of social commitment which will enable them to work for the improvement of social structures, making these structures more conformed to the principles of the Gospel."

Community is also formed by *developing a collaborative relationship with parents.* This collaboration between a Catholic school and parents is a partnership based on faith. This collaboration insists upon an integration of the school with the

See SKUBE, page 18

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Advice From Eighth-Graders: Entering a New School

Last May, at the end of the school year, I had the wonderful privilege of leading a retreat for a small group of eighth-graders. They were students in the Catholic school my own children had attended, so some of the faces were familiar as were a lot of the last names.

It was a fun day, as those kinds of things usually are. It was also, after a couple of hours of warming up and getting comfortable, a day of honest reflection and decision making.

For you see, the transition from grammar school to high school may not be as dramatic as the other, similar life steps that frame it: starting school for the first time and then, 12 years later, graduating and going on to college. But it's still a pretty big deal, and these kids knew it.

They were going from a small school which some of them had attended since kindergarten, and a small class of about 25, to a completely different scene. Big campuses, lots of strangers, a slew of different teachers all with different expectations, more responsibility and more pressure.

How, we wondered together, could these students make this transition go as smoothly as possible? They put their heads together, and after a few minutes the answer came — and pretty consistently from group to group: Be prepared. Have the little things in life all lined up and ready to go, so when mishaps and minidisasters happen, as they are bound to do, at least one part of your life will be under control.

The kids knew that their classes in high school would probably be harder and that the social scene might be a challenge in any number of ways. That was a given, they said. So it made sense to go into that with the practical details of life organized.

Make sure you know your bus number, they said. Write your locker combination down, and keep a copy somewhere safe. Have your clothes picked out the night before.

Do the same with your school supplies so you don't have to be scrounging around for a pen and a notebook, worried about missing your ride and being late, all at the same time you're stressing about whether you're going to be able to find your classrooms during the day.

And there's one more thing the students came up with: Pray. It's a good thing to remember any time and all the time. Pray. No matter what the transition, no matter what the situation.

Remember as you're going to that new school or even just starting a new year in your same old school: You're not alone. There is, indeed, someone who understands how stressed out you are, and how worried you are about fitting in and succeeding.

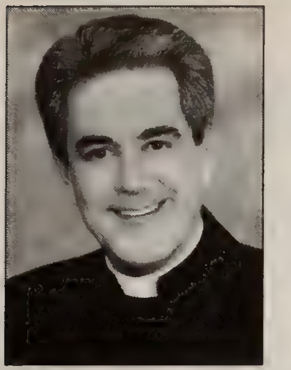
That someone is God.

So, the eighth-graders said, it would be a good idea to take two minutes the morning of the first day of school, get quiet and remember that God's right there with you. Tell him how you're feeling. Tell him what you're worried about. Then be quiet for a minute, letting him talk to you.

Listen.

Yup. That's what those eighth-graders said they were going to try to do. It's what they said you should do.

Pretty good advice, wouldn't you say?



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

School Days: Then and Now

Going back to high school — a Catholic high school — in September 2000 is sure different from my experience forty years ago. Other than the crucifix on the wall, the only familiar signs from my days are the framed icons held up to us for inspiration: John F. Kennedy, the first and only Roman Catholic president, and the Pope, now John Paul II rather than John XXIII .

Change is everywhere. The classrooms are nearly empty of nuns, priests and brothers. Priests account for less than 1 percent of the 157,000 teachers in Catholic schools. Ninety-three percent are lay people, while nuns make up 5.5 percent and brothers less than 1 percent.

With the disappearance of Roman collars and the black-and-white habits, the once all-Catholic student population has also changed dramatically. A record 13.4 percent of the 2.6 million students are non-Catholic. Not only are enrollment figures up throughout the country; 40 percent of all Catholic elementary and secondary schools report waiting lists of young people of all faiths trying to get in.

Just as Catholic schools are experiencing this extraordinary revival, many of the long established-features of Catholic education are being transformed.

Corporal punishment has been decidedly rejected in favor of professional counseling techniques. Teachers still offer traditional religious principles, but where religion used to be about doctrine, the emphasis now is more on values. Teachers encourage students to reflect and act on social justice issues, community service projects and personal moral development.

The Ten Commandments are posted in classrooms and halls along with banners that read, "Believe in Yourself" and "Open Wide the Doors to Christ." Each day begins with prayer. Students regularly attend leadership courses and spiritual retreats which promote character as well as respect and consideration for different points of view.

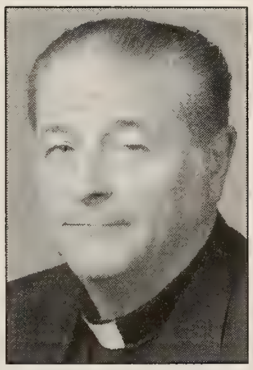
In Milwaukee, where about 3000 students attend Catholic schools under a voucher program, students may elect not to participate in religious activities, but there has not been a single request to do so.

Yet, beyond changes and adaptations, there is something fundamentally constant in the Catholic experience. Father Bill O'Malley of Fordham Prep in the Bronx describes it as Catholic education's enduring purpose — "to stimulate curiosity into the most fundamental of all questions: 'What are people for?' If we find the answer to that, we'll be happy, successful and fulfilled."

Indeed, my happiest memories are of teachers who believed their first task was to pique my curiosity about what being human is all about, teachers who never lost patience with my incessant "Why?" It, too, is one of the questions we were born to ask.

God created us to be curious, to wonder, to think. He wants us to use these gifts well, not just to satisfy ourselves, but to help others. Embracing people of all faiths is a sign of hope for the future. That's why today's Catholic school is so well positioned to train young people to go out into "the real world."

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Giving Children Communion Wine

Q. At what age may a child receive Communion under the form of wine? On a trip this summer I saw a youngster, about 11 years old, receive the wine from the priest. We were confused. Isn't it unlawful to give a child wine?

I never knew that younger people under the lawful drinking age could receive this way. It was the first time I've seen it.

A. The church has no rule about this. Ultimately, of course, it is the parents' responsibility to judge.

I'm more than a little surprised you have never before seen this occur. It is quite common for children to receive from the cup, sometimes even at their first Communion. I've never heard a complaint or information of any sort about a problem.

Since Communion from the cup is part of a religious ceremony, in no place, I believe, is it considered a violation of drinking age laws.

Archangels as saints?

Q. Can you explain why the archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel are referred to as saints? I have understood that we humans aspire to sainthood and can never become angels, which are special creations of God.

A. The word "saint" (which comes from the Latin "sanctus," holy) refers, in Catholic tradition, to those who are with God in eternity. As Vatican Council II teaches, they are joined with God forever in a life free from decay, and share in his life and happiness. (See "Constitution on the Church in the Modern World," Nos. 18 and 21.)

Thus, there's nothing that would deny applying the title to angels, and Christians have done so for centuries. Part of Christian tradition is the belief that God created these spiritual (nonbodily) beings with the power of reason and with freedom to make personal moral decisions.

Certain of them, according to the prevailing opinion, sinned by defying God in some way, others did not. Those who remained faithful are, of course, with God their creator, share his life and blessedness, and are therefore deserving of the title saint.

Three angels appear in the Bible by name, Gabriel, Michael and Raphael, and they are the only ones honored by name in the church's devotions and liturgy. The Eastern churches honored St. Michael as early as the fourth century, and he was the only individual angel venerated in the West until about the year 800.

Their feast is celebrated together on Sept. 29. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, it is worth noting, are among the many holy ones we venerate who have never been officially or formally canonized. Popes have been canonizing saints for only about 1,000 years.

The angels, therefore, are like thousands of others on the roll of saints (the apostles, for example) who came to have this distinction by popular acclaim of the people, through their especially distinguished witness to Christian life and teaching, or because of their extraordinary service to the church or humanity.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen via e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Back to School

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Catholic School: Microcosm of the Church

I recall offering Mass one day with a class of fifth graders at Sacred Heart School in Quincy, Massachusetts. We gathered to thank God for the gift of Faith. On that occasion one of the children displayed a poster that described dramatically the theme of the Eucharistic celebration. The upper two-thirds of the picture portrayed a resplendent rainbow. Below that mosaic of brilliant and complementary colors were written the words: "I believe in God because of rainbows." In examining the artwork I noted that each of the colors reflected its own unique magnificence. Yet, as the totality of colors stood together in their complimentarity, they conveyed a richness that surpassed the splendor of each.

Upon reflection it was apparent to me that the insightful image captured concisely the nature and mission of the Church. The Church, as the Body of Christ, lives and learns, reflects and speaks in time and place. The Church is divine and human; sign and servant. The Church, as the Sacrament of Christ, proclaims a timeless vision, a timely Gospel, truly relevant values and a significant interpretation of reality. The Church assists people to cultivate their relationship with God and one another, to appreciate their dignity and that of every person, to develop their talents and gifts and to answer the call to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Catholic School's nature and mission cannot be understood apart from a consideration of the nature and mission of the Church. The Catholic school is commissioned, in harmony with the total Church, to cultivate a spirit of unity with Christ, to reflect the magnificence of His love and to proclaim the relevance of His gospel. The Catholic school, as a microcosm of the Church, is called to share a message, to form a truly Christian community and to inspire Christ-like service. It is challenged to be an environment within which maturing believers, as total persons, are reminded that they are related, dependent and responsible.

The vocation of teachers in the Catholic school is to share with those whose lives they touch an interpretation of life and reality, which is in harmony with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They, by word and deed, remind the children or youth that they are loveable in themselves; that spiritual values must be integrated with secular knowledge, that talents should be cultivated for service; that people are more enriching than possessions; that love must eradicate hatred; that a commitment to peace must overcome violence; that cooperation is more humanizing than competition; that Christian principles must underlie projects; that growth in Christ must be the measure of progress.

During the time ahead the Catholic school, as a microcosm of the Church, will continue to teach and transform, enrich and encourage, heal and hallow. The Catholic school, as a brilliant color within the resplendent rainbow of the Church's educational ministry, will continue to share love and cultivate life. Because of their participation in a Catholic school children and youth will have reason to say, like that fifth grader before them, "I believe in God because of rainbows."

Father James Hawker is Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Skube, from page 18

home, which is essential to the realization of the potential development of children. Parents are the first and primary educators of their children with the Catholic schoolteacher as a partner in this educational endeavor. This implies that parents participate with the schools and that the school assists the education of parents.

Integrating service into the school curriculum assists in the forming of community. School collaboration with the human community outside the school includes the development of students' social awareness within their communities through service opportunities. Providing service communities within the school, parish, and community assists in fostering the giving of ourselves in assisting others.

The role of the Catholic school as community builders is an all-encompassing ministerial call for teachers, students, parents, and the entire church community. The building of community constitutes the very essence of being a Catholic school.

Dr. Michael Skube is diocesan superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Have a story idea? Call our office at (704) 370-3333.

Teacher in-services promote growth and the building of faith, says director

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Diocesan teachers can hear nationally renowned speakers from the comfort of their own local schools through the help of the education office and Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools. Sister Maureen coordinates and plans daylong in-service sessions for teachers to help them with certification and to better identify with their role as teachers in a Catholic school system.

"Capturing the essence of a Catholic school means being able to define and identify the signs which mark the school as Catholic," explained Sister Maureen. "It means being able to describe and see in practice the Catholic identity of the school, and most of all, understanding the deep, underlying significance of those practices. It means being able to explain and demonstrate a living answer to the question, 'How is this school Catholic?'"

> **"Capturing the essence of a Catholic school means being able to define and identify the signs which mark the school as Catholic."**
>
> — *Sister Maureen Meehan, RSM*

Through year-round in-services, teachers are able to discuss ideals and concepts and set goals within a Catholic school system to work toward meeting those goals for everyone's benefit. The in-services provide credits for certification in religious education, and all religion teachers are certified through this process. Additionally, all high school religion teachers have master's degrees in religious education from Catholic universities, said Sister Maureen.

The entire program entitled, "Our Catholic Identity: Faith Formation Program for Catholic School Teachers," encompasses diocesan conference days and retreats and faith formation classes using "The Catechism of the Catholic Church" as a guideline. Throughout the year, Notre Dame University ITV live distance learning classes on morality and character also take place at Bishop McGuinness High School.

"Essential to the success of our religion teacher formation program is an advisory committee comprised of members of the catechetical leadership, principals and faculty, with expertise and credentials approved by Bishop William G. Curlin," said Sister Maureen.

The following is the upcoming schedule of teacher in-services for September and October:

Paulist Father Richard Sparks, campus minister at Holy Spirit Church in Berkeley, Calif., is presenting "Catholic Morality Across the Curriculum" for sixth- through twelfth-grade teachers and diocesan school counselors at Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte on September 22.

On the same day, Capuchin Father Jack Racthschmidt and Gaynell Cronin, both from Cronton on the Hudson in New York, are presenting "Sarah's Evergreen: Raising Children for Faith" and Diane Lampitt, staff member of the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders, RCL, is presenting "@ the Call of a Teacher" for kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers at Camp Thunderbird in South Carolina.

On October 27, John Carr, staff member of the United States Catholic Conference, is presenting "Catholic Social Principles throughout the Curriculum" for all diocesan teachers at Charlotte Catholic High School.

For further reference, check the website at www.charlottediocese.org/religion or call Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan at (704) 370-3268.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Director of Music: Full-time position as Director of Music for growing parish of 650 families who love to sing! Responsibilities include: Liturgy preparation and planning; playing for 5 weekend masses, holy days, funerals. Weddings negotiated; directing and developing adult mixed choir; organizing and directing children's choir; attend conferences and workshops for continued education and renewal; and attend weekly parish staff meetings. Competitive salary and benefits. Experience a plus, but musical accompaniment skills (piano & organ) a must. Send resume to Search Committee, Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, NC 28144, or fax to 704-647-0126.

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Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

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Teaching Assistants: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time teaching assistants. Available immediately. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview.

Gastonia school experiences change, growth with new year

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GASTONIA — Students are writing new material in their clean notebooks this school year in the midst of a flurry of activity in their school. Major changes are taking place for St. Michael School in Gastonia — changes allowing for the potential for future school growth.

Since its 1942 establishment by the Sisters of Mercy and the move in 1952 to its current location, parents, teachers and students have witnessed steady growth in the school. The number of students has increased from 239 to 253 enrolled this year with waiting lists for several grade levels including 20 youngsters waiting for kindergarten. Joe Puceta, beginning his sixth year as principal of St. Michael School, has also watched this growth and attributes it to several factors.

"We have been getting an influx of people moving in this area, much like Charlotte, and it has been a consistently rising number," said Puceta. "We have 16 new families which is a big growth for a small school."

In fact, according to Puceta, the upper grades have seen a large amount of growth in the past two years from 40 to 70 students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades this year with 21 students in the eighth grade this year. "More than five years ago, my daughters graduated from eighth grade as two of 12 students," said Puceta. "We are now experiencing growth in these grades more than ever before. I believe that we have more students mostly because of the Catholic school values and individual attention. We also offer athletics and changing classes...."

In addition to more families and continued growth, many students continue to travel by van from the Hickory and Morganton areas to the school, the only Catholic elementary and middle school in the Gastonia Vicariate. "We are the 'environmental roundup' for Shelby, Kings Mountain, River Hills and other surrounding cities, and we are continuing to see students come in from those areas," explained Puceta.

> "We have been getting an influx of people moving in this area, much like Charlotte, and it has been a consistently rising number," said Puceta. "We have 16 new families which is a big growth for a small school."

In order to accommodate these incoming and present students, plans are underway to expand and rebuild the school and the church. "Project 2000" consists of the addition of 7,000 square feet of classroom space to the school to replace the present portable structures and a 900-seat church to hold the growing number of parishioners, which demonstrates the link between the school and the parish.

"Since its inception, St. Michael's parish has always seen the school as its primary apostolate," said Father John Allen, pastor of St. Michael Church. "The signs of growth that we are experiencing are very exciting, suggesting people's appeal for the great value of education and their recognition of the academic excellence provided by the principal and faculty. We want to do everything to provide for prudent and careful growth of the school and Catholic education in Gaston County."

Puceta noted that this year, over 75 percent of the students are Catholic, when nearly ten years ago, only 40 percent of students were Catholic. "This is a huge transition for St. Mike's, and the majority of those Catholic students are from St. Mike's Church."

The school's new media center, consisting of the library and computer rooms, was built solely with the help of parents from the school and the parish. "We have had tremendous support from parents, not only from families of present students but from families from up to four generations ago, and that is very special to us."

Future school plans include expanding the single-class grade levels into two classes of each grade. Preliminary construction has already begun on the parking lot and the new entrance to the school, and the proposed date of completion for school construction is August 2001.

"We have a very good and strong relationship with the church parish, and we have worked hard to cultivate it," said Puceta. "We receive tremendous support from the parish, and we could not exist without it."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Programs, from page 15

aimed for an adolescent audience.

Still, NBC pulls in about as many viewers week in and week out as does ABC, Fox and WB.

And let's not forget PBS. The noncommercial broadcaster is unveiling two cartoons based on long-loved characters, "Caillou" and "Clifford the Big Red Dog," to be seen weekday mornings.

And on Saturdays, PBS will revamp its lineup to present six different cartoon shows over a three-hour block: "Corduroy," a teddy bear; "Elliot Moose," an optimistic, contemplative playmate for preschoolers; "George Shrinks," one of TV's few three-inch cartoon characters; "Marvin the Tap-Dancing Horse," which revels in the excitement of carnival life from a kids' point of view; "Seven Little Monsters," which encourages ethical behavior; and "Timothy," a 5-year-old boy who is beginning to discover the world and his place in it.

Taken together, they're called the "PBS Kids Bookworm Bunch," since each is based on a popular book series and is meant to contribute to children's literacy.

Not every show on every network may meet every expectation of every viewer, but there's enough thoughtful innovation to please at least some of the children some of the time — and their parents.

HELP WANTED

Providence Ventures, a nation-wide marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts is seeking candidates for the following full-time positions at its Charlotte-area headquarters:

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Skills & Experience: Supervisory skills and experience. Excellent verbal and written communications skills. Excellent organizational skills. Knowledge of Catholic faith and products a plus, but not required.
Sales Support Specialist
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Centenarian reminisces about last hundred years

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Many people seem to live in the midst of memories, while others live only for the present moment. Events and happenings from several decades ago are as fresh as today's wash, but, for some, conversations that have taken place several days prior can be hazy to the memory. At age 100, Sadie Snellings is an example of someone who lives each day to the fullest. Her past pours out like a summer shower, defying her years and, perhaps, putting to rest some general assumptions about the elderly.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Sadie Snellings, 100, checks the status of her tomatoes in her vegetable garden. Snellings, a parishioner of Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte, reached her century mark on the feast day of the Assumption on Aug. 15.

Long life seems to run in her family, with her father dying at 106 and her mother passing away at age 104. Her maternal grandmother died at the ripe, old age of 114, while her paternal grandfather died at 116. "And do you know he was still working," said Snellings with a chuckle.

On Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, Snellings, a parishioner at Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte, celebrated her hundredth birthday in a grand style. The church members presented her with eight bouquets of flowers and a large birthday cake after evening Mass in honor of her many years of living. She kept half of the bouquets for herself and donated the other half to her church to be placed at the feet of the statue of the assumption of Mary.

"I believe the Blessed Mother and Sacred Heart have helped me through my life. I truly believe that," said Snellings in a reverent tone, fitting for one born on a feast day honoring the life of Mary.

Snellings, who can be called an unofficial Charlotte historian, has lived most of her life in a city that has been the nesting place for many migratory families who have found a new home, either from another state or another country.

In 1905, water surrounded the Joseph family as they traveled from Lebanon, a country resting on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and bordered by Syria and Israel, to the eastern shores of America.

"I remember the water, the crowd, and it seemed we were on the ocean for a long time. We were all crying because we wanted to go home," said Snellings who was, then, the third oldest of five children traveling with their parents to North Carolina, where two of her uncles were living at the time.

The family arrived in Charlotte, where her father opened a grocery store on West Trade Street in what is now called the 'Uptown area.' "I remember Charlotte as a little town, and they have changed it so much; I don't know it anymore," she remarked.

"My advice to young folks is to have faith and to treat people as you would like for them to treat you, regardless of who they are."

She could probably sit and dictate architectural plans on almost exactly how Charlotte looked in the early 1900s.

She remembers streets, landmarks and the landscape of the turn-of-the-century town.

"There was a depot on Trade Street, and the only hotel was the Stonewall Hotel right next to the depot," she said. "We walked to school on Morehead Street, where that YMCA is now, not far from the cotton mill. I remember that the land where I am now was all white with cotton."

Young Charlotte also had its share of prejudice, unfamiliar to the newly arrived family. "There were only three churches in the town at the time - St. Peter's, the Catholic church, St. Peter's Episcopal and First Presbyterian. We were the only Catholics living in that Presbyterian neighborhood, and they had a fit when we moved in. We couldn't speak the language, and we were Catholic."

However, Snellings, who watched five more siblings be born in America, learned by her parents' positive example. Her mother brought food to poor African-Americans in the area and always shared her food with her neighbors, attracted by the unfamiliar but pleasant Mediterranean cooking smells, and her parents constantly helped the area needy either with food, employment or shelter.

"My parents taught us that regardless of what color skin you have or what religion you are, we are all children of God. They raised us to believe that."

Snellings has continued to live with a childlike devotion to her religion even through hardships, death and the events of the last century. Her husband was in his thirties when he died during the height of the Depression, and Snellings was left to raise their two sons on her own.

"I couldn't find a job, and I had to walk all across Charlotte to find something. So, I asked Mary for help." She said that her devotion to Mary led her to the Larkwood Hosiery Mill in Charlotte, where a temporary job led to a 35-year position.

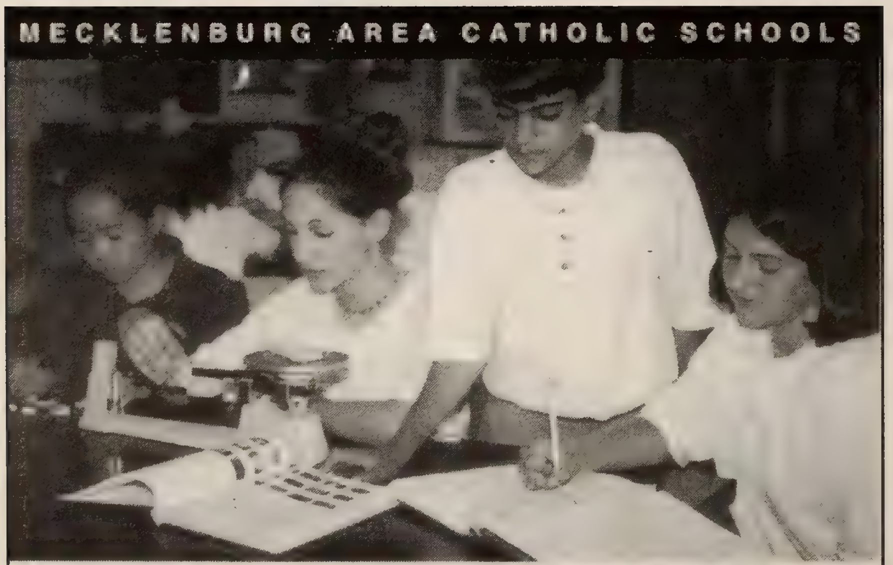
She also said that prayer and Eucharistic and Marian devotion brought her sons home from World War II safely, only to lose her younger son years later at age 58.

Through personal tragedy and loss, Snellings said that she is happy and does not know how or why she has lived so long, especially since she makes no regular trips to the doctor and works in her vegetable and flower gardens weekly. She believes that it is God's will.

"I thank God for every minute of my life, but I have one regret, not being able to visit my birthplace. If I had the money, I would go tomorrow," she said wistfully.

"My advice to young folks is to have faith and to treat people as you would like for them to treat you, regardless of who they are."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.



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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 15, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 2

Inside

Pope John XXIII

Jewish group works to have pope declared righteous

...PAGE 3

From the Cover

Pope performs exorcism over teenage Italian girl

...PAGE 7

Living the Faith

Priest's fourth CD offers prayer, praise

...PAGE 16

Local News

Mountain gathering to fan the flames of spirituality

...PAGE 5

Cathechists light fires of faith at conference

...PAGE 9

Every Week

Entertainment

...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns

...PAGES 12-13

"Faith is both a gift of God and an authentically human response — a recognition of God's call in one's life and a free decision to follow this call by accepting and living the truth of the Gospel."

— U.S. Catholic Bishops, "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us"

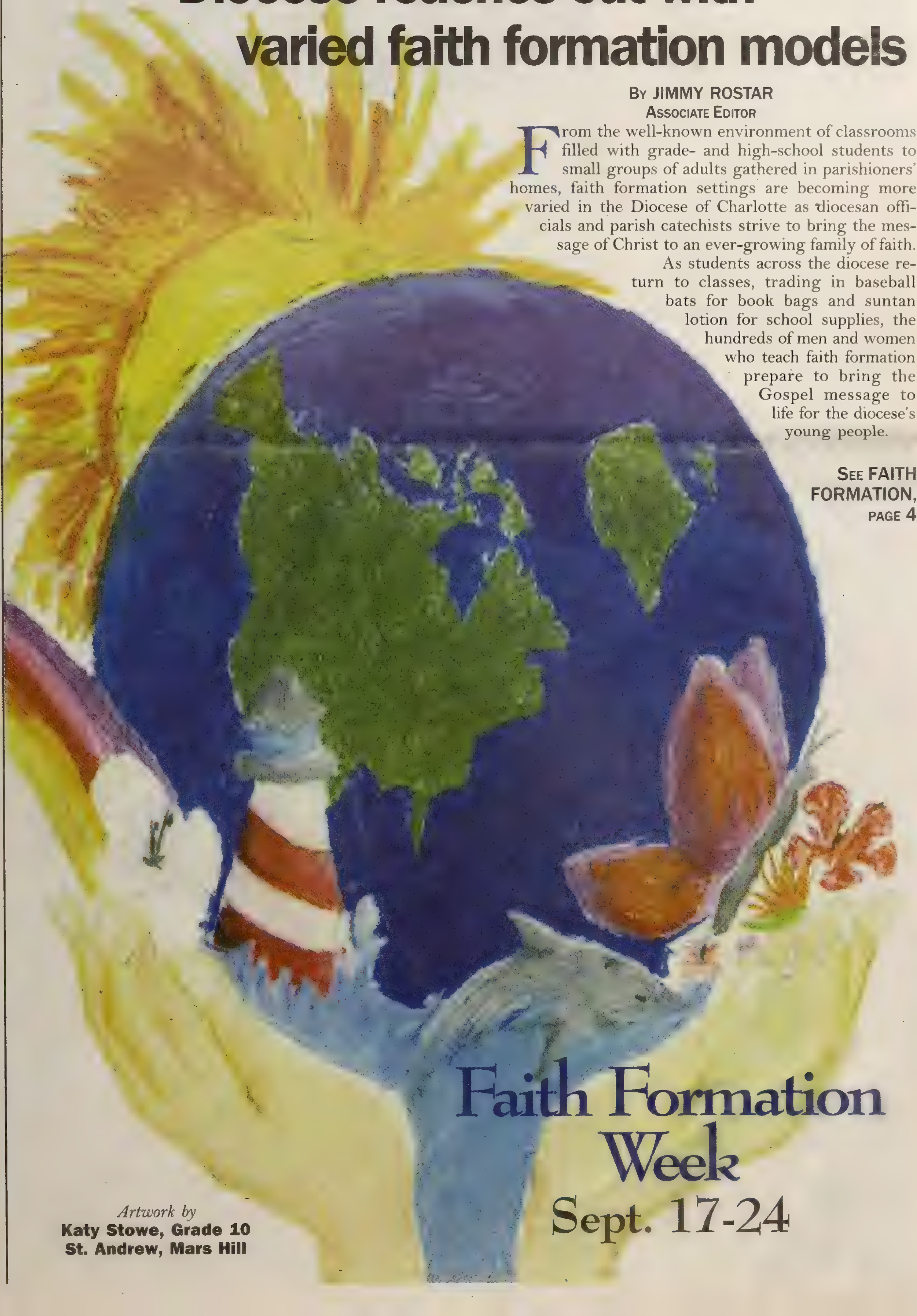
Diocese reaches out with varied faith formation models

By JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

From the well-known environment of classrooms filled with grade- and high-school students to small groups of adults gathered in parishioners' homes, faith formation settings are becoming more varied in the Diocese of Charlotte as diocesan officials and parish catechists strive to bring the message of Christ to an ever-growing family of faith.

As students across the diocese return to classes, trading in baseball bats for book bags and suntan lotion for school supplies, the hundreds of men and women who teach faith formation prepare to bring the Gospel message to life for the diocese's young people.

SEE FAITH FORMATION, PAGE 4



Faith Formation Week
Sept. 17-24

Artwork by
Katy Stowe, Grade 10
St. Andrew, Mars Hill

The World in Brief

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Millennium Summit

The U.N. Security Council meets during the Millennium Summit in New York. On the final day of the summit meeting, the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, reaffirmed church support for the United Nations.

At Jubilee for Universities, pope stresses Christian truth

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Appealing to university communities to cast aside relativism, Pope John Paul II linked academic study to the search for absolute truth. In a Sept. 9 audience and Sept. 10 Mass to mark the Jubilee for Universities, the pope urged thousands of professors, administrators, chaplains and students to reconcile reason and faith by looking to Christ as the one true teacher. "Freedom of research has nothing to fear from this encounter with Christ," he said Sept. 10 in St. Peter's Square to a 30,000-strong crowd dotted throughout with academic robes and caps.

Catholic aid agencies warn of starvation in West Timor

MALIANA, East Timor (CNS) — The 120,000 refugees in squalid refugee camps in West Timor were in danger of starvation and serious illness after all humanitarian aid organizations suspended operations following the killings of three U.N. aid workers, said Catholic aid agencies. "Everyone has suspended operations. There are no relief operations in West Timor," said Michael Frank, Catholic Relief Services country representative for Indonesia. CRS is the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency. "There is definitely going to be a food problem there," he said. Frank said in mid-September that there had been no food distribution in the refugee camps for more than six weeks as threats against humanitarian aid workers by pro-Indonesia militia groups intensified.

Progress reported in resolving land mine crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite many advances in a few years, "we still have a land mine crisis," Human Rights Watch leader Stephen Goose said Sept. 7. Goose, Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams and Landmine Survivors Network director Jerry White met with journalists in Washington to mark the simultaneous release in 20 countries of "Landmine Monitor Report 2000," a comprehensive 1,100-page global study by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. Land mines around the world "continue to maim and kill long after wars have ended," said Williams, ambassador and former coordinator of the campaign.

Official urges Hindu fundamentalists to imitate Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — The chief minister of the eastern Indian state of West Bengal called on Hindu fundamentalists to imitate Mother Teresa and to stop attacking Christians. Jyoti Basu, a communist who has been the state's chief minister since 1977, told a gathering to honor the late nun in Calcutta, the state capital, that the country's progress will come to a stop if attacks on Christians continue. His remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Calcutta observed Aug. 26-Sept. 6 as "solidarity fortnight" to honor Mother Teresa, who died in the city Sept. 5, 1997, at the age of 87.

State Department report finds worldwide religious persecution

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious freedoms are in grave danger in several countries around the world, according to a State Department report released Sept. 5 naming Sudan and China as among the world's worst offenders. "Much of the world's population lives in countries in which the right to religious freedom is restricted or prohibited," said the second annual report commissioned by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. This year's report includes information on 194 countries and territories.

Proposal would limit death-row inmates' contacts with clergy

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — A Florida Department of Corrections proposal would limit death-row visitors to attorneys or emergencies and could exclude spiritual advisers, including Catholic priests and other clergy. Richard Dugger, director of the Office of Institutions, conducted a public hearing on the proposed maximum management rule Aug. 29 at the state Department of Corrections. The proposal would make "maximum management" a status of confinement in Florida's correctional facilities. The Florida Catholic Conference has sought clarification on which inmates would be covered under the new status.

World Council of Churches warns of damage from Vatican document

GENEVA (CNS) — The World Council of Churches warned of potential damage to ecumenical dialogue following the release of a Vatican document emphasizing the Catholic Church's pre-eminent status among Christian denominations. "What a tragedy" if the witness of joint Christian cooperation "were obscured by the churches' dialogues about their relative authority and status — however important they may be," the world council said in a statement. The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith released a document Sept. 5 condemning the notion that "one religion is as good as another."

CCHD awards record $10.1 million to fight U.S. poverty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program, announced a record $10.1 million in grants to help fight the root causes of poverty across the country. Of the total, $9.6 million will fund 366 community-based projects, while $500,000 is targeted for National Impact Grants, to be awarded later this year to projects active in more than three states and focusing on immigration issues. Individual Catholics donate the money in an annual nationwide collection. This year's grants will fund projects in 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 18 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
September 19 — 10 a.m.
Presbyteral council meeting
Pastoral Center, Charlotte
September 20 — 6 p.m.
Blessing and dedication of new
CSS office, Asheville
September 21 — 6 p.m.
MACS Circle celebration, Charlotte
September 23
Homilist for Investiture Mass
for Order of Malta
St. Matthew Cathedral,
Washington, D.C.
September 30 — 11 a.m.
Rite of candidacy for permanent diaconate

Diocesan planner

September

18 CHARLOTTE — There is a free orientation session being held from 7-8:30 p.m. tonight concerning the Weigh Down Workshop program at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The 12-week classes will begin on Sept. 25 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the faith formation building. The idea is to replace devotion to food with a stronger devotion to God and spirituality. For more information, contact Carol A. Galimberti at (704) 554-5936.

NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets today and every third Monday at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

21 ASHEVILLE — There is a men's cursillo weekend taking place at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., through Sept. 24. For more information, contact Dan Hines at (704) 339-2076.

BELMONT — Catherine's House, 402 Mercy Dr., is having its First Millennium Open House today at 2 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to showcase many of the new programs, offer tours of the facility and present the Mercy Sister Barbara Sullivan Volunteer of the Year Award to Mercy Sister Maureen Dees. Catherine's House provides transitional housing for homeless women and children. For further details, call (704) 825-9599.

22 CHARLOTTE — The 5th Annual St. Ann Church Carnival is being held this weekend at 3635 Park Rd from 5-10 p.m. tonight and from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sept. 23. Join the parish for food, games, arts and crafts, music and entertainment, a silent auction and more in support of the activity center debt elimination fund. To

Jewish group works to have Pope John XXIII declared 'righteous'

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

> "We are, therefore, proud to recognize the magnitude of John XXIII as a man of principled courage and goodness, and are today recommending that John XXIII be inducted as one of the righteous among the nations, in the annals of the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem."

NEW YORK (CNS) — A Jewish group announced Sept. 7 that it was seeking to get Pope John XXIII recognized by the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Israel as one of the "righteous among the nations."

In ceremonies at the Vatican mission to the United Nations in New York, a copy of a letter to Yad Vashem from the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation was presented to Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state.

The letter was signed by Baruch Tenembaum, an Argentine businessman who led in establishing the foundation in 1997 and who participated in the New York ceremonies.

Samuel Sisso, Israeli consul general in New York, accepted the letter for transmittal to Yad Vashem.

Tenembaum's letter said the foundation was "gathering information and preparing documents from many sources" to demonstrate the significance of the nominee's work on behalf of Jews when he was apostolic delegate to Turkey.

The foundation is also "asking the Vatican to provide us with additional primary sources" about his tenure in Turkey, the letter said.

From 1934 until his transfer to Paris at the end of 1944, Pope John XXIII — the then-Archbishop Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli — served as apostolic delegate to Turkey and Greece and as administrator of the Apostolic Vicariate of Istanbul.

Yad Vashem, a place where Pope John Paul II had one of his most memorable meetings with Jews during his visit to Israel last March, was established in 1953 to commemorate the Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

It includes an Avenue and Garden of the Righteous Among the Nations to honor those non-Jews who acted to save Jewish lives during that period. According to the Yad Vashem Web site, this honor had been given to 17,433 people as of Jan. 1.

Raoul Wallenberg was the Swedish businessman and diplomat who went to Hungary in 1944, when it was under the most severe Nazi pressure, and acted there to save many Jewish lives. The Soviet Union took him prisoner at the end of the war, and later announced that he died in prison in 1947.

In an introductory statement at the mission ceremonies, Rabbi David Algaze, a foundation member who leads a New York synagogue, said the Second World War was a time of darkness "as in the day before creation itself."

The foundation is "dedicated to acknowledging and revealing the light that persisted in that darkness as exemplified by Raoul Wallenberg's life," he said.

"We are, therefore, proud to recognize the magnitude of John XXIII as a man of principled courage and goodness, and are today recommending that John XXIII be inducted as one of the righteous among the nations, in the annals of the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem."

Pope John XXIII was one of the angels sent by God as "agents of deliverance and light," and "his deeds reveal the luminosity of goodness that transcends all borders and ascends toward the divine mission," the rabbi said.

Cardinal Sodano, speaking in Spanish with his secretary serving as interpreter, thanked the Jewish representatives for the recognition they were giving Pope John XXIII, and recalled that St. Thomas Aquinas had taught that "gratitude is a part of justice."

CNS PHOTO

Pope John XXIII

The cardinal also noted that in beatifying the former pope the previous Sunday, Sept. 3, the church was presenting him as "a model to be imitated by the faithful."

The secretary of state said recognizing Pope John XXIII for his work as a papal representative was an occasion for also remembering other, lesser known nuncios.

He said their work was "sometimes unknown" and "sometimes misunderstood," but they were devoted to furthering the work of peace and reconciliation.

Cardinal Sodano spoke particularly of Archbishop Cesare Orsenigo, Vatican nuncio to Germany during the "terrible Nazi dictatorship." He "was not able to obtain much" but "did as much as he could," the cardinal said. ▼

Catholics are called to be a community of conscience within the larger society and to test public life by the moral wisdom anchored in Scripture and consistent with the best of our nation's founding ideals. Our moral framework does not easily fit the categories of right or left, Democrat or Republican. Our responsibility is to measure every part and platform by how its agenda touches human life and dignity.

Faithful Citizenship

—from "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," U.S. Catholic Bishops' Administrative Board

find out more about the carnival, to volunteer or to donate items, call Lorelle Grant at (704) 357-0732, Jo Crisp at (704) 543-7311 or Ted Peters at (704) 523-9233.

25 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Independent Schools' College Fair, sponsored by Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte Country Day School, Charlotte Latin School and Providence Day School, is being held at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., tonight from 7-9 p.m. Recruiting and admissions representatives from over 150 scheduled schools are going to be present to discuss college options with students and parents. For more information, call CCHS at (704) 543-1127.

CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the meeting or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., is having its parish mission beginning this morning with today's mission talk taking place during the 9 a.m. Mass and repeated at a 7 p.m. liturgical service through Sept. 27. The mission talks, the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick and the blessing of holy oil are being presented and administered by Franciscan Father Thomas F. Vigliotta. The mission will end on Sept. 27 with a 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496.

28 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre is presenting Scott McPherson's "Marvin's Room," a comedy-drama about how one family copes with life's challenges, beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. through October 7 at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. Auditions for the drama "A Piece of My Heart" are scheduled for Oct. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., also at Haid Theatre. For ticket and other information, call (704) 825-6787 or Beth Barger at (704) 825-6890.

30 CHARLOTTE — The Our Lady of Assumption Church fund-raising committee, 4207 Shamrock Dr., is having an international celebration with a multi-ethnic dinner and entertainment this evening from 4:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Assumption School. The proceeds will benefit the church debt reduction fund. For ticket and other information, call Marilyn at (704) 535-9965.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Knights of Columbus Council 10504 is having their 10th Annual Barbecue and Social this evening from 4-8 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 South Main St., in the parish gymnasium. Barbecue, a choice of two or three sides, baked beans, potato salad, Cole slaw, rolls and beverages are being served, and children under age five eat free. For more information, call Mike Patrick at (336) 766-9394 or Tom Voignier at (336) 785-9966.

October

1 CHARLOTTE — The 49th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day is being held today at 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Matthew Kauth from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte is speaking at the gathering. For more information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Faith Formation, from page 1

Meanwhile, people charged with faith formation in non-traditional settings — that is, away from the classrooms in a diocesan school, church building or parish hall — are also gearing up for sundry encounters with adults and children.

Their mission? To assist people in their journey of faith by evangelizing in word and example.

A ministry blossoms

Faith Formation in the Diocese of Charlotte has surged especially in recent years, said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs. A recent survey showed that nearly 3,000 catechists are now at work in the diocese, serving small and large groups of people in parishes, homes and a variety of other settings.

"We surely can credit the support of diocesan and parish staff, and we can credit the support of pastors" for this blossoming ministry, he said. "But in the end, the Holy Spirit is telling us something. The Holy Spirit can be credited with this explosion."

With that explosion comes a growing faith formation need not only for young people in kindergarten through high school, but for adults as well. The survey found that more than 926 catechists — nearly 46 percent of the total number — in this diocese perform their ministry in settings other than K-12 faith formation classrooms.

"What this tells us is that faith formation is much richer than the K-12 curriculum, which itself continues in its vitality," said Villapando. "Lay ministry folks and catechists and parents and all kinds of adults are getting involved in his ministry."

Throughout the diocese, he explained, faith formation outside the "traditional classroom" model manifests itself in a number of ways, especially for and by adults:

— in small faith communities, lecture series and sacramental preparation programs;

— in Scripture study groups, initiation ministry and family prayer "clusters;"

— in home catechesis, in multicultural settings and in ministry with persons with disabilities;

— in ecumenical settings, in the diocesan lay ministry program and in Loyola University's ministry extension program for formal ministry training;

— in marriage preparation, at retreats and in the operation of vacation Bible schools.

These examples, along with other settings, are raising new and important questions for the diocesan office charged with overseeing how faith formation is structured and implemented here.

"These non-traditional settings make up an utterly significant number," said Villapando. "It has implications not only in terms of how this office forms and shapes our ministerial events, our formation events, our in-services, our workshops. But we must go out there and find out what these people need that would be most helpful in their settings."

Internalizing the faith

Villapando stresses that a key goal of the Office of Faith Formation is helping men, women and children make what they are learning about Christ, his message and the church a part of themselves.

"While we pay attention to numbers and quantity, what we really emphasize is internalization," he said. "The essence, the core, of faith formation is internalization."

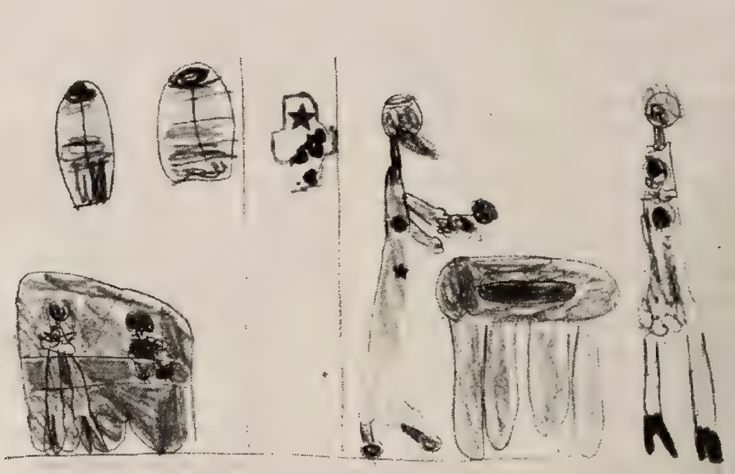
Villapando said prayer and service are two key ways of making the faith real to people and bringing to life ways they can make that faith a part of themselves and others.

"Faith formation is not about classes," he said. "It is about people sharing with people about everything under the sun — as this has been transformed by the mysteries of Christ." ▼

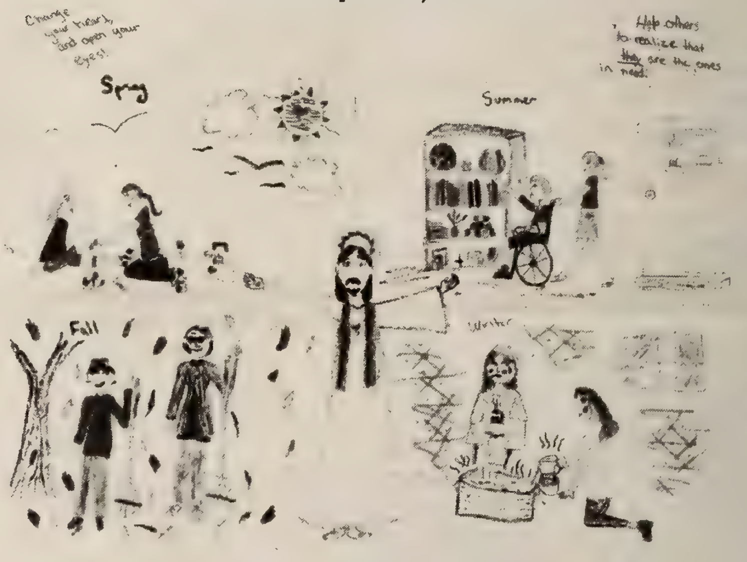
Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

About the Artwork...

The artwork on this page and page 1 is from Faith Formation students in the Diocese of Charlotte who were chosen as winners in the Office of Faith Formation's poster contest. Students were invited to portray the theme "A Year of Favor: Making All Things New" in their works to celebrate Faith Formation Week this year, Sept. 17-24. Each winner received a $25 prize, and his or her works are being used to help promote Faith Formation Week.



Julie Whitely, Grade 1
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro


Change your heart, and open your eyes!
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Summer
Help others to realize that they are the ones in need.
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Winter

Jessica Lundie, Grade 4
St. Elizabeth, Boone

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Those who drink the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again.
— John 4:14

For more information, call Jim Kelley, Director of Development for the Diocese of Charlotte at (704) 370-3301

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Pastoral Care Training

This program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities, and homebound. Through the four-week training, volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts:

Each two-hour session held from 7-9 pm.

Monday, Oct. 9th ***Parish Ministry***	*BJ Dengler* *Pastoral Coordinator*
Monday, Oct. 16th ***Eucharistic Ministry***	*Msgr. John McSweeney* *St. Matthew, pastor*
Monday, Oct. 23rd ***Senior Sensitivity***	*Bernadette Ford* *Gerontologist*
Monday, Oct. 30th ***Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency***	*Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M.* *Pastoral Associate*

All sessions will be held at:
St. Gabriel Catholic Church Ministry Center
3016 Providence Road, Charlotte (at Sharon Amity)
Free training but registration required, call 364-5431

Sponsored by
Catholic Social Services, Elder Ministry, St. Gabriel Church, St. Matthew Church

Faith Formation Planner

Here are some upcoming in-service events for catechists and parish catechetical leaders, sponsored by the Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sept. 23, 2000: "Moral Issues and Faith Formation," presented by Father Richard Sparks, a moral theology professor, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

Nov. 8, 2000: Update on adult faith formation, centering on the U.S. bishops' pastoral "Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us," presented by Sister Maureen Shaughnessy of the United States Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C., at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

Jan. 18, 2001: A discussion of adult faith formation in small Christian communities, including talk of models and strategies, presented by the Diocesan Resource Team on Small Christian Community, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

March 10, 2001: A Day of Prayer and Communion, led by Bishop William G. Curlin and Father George Kloster, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

May 17, 2001: A discussion on the new parish catechetical leader handbook, facilitated by the Faith Formation Office staff, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

For details on these and other events of the Office of Faith Formation, call (704) 370-3244.

Faith Formation

Mountain gathering to fan the flames of spirituality

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

LAKE JUNALUSKA — In the far-reaches of the diocese, people have been coming together to share their spirituality and parish community lives with one another. This is the seventh year for Fire in the Mountains, and this year, the registration for the Oct. 21 gathering is at full capacity.

The idea behind Fire in the Mountains, sponsored by the Office of Faith Formation, was a way for people in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville Vicariates to come together and share ideas and faith with people from parishes they would not necessarily encounter because of geography.

"The Office of Faith Formation hopes to be a strong catalyst of faith — of transformation — for the entire diocese..." said Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs. "So, we want to give equal attention to all parts of the diocese."

Each year involves a theme centered around that year's speaker, and Franciscan Father Richard Rohr, founder of the New Jerusalem Community in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, N.M., will be discussing "Great Themes of Sacred Scripture" with the more than 300 registered participants.

Over the years, the day has included prayer, fellowship, the guest speaker's presentation and small group gatherings.

"We are now looking for a way to incorporate the small group sessions because part of the small group chemistry is to have people that are not normally together to start off on an equal level and feel free to express themselves," said Mary Ann Wharton, chair of the Fire in the Mountains executive committee and a member of St. Joan of Arc Church in Asheville. "The small groups are good for people who have never taken part in parish activities because they give people a chance to share and express themselves."

Also this year, the idea of the "internalization" of faith will be stressed as part of the foundation of the gathering.

"In the last three years, we have been working toward shifting the conference from an 'incubation model,' one where people simply attend and listen, to an 'internalization model,' where people take in the word of God and make it part of themselves spiritually, mentally and physically," said Villapando. "We want to shift the entire faith formation program from the dispensing of facts and doctrines into agents of internalization, transforming and personalizing faith until it hits you in the bone of conviction."

Wharton agreed: "Some learning is on an intellectual level, while some is on a spiritual level. Faith formation takes on both of those concepts and is broader than just education, which usually connotes information."

The name of the conference, "Fire in the Mountains," comes from inspiration from the Holy Spirit, said Wharton, "The Holy Spirit must have been at work. We wanted to set a fire of faith and thought about the concept of how a fire can spread."

As in past years, Wharton is hoping for a day of growth and mutual support for the participants. "This serves as a day of formation and an opportunity to get together with friends for enrichment and enlightenment. I have seen a few minor miracles of people growing in faith and spreading their faith to others." ▼

> **"In the last three years, we have been working toward shifting the conference from an 'incubation model,' one where people simply attend and listen, to an 'internalization model,' where people take in the word of God and make it part of themselves spiritually, mentally and physically."**
>
> — *Dr. Cris Villapando*

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 and e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org

Charlotte City Council overrides mayoral veto, upholds moratorium resolution vote

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte City Council on Sept. 5 upheld its vote to pass a resolution calling for a moratorium on capital punishment. The 8-3 vote was more than enough to override Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory's veto of the council's Sept. 25 vote in favor of the resolution. At least seven votes were needed to override the mayor's veto.

Charlotte became the seventh community in North Carolina to approve a resolution asking the state government for a moratorium, or suspension, of the death penalty to allow for intense study of the issue and time to address alleged injustices therein.

The debate over the moratorium issue was clearly evident at the two city council meetings. Those favoring a moratorium asked the city council to be a voice to state legislators on the matter, while opponents of the resolution, including McCrory, said the moratorium issue is not within the city council's jurisdiction. ▼

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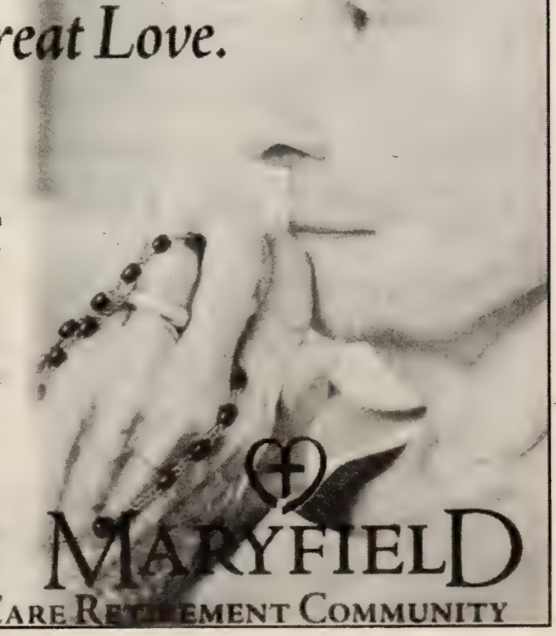

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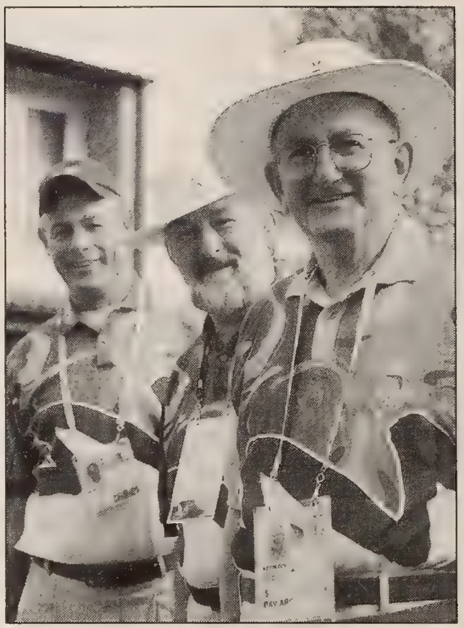
Judges uphold dismissal of suit over first-grader's Bible story

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — By a tie vote, a federal appeals court has let stand a ruling that the New Jersey first-grader who was stopped from reading a Bible story to his class four years ago did not have his constitutional rights violated. Carol Hood, the mother of Zachary Hood, plans to appeal the decision by the Philadelphia-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit to the U.S. Supreme Court. Kevin Hasson, general counsel for The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty that represented Zachary, who is now in fifth grade, said the court's decision "reflects both the complexity and the importance of issues involving children's rights of religious expression during the school day."

N.Y. archbishop backs workers' rights to organize, earn just wage

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York said in a homily Sept. 10 that workers have a "right to a just wage" and a "right to organize" in their pursuit of justice. In the new archbishop's first Labor Day Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, he declared there could be "no doubt" among Catholics about the right of workers to act together in efforts to secure their interests and uphold their dignity. With prominent labor officials of New York in attendance and union banners placed at the front of the cathedral, Archbishop Egan said the rights of workers were supported by the teaching of the New Testament, more than a century of specific papal teaching on social justice and principles set forth in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."



CNS PHOTO BY DAN McALOON

The Sydney Olympic Games

Franciscan friars are among the corps of volunteers helping out at the Sydney Olympic games. Dressed in their official uniforms from left are Brothers Ken Cafe, Andrew Granc and Kevin Good.

Delegation visiting Cuba meets with Havana cardinal

NEW YORK (CNS) — A visit to Cuba by a National Council of Churches delegation included a meeting Sept. 6 with Cardinal Jaime Lucas Ortega Alamino of Havana, the delegation leader reported after returning to New York. The Rev. Robert W. Edgar, who became NCC general secretary in January, told Catholic News Service Sept. 8 that the meeting with the cardinal was the first for the NCC, and that it included representatives of the Cuban Council of Churches. Rev. Edgar said the Rev. Reinerio Arce Valentin, a Presbyterian who became president of the Cuban council in April, came to his post "with an open spirit," and initiated the new ecumenical move.

Legislator says pope's views changed his mind on death penalty

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Even a state legislator can change his mind. Democratic state Rep. Chris Liese of Maryland Heights said at a workshop on the death penalty during the annual Missouri Catholic Conference Assembly Sept. 2 that he was in favor of the death penalty until Pope John Paul II's visit to St. Louis in January 1999. He said that Gov. Mel Carnahan had just been told by a Vatican-based cardinal that the pope would personally ask the governor to spare the life of convicted killer Darrel Mease. Liese, who accompanied Carnahan to St. Louis that day, said the governor turned to him and said, "You're Catholic. What do I tell him?" Liese recalled. "I told him, 'Governor, this is not an ordinary pope. If I were you, I'd listen to him,'" Liese said. "From that moment on, I knew I had to change my position. I couldn't be in favor of the death penalty."

University of Dayton president to step down after two decades

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Marianist Brother Raymond L. Fitz, the longest-serving president in the University of Dayton's 150-year history, has announced plans to step down in 2002. Brother Fitz, 59, made the announcement Sept. 1 at the university's fall faculty meeting. He has led Ohio's largest independent university and one of the nation's largest Catholic universities since 1979. "I couldn't have had a better job in my life," Brother Fitz said. "I have reflected and prayed about it. Like many important decisions in life, you take a risk and trust in God. The University of Dayton enjoys excellent momentum. A good time to make a change in leadership is when you are experiencing strong momentum."

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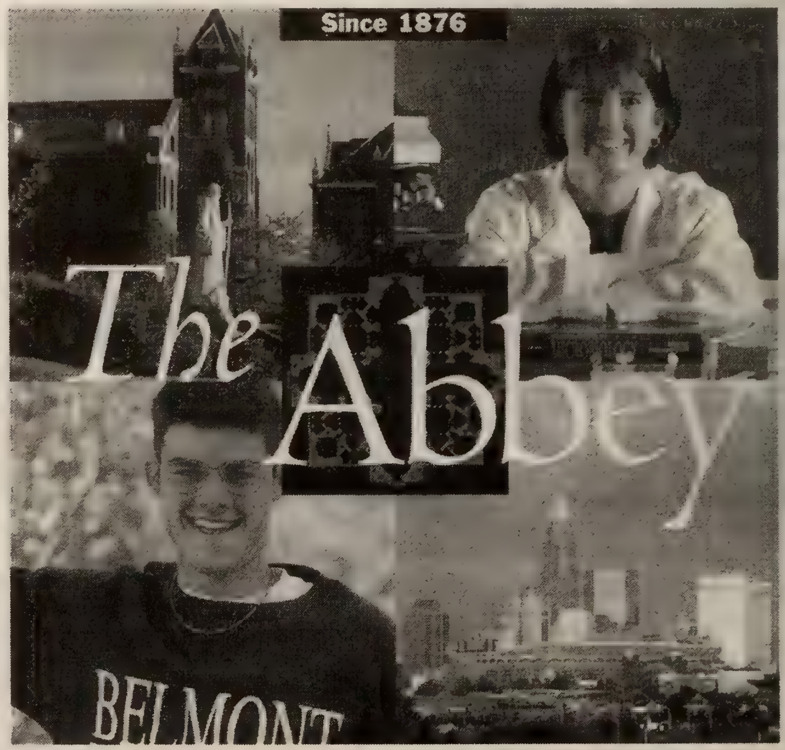

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Pope performs exorcism over teen-age Italian girl

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II performed an impromptu exorcism on a teen-age girl who flew into a possessed rage at the end of an audience in St. Peter's Square, said the chief exorcist for the Diocese of Rome.

The Rome exorcist, Pauline Father Gabriele Amorth, told Catholic News Service Sept. 11 that the pope spent more than half an hour praying over the girl and ordering a demon to leave her, but failed to fully cure her.

The girl, identified as a 19-year-old Italian with a history of possession, was in the front row at the pope's weekly general audience Sept. 6. As the pope prepared to leave, she began screaming incomprehensibly and speaking in a "cavernous voice," Father Amorth said.

During that exorcism, the priest said, the demon mocked the pope, saying, "Not even your (church) head can send me away."

As security personnel struggled to restrain her "superhuman" efforts to break free, Bishop Gianni Danzi, a top Vatican City official, alerted the pope.

In an area away from the square, the pope "hugged this poor little girl, tried to console her, and promised that the next day, Thursday morning, he would celebrate his Mass for her," Father Amorth said.

Father Amorth was not present at the papal exorcism, but said he had performed an exorcism on the girl the previous day. Father Amorth said that after the girl met with the pope, Bishop Danzi and he performed another exorcism that lasted for two hours.

During that exorcism, the priest said, the demon mocked the pope, saying, "Not even your (church) head can send me away."

"This is a case where the possession is very, very strong," said Father Amorth, founder and president of the International Association of Exorcists.

"From what can be foreseen by us exorcists, it will take years of exorcisms" for the girl to be fully cured, he said.

The pope did not perform a full ritual exorcism, but Father Amorth said that ritual elements make only "the slightest difference" to an exorcism's effectiveness.

"Many, many exorcists don't do the ritual exorcism, but limit themselves to praying and to ordering the demon to go," he said.

Father Amorth said the girl has been possessed since she was 12 years old and was sent to him for consultation by the exorcist of the Archdiocese of Milan, who had never dealt with such a severe case.

Bishop Danzi was unavailable Sept. 11 to comment, his secretary told CNS.

The Vatican's press office also declined comment.

Pope John Paul reportedly has carried out at least two other exorcisms in the Vatican: one in 1978 and one in 1982.

In the 1982 case, according to the late Cardinal Jacques Martin, who was head of the papal household at that time, the demon left an Italian woman, identified as Francesca F., as soon as the pope promised to celebrate Mass for her. ▼

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CNS photo by Bobbie Showalter, Catholic Spirit

Lou Flores of Moundsville, W.Va., holds a portrait of his uncle, St. Jose Varela, a Mexican martyr canonized in May by Pope John Paul II. Flores had lived with his uncle in Mexico for 10 years.

West Virginia Catholic now calls beloved uncle 'saint'

By BOBBIE SHOWALTER
Catholic News Service

MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va. (CNS) — When Pope John Paul II canonized 27 Mexican saints, including 25 martyred during and after the Mexican Revolution, Lou Flores Sr. knew he reached a watershed moment in life.

Flores' beloved uncle, Father Jose Isable Varela, with whom he had lived for a decade in his youth, was one of 22 priest-martyrs among the new saints canonized May 21.

Born in Mexico, Flores went at age 10 to Matalana to live with Father Jose after the government closed Catholic schools in the boy's hometown. Flores was an altar boy at his uncle's parish and joined him on foot and horseback as the priest performed his duties in surrounding areas.

Because he lived so long with Father Jose, the boy saw the faith of his uncle lived out in a gentle manner. But it was a faith that held strong through adversity, Flores told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the statewide Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

During the Mexican Revolution, many Catholics were killed for refusing to renounce their faith. Still, Father Jose continued to bring people Communion, hear confessions, and anoint the sick. Flores said his uncle often ministered to people of other parishes when their priests were afraid to come.

He smiled as he remembered fording rivers with his uncle, and having to hold onto a horse's tail to make it safely across.

During a 1917 influenza epidemic, many people, including his uncle, were infected, he recalled. The sick priest told his nephew to concoct a remedy of horse manure, water and chocolate.

Thinking his uncle was delirious, young Flores questioned the request,

See VARELA, page 8

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Permanent diaconate office opens application process

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of the Permanent Diaconate Program is accepting applications for candidates to the diaconate now through January 2001. Applications for the class of 2006 may be obtained by calling Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning at (704) 370-3344, or writing to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate Program, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203-4003.

Applicants should be dedicated, motivated men who actively serve their parishes or other ministries in the church and who are sincere in offering themselves for further service to God as a deacon of the church.

The permanent diaconate is an ordained ministry of service, calling those who enter it into a life of ministering to people through word and example. Preparation for the permanent diaconate in this diocese is six years, including the diocesan two-year lay ministry training program. ▼

Sister Mary Joseph Regan, DC, dies at age 89

EMMITSBURG, Md. — Sister Mary Joseph Regan, a Daughter of Charity for 66 years who served in a Greensboro hospital during the 1940s, died Aug. 19, 2000, at Villa St. Michael, the province's retirement residence for elderly and infirm sisters. She was 89 years old.

The former Ellen Regan was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and entered the Daughters of Charity Sept. 14, 1933. As a Daughter of Charity, she spent 16 years as a child care worker, in Troy, N.Y.; Albany, N.Y.; Baltimore; Farmington, Mich.; and Hyattsville, Md. She later served as a housekeeper in Washington, D.C.; Farmington, Mich.; and Baltimore.

During the 1940s, Sister Mary Joseph served in health care. From 1944-47, she was stationed at St. Leo's, a hospital in Greensboro, with a training school program under a government sponsorship. She served as a nurse at Villa St. Michael in Baltimore from 1960-62.

She is survived by a sister, Cecelia Eagan of Charlestown, County Mayo, Ireland; a nice, Cecilia Lynch of Middlesex, England; and cousins Mary McPeak of Philadelphia and Ellen Carr of Glenside, Pa.

A wake service was Aug. 22 at St. Joseph's Provincial House, and the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated Aug. 23 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Support Fund of the Elderly and Infirm Sisters, 333 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, Md. 21717. ▼

Varela, from page 7

but mixed it when the priest emphatically repeated the instruction.

Father Jose drank it and was up and working the next day, said Flores with a laugh.

Taking the weekly collection to the bishop was one of Flores' tasks. Thieves accosted him one time, but allowed him to continue unharmed when they recognized him as relative of the beloved priest.

Though the Mexican Revolution officially ended in 1920, civil unrest continued. In 1924, after Father Jose instructed his 20-year-old nephew to leave, Flores migrated to Chicago to join other family members.

While working there at the Triangle Conduit and Cable Company, Flores met his future wife, Mara Bukowski. In 1927, only days before their wedding, Flores learned that his uncle had been martyred.

Government soldiers accosted Father Jose during a weekly trip to another town to celebrate Mass. He was taken to a municipal president, denounced and imprisoned. The priest was offered freedom if he would sign the Acceptance of the Law of Silence prohibiting him from spreading the Catholic faith.

He refused and was sentenced to die.

Put in front of a firing squad, Father Jose slipped a Miraculous Medal into his mouth. All the firing squad's guns jammed.

Soldiers then tried unsuccessfully to hang him. Finally, the 60-year-old priest was beheaded in his church on June 21, 1927.

In 1992, Pope John Paul beatified the Mexican priests executed by pro-government forces between 1926 and 1929. This followed an investigation of their lives and martyrdom. The sainthood process was completed over the next eight years, culminating with the Vatican canonization ceremony May 21.

Flores' Moundsville home leaves no doubt that it is the home of a saint's nephew. It is filled with memorabilia — of family, saints, the Holy Family — with part of one wall reserved for bishops of the Wheeling-Charleston Diocese.

Flores and his wife had eight children. The seven who survive are proud of their 96-year-old father's good deeds.

Flores, a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier in Moundsville, bakes pies for neighbors, plants flowers in the playground across from his home, and stays alert to politics. ▼

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Celebrating Our Faith is an exciting new series for sacramental preparation. Following the Order of the Mass, the communal Rite of Reconciliation, and the Rite of Confirmation, this series prepares children for the celebration of the sacraments.

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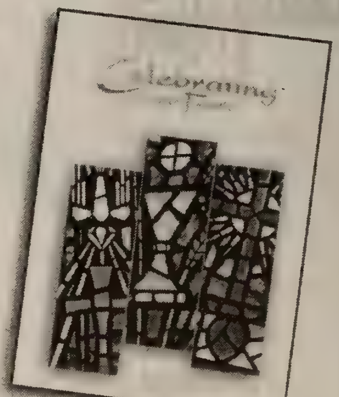

Celebrating Our Faith:
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These programs* have been found to be in conformity with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

**Living Our Faith* has been submitted for conformity.

For additional information, contact
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Faith Formation

Catechists light fires of faith at regional conference

By ANGELA CHANCE
CORRESPONDENT

CLEMMONS — Echoing the diocesan Office of Faith Formation's yearlong theme of "Announcing a Year of Favor: Making All Things New," the Northern Region of the Faith Formation Office sponsored a workshop series for catechists at Holy Family Catholic Church in Clemmons on Aug. 26 entitled, "Lighting the Fires of Faith: A Call to Mission for a Turning World."

The gathering pointed catechists to a number of resources and speakers assembled to address how to bring the Gospel to life in the contemporary world.

The event was largely focused on the local Hispanic faith formation constituency, with workshops designed to instruct, inform and cultivate a sense of purpose and importance in faith formation teachers and their cause.

Holy Family Church was alive with the inspirational music of St. Pius X Music Ministry of Greensboro, as catechists arrived for the day's instruction. Fathers Frank O'Rourke and Ricardo Sanchez of Holy Family conducted an intimate worship service in English and Spanish. Raquel Cudd of High Point served as translator throughout the readings, responses and songs. During the brief service, small woven crosses provided by Godovari Lace Co-operative were distributed to the attendees.

The service was followed by a keynote address delivered by Dr. Marie Murphy, a national catechetical consultant for Sadlier, a leading publisher of faith formation materials. Murphy, a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Association of Professors and Researchers of Religious Education, and the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders, focused on the topic, "The Mission and Vocation of Evangelization: The Call of the Whole Church." Her message was one of inclusion, acceptance and celebration of Christ within the global Catholic community through a greater awareness of cultural diversity.

"I think the world is becoming more and more multicultural," said Murphy, "We are ... a country of many cultures, many races, and I think that we're all searching for a common path to God.

"We really don't know each other much at all, and we have to discover that Jesus is the center of our lives."

Murphy delivered her keynote address in both English and Spanish, and also conducted workshops throughout the day.

Workshops for faith formation leaders were held in church classrooms and offices into the early afternoon. Some of the topics in keeping with the global theme of the event included, "Effective Catechizing for a Just World," "25 Ways to Enliven Your Lesson," and "Resource for Christian Living (RCL, publishers) Presents Junior High and High School Materials," a class that dealt with enhancing lessons with assistance from the Internet.

Catechist Mary Joyce of Good Shepherd Church in King responded well to the RCL class. "It's important to stay excited and [current] about catechism," she said.

Becoming excited and enlivened in the cross-cultural message of Jesus was the thematic nucleus of the day's events at the faith formation conference at Holy Family. It was a time for catechists to fortify their lessons for the new school year, and an ever-changing world.

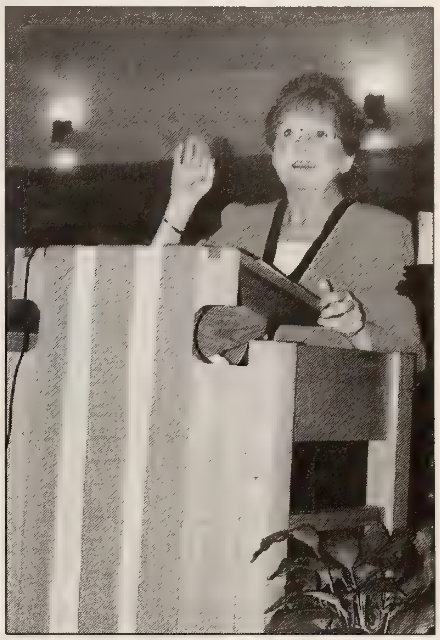

PHOTO BY ANGELA CHANCE

Dr. Marie Murphy, keynote speaker, delivers her speech to the attendees.

The Northern Region comprises the Greensboro and Winston-Salem Vicariates. Since last year, Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos has served as its coordinator, assisting in the faith journey of young people and adults.

"I think it's what I'm about," she said in an interview last fall. "As a Franciscan, I feel that is what Francis lived: evangelization and bringing the Good News to others." ▼

Carnival to welcome fall at St. Ann Church

CHARLOTTE — Imagine a future of carnivals past — the sights, the sounds, the smells. At St. Ann Church in Charlotte, the tradition of the fall carnival continues this year on Sept. 22 and 23.

The 5th annual parish carnival kicks off Sept. 22 from 5-10 p.m., and continues Sept. 23 from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Included events and attractions rides, games, food, a classic auto show, dancing, raffles, petting zoo, Charlotte-area team mascots, a bake sale and a silent auction.

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Book Review

"Beyond Borders" explores church's efforts to become more inclusive

REVIEWED BY JAN KILBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Those in families, schools, workplaces and churches increasingly find themselves needing to be more inclusive in response to a diverse society.

In "Beyond Borders: Writings of Virgilio Elizondo and Friends," editor Timothy Matovina, theology professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, presents an anthology honoring Father Elizondo, a leader in the church's efforts to be more inclusive.

Father Elizondo is a professor at the Mexican-American Cultural Center, a national Catholic pastoral institute for leadership and language that he founded in San Antonio. He is also director of programming for Catholic Television of San Antonio and a religion consultant for television networks in the United States, Latin America, and Europe.

An international theologian, Father Elizondo has written or co-written 14 books, written nearly 100 book chapters and articles, and given numerous presentations at theology schools and conferences.

"Beyond Borders: Writings of Virgilio Elizondo and Friends"
Edited by Timothy Matovina
Orbis Books (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2000). 308 pp., $25.00.

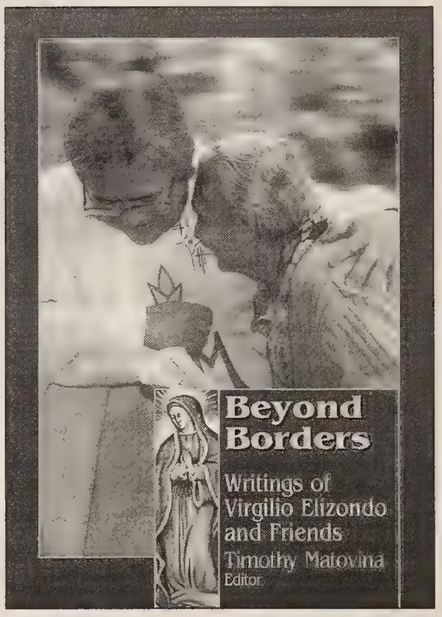
He has also served the San Antonio area as a pastor, academic dean at a seminary, and a cathedral rector. His theological education has included study in the U.S., Asia, and Europe.

"Beyond Borders" addresses Father Elizondo's key themes: religious education as pastoral theology; popular religion; "mestizaje" (mixing of cultures to create a new identity) and Galilean christology; sin, forgiveness and the experience of God; and beyond borders.

These themes are examined in essays by 15 theologians. In addition, 14 of Father Elizondo's previously published essays, a bibliography of his publications and an index are included.

Father Elizondo's views developed as a result of his experience as a member of a society and an institution that have often been racist toward minorities and neglectful of the poor.

As a Mexican American priest, he discovered he needed "to theologize not against others, but alongside those who had other perspectives and faith experiences within the church."



This resulted in his efforts to educate clergy and laypersons about the language and faith of Hispanic Catholics and to encourage Hispanic parishioners to worship using their native language, music, and rituals.

Sister Anita de Luna of the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence characterizes Father Elizondo's contribution to Hispanics as a catechist. "Virgil has given Mexican Americans a memory for the personal and corporate survival of the individual and collective soul and has invited society-at-large to be transformed." She adds that as "a genuine cultural interpreter" he is "drawing us together in respect and dignity."

Describing Father Elizondo's global impact, Italian theologian Rosini Gibellini says that "Elizondo has always served as a bridge between the theology of the North and the theology of the South."

Father Elizondo recognizes that the marginalization of minorities, the poor and others in society may continue unless we respond to the Gospel call that they represent to eliminate individual and structural sin. Fortunately, he remains eternally hopeful and enthusiastic about our ability to do so.

Those who share Father Elizondo's belief in the promise of multiculturalism to create what he calls "a new humanity" will enjoy this book. Clergy and lay people, theologians, sociologists and anthropologists of religion, historians and educators may especially appreciate it. ▼

Kilby is a writer in San Antonio.

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Word to Life

September 17, Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B.
Readings:
1) Isaiah 50:5-9a
Psalm 116:1-6, 8-9
2) James 2:14-18
Gospel) Mark 8:27-35

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

On a trip to Honduras two weeks ago, I met a man who represents the delegados de la palabra — delegates of the word (of God) — in 62 Catholic communities scattered along 400 kilometers of the Patuca River. For many if not most of those communities on the Honduran frontier, the river is the main road, the highway.

And Juan Baptista Cadona wanders that wilderness bringing the word of the Lord to them, making as many pastoral visits as his work teaching young children at a school near Arenas Blancas will allow.

He came to be elected from among his fellow Catholic lay leaders after he took up the cause of securing hurricane relief for those isolated communities — far from the capital city of Tegucigalpa — in the wake of monster Hurricane Mitch in the fall of 1998.

For Juan there is no problem making the connection between looking to the physical needs of the Patuca River Catholics with just as much devotion as he attends to their spiritual needs. Each is like one of the wheels of a two-wheel cart, he says. The cart doesn't travel very well if one of the wheels is not working.

I don't know if Juan Baptista is familiar with Pope Paul VI's "Evangelii Nutiandi," instruction on evangelization, but his analogy is a precise definition of Catholic teaching on the topic. Body and soul, spiritual need and physical need, are each to be attended to — and neither neglected.

His practical spirituality, in a land where two-wheel ox carts are commonplace, is the kind James writes of in this week's readings when he says, "My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one, has it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day and you say to them 'Good-bye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed,' but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. It is thoroughly lifeless."

Juan Baptista, intense disciple that he is, hammered away at me both times he and I met, about 500 homes that he needs built along the far reaches of the Patuca, and I am challenged to find ways be a truly functional two-wheel cart.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 17 - 23, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 50:4-9, James 2:14-18, Mark 8:27-35; **Monday**, 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday (St. Januarius)**, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday (Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions)**, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (St. Matthew)**, Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13; **Friday**, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 8:1-3; **Saturday**, 1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-49, Luke 8:4-15

Readings for the week of Sept. 24 - 30, 2000

Sunday, Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37; **Monday**, Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday (Sts. Cosmas and Damien)**, Proverbs 2:1-6, 10-13, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday (St. Vincent de Paul)**, Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Compansions)**, Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels)**, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; **Saturday (St. Jerome)**, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8, Luke 9:43-45

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"This Is Spinal Tap" makes return to the big screen

NEW YORK (CNS) — Sixteen years after it first appeared in theaters, "This Is Spinal Tap" (Embassy) is being re-released in limited cities to coincide with MGM Home Entertainment's release of the digital videodisc that features more than an hour of added footage.

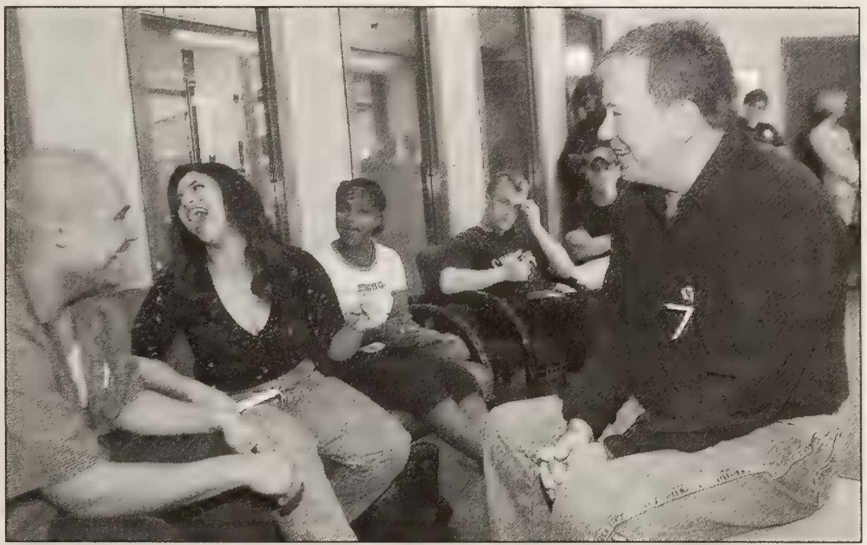
In 1984, the Office for Film and Broadcasting issued the following review of the rockumentary:

This mock documentary on the last inglorious American tour of an aging English heavy-metal group whose fame is long gone is a subtle, sometimes very funny satire both on rock groups and on the idealized documentaries made about them.

The four principals — Rob Reiner as the Martin Scorsese-like filmmaker and Michael McKean, Christopher Guest, and Harry Shearer as the three not-overly-bright leaders of the group — also collaborated on the script. Reiner tripled as director.

This is the wittiest, most satirical American film to appear in ages. "Spinal Tap" is a must-see for those who have any strong feelings, love or hate, toward rock music. Even those who are indifferent to the subject but appreciate satire will find it entertaining.

There is a great deal of crude language and many sexual references in the dialogue and song lyrics, but these are essential to the satirical nature of the film. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Shatner visits Covenant House California

Actor William Shatner, best known for his role as Capt. Kirk on "Star Trek," visits with young people at Covenant House in Hollywood in late August. Shatner was slated to receive a distinguished achievement award for his work with young people from Covenant House California at a dinner gala in Beverly Hills. Covenant House California serves thousands of homeless and at-risk youth each year in Los Angeles and Oakland.

Movies Online

Can't remember how a recent film was classified by the USCC? Want to know whether to let the kids go see it? Now you can look film reviews up on America Online. Once you're connected to AOL, just use the keyword CNS to go to Catholic News Service's online site, then look for movie reviews.

Out on Video

"The Tigger Movie" (2000)

Buoyant animated feature in which Tigger, Winnie the Pooh's cheerful bouncing friend, tries to learn whether he's the only one as he seeks out his own "tigger" family. The artfully crafted animation leaps out with vivid colors and three-dimensionality in director Jun Falkenstein's happy exploration as Tigger is joined by Pooh, Piglet, Roo, Owl, Rabbit and all the others in the clever musical adventure. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Disney)

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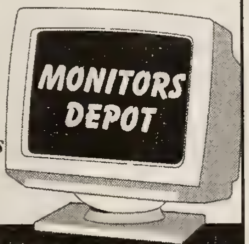

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7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6 —
4 p.m. Saturday, October 7

Sister Donna Lareau, OLM
"Merton and the Desert Guides" is the topic for this prayer/study overnight in a continuing series on this contemporary mystic.
Overnight: $60; Commuters: $30
Pre-register by September 22

IGNATIAN WEEKEND: A RETREAT OF SILENCE, PRAYER AND REFLECTION
8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13 —
12 noon Sunday, Oct. 15

Mary Pat Fourqurean
Silence will build on brief input sessions with an Ignatian theme from the Spiritual Exercises and Scripture.
Overnight: $120; Commuters: $60
Pre-register by October 2

LITURGY WORKSHOP
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 21

Father Patrick Collins
Father Collins will guide participants into the nature of ritual action and address the challenge of integrating daily life and worship. An informative and enriching day for all involved with liturgical ministries.
Cost: $20
Pre-register by October 13

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope tells Christians to abandon themselves to Holy Spirit

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Christians in the jubilee year to abandon themselves "to the liberating action" of the Holy Spirit.

"The Holy Spirit is at the root of Christian freedom, which is the removal of the yoke of sin," he said Sept. 13.

Speaking to some 35,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the weekly general audience, the pope underscored the importance of the Holy Spirit to Christian life.

"At the source itself of Christian existence, when we are born as new creatures, there is the breath of the Spirit which makes us children (of God) in the Son," he said.

The whole history of the church, in its individuals and as a community, "is pervaded by the presence and action of the Spirit," he said.

The Holy Spirit guides individual believers to the fullness of truth, supports them in moments of difficulty and enables them to experience true human freedom, he said.

In the lives of Christ's followers, the Holy Spirit produces fruits of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, (and) self-control," he said.

The Holy Spirit also "animates the entire community of believers in Christ" and is the source of the unity of the church, he said.

The pope said the jubilee year was a special time for believers to take advantage of the gifts of the Spirit.

Quoting his 1986 encyclical on the Holy Spirit, he said that the jubilee "contains a message of liberation by the power of the Spirit, who alone can help individuals and communities to free themselves from the old and new determinisms."

Congressional medal for pope approved with little fanfare

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Little noticed as Congress rushed to adjourn for the summer, a bill awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II was quietly passed and signed into law in late July.

The award, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow, was approved for the pope "in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding," according to the text of the bill.

Previous recipients have included Cardinal John O'Connor and Mother Teresa, who both died before they could receive their medals, although both participated in ceremonies acknowledging the award.

The gold medal was most recently presented to Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, in a ceremony in the Capital Rotunda on July 13.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Why is mean-spiritedness so popular?

Some days you pick up the newspaper and get a barrage of stories that really get you thinking. That happened to me last month when everyone was carrying news about the winner on "Survivor," the blockbuster summer program on CBS-TV. It occurred to me that I might have been the only person in the country who hadn't watched even one segment of that program. Why?

Well, I didn't care about the premise. But when the winner was announced I had to hear about it, simply because every channel I tuned into headlined the morning news with the "Survivor" finale.

Reading The New York Times that morning, I found out why the man called "the naked fat guy" won. He was the meanest, most devious, most Machiavellian, most adept at dog-eat-dog challenges and most skilled at maneuvering psychological mind games. Do we love villains, real or perceived?

Turning the page that day, I then read about PinStruck.com, an online service for anyone desiring to get even with someone anonymously. The story was titled "Revenge Among the Nerds," and so at first I thought this was a harmless game. No. It's real, a way of trying to drive someone crazy with anonymous messages. "The senders love the fact that it is anonymous, and the victims hate it," said Tyson Liotta, one of the site's designers.

Can there be anything more mean-spirited than sending a cruel message to someone, never letting the recipient know who the detractor or outright enemy is? I knew a woman once who nearly went crazy when she got an unsigned letter saying her husband had a mistress. It was a lie, but it caused her nearly terminal pain.

Turn another page that same day and you found out about a new program on Court TV. This would not be fiction, but reality programming. Now we'd be able to hear and see videotaped confessions of killers, rapists and other felons. I wondered, wasn't it a violation of a person's rights and privacy? Apparently not. Unless people are acquitted, their confessions are a matter of public record.

Same day, another page, and there was a story about another Internet opportunity where people can watch real people undergoing the arrest process at Maricopa County jail in Arizona. Mind you, these people have not been convicted of any crime. This is merely "punishment by humiliation," to quote the Times.

I find it disturbing that we've come to a point where we see real people convicted, or only accused, of crime as such great entertainment. No concern is given to how much harm can be dished out, not only to the prisoners, but to their families, by this kind of exposure.

I am not "soft on criminals." I believe they must be punished. But must this become entertainment?

I also worry that when people hear of a terrible crime, they will not give a hoot about mitigating factors — such as the age, mental condition, past life conditions or circumstances — that led a person to crime. The inhuman cry to keep the death penalty will get stronger.

We must counter this rampant mean-spiritedness, and there's only one way: Jesus' way of mercy and love for others.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Money in politics

"We have a duty to look after each other, and we invent governments for this purpose. If we lose control of our government, then we lose our ability to dispense justice and human kindness" — words of Doris "Granny D" Haddock.

Granny D at age 89 left Los Angeles on January 1, 1999 and walked, averaging ten miles per day, through California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, and Virginia arriving in Washington D.C. on February 29, 2000. Her message: our democracy cannot endure the political power of special interests. Granny D by her march put feet under her prayers for campaign finance reform.

The media report astronomical sums of cash gushing through the political process as Americans face their choice this election year. Both the Republican and Democratic conventions attracted corporate sponsors of galas and courtesy perks, while both parties vied with one another for hard and soft money. To the judicial system, campaign contributions represent free speech, but for people of faith they beg a responsibility in light of the common good.

The Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan, non-profit research organization based in Washington, D.C. (www.crp.org), sketched some recent facts about money and politics. For example, money cannot guarantee an election, but it ensures a candidate's viability. In 1998 with a financial advantage of 10-to-one over opponents, 98 percent of House incumbents won re-election. Business interests contributed eleven times more in the 1997-98 election cycle than labor interests. And natural resource-centered industries concerned about environmental regulations — oil, gas, mining, electric utilities and auto-those same years contributed $48.2 million in federal campaign contributions, compared to only $814,712 from environmental groups.

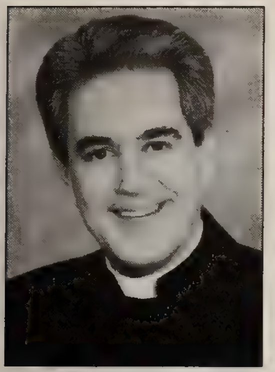
The imbalance of this financial strength many times means the difference in the laws passed and rules implemented. A coalition of 47 industry groups contributed $8.2 million in PAC money to congressional candidates between 1997 and 1998 effectively stalling the implementation of stricter safety rules sought by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA.) And pharmaceutical companies between 1997 to 1999 contributed $18.2 million to members of Congress encouraging the protection of corporate monopolies on specific drugs.

A study by the Public Citizen's Health Research Group compared the cost of eight leading antipsychotic and antidepressants and found Americans pay 1.7 to 2.9 times more than Canadians and Europeans. In a democracy, special interests with money means special privilege with lawmakers.

The social teachings of the church emphasize the rights and responsibilities of social actors. The unborn have a right to life, and "deadbeat dads" have a responsibility to their children. Along the same line corporations and the wealthy have a responsibility for the common good, and they must use their economic power in responsible ways.

While individual corporations and the wealthy may support the arts and community projects, col-

See MONEY IN POLITICS, page 14



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Promises past and future

Suspicious of people who make promises they do not keep, the French essayist Alfred de Musset wrote, "It is easy to promise, and alas! how easy to forget!"

As much as I like to think of myself as a man of my word, I shudder to think of the many promises I have made to myself and others through the years, promises that forgetfulness or any number of thin excuses have broken. From "I promise to get it to you next week" to "Lord, forgive me, I'll never do it again!" — my personal litany of unfulfilled assurances is endless.

I suspect that is why I have long had a fascination and respect for the promise made by the residents of Oberammergau, a picturesque German village nestled at the foot of the Bavarian Alps. For the past 366 years, these devoutly religious folks have kept a promise made by their ancestors to God. In the midst of a devastating plague in 1632, villagers vowed that, should they be shielded from the pestilence, they would regularly act out the Passion of Jesus Christ as a way to celebrate His divinity.

Historical records show that the epidemic was killing one of every ten Oberammergau citizens. Once the promise was made, not one villager fell victim. The first performance of the Passion Play took place in the spring of 1634, and the drama has been mounted approximately every ten years since.

A few additional performances make this year's presentation the 40th full-scale production. This year 2000 people, about half the village of 5,300, will participate one way or another.

As one of the hundreds of thousands of tourists who will make the trek into the Bavarian hills to see this amazing spectacle, I have been monitoring recent news reports regarding the play's continuing issues with anti-Semitism. Understandably such accusations have increasingly soured the play's reception.

In the past, Jews were presented in "horned" costumes, and the end of Judaism was predicted as a punishment for denying Jesus. During the Second Vatican Council, however, the Church began to examine ancient prejudices about the collective guilt of the Jewish people and a divine curse upon Jewish blood, and a new understanding gradually emerged. Pope John Paul II has made the scourge of anti-Semitism the centerpiece of his Jubilee Year plea for forgiveness and reconciliation.

But, after years of serious attempts to purge the world's most famous Passion Play of anti-Jewish passages, the play remains troubling for Jews and Christians alike. So the present generation of villagers has taken a new look at these elements and radically revised the script.

Jesus is now portrayed as a Hebrew-speaking Jew and is called "Rabbi" by His followers. His conduct reflects more accurately Jewish religious rituals such as the Seder meal. In the scenes where the crowd calls for Jesus' crucifixion, one group of actors counters their shouts with a cry not to crucify Jesus, in order to suggest that not all Jews were against Him.

Many Christians and Jews still see serious problems, yet these modest but critical changes are a start. Perhaps one day, that centuries-old vow will help obliterate the scourge of religious intolerance, particularly anti-Semitism — the most infamous plague of our 20th century.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Why call it "Ordinary Time"?

Q. Can you explain why the Sundays during the summer and fall are called Ordinary Time? I work with a liturgy team in our parish, and we agree it is a pretty dull way to identify Sundays in that time of the year.

Our feeling is that no Mass — or Sunday — is "ordinary." Why do we refer to them this way?

A. Do you remember studying numbers in grade school, or later studying a foreign language? Numbers were of two kinds — cardinal (one, two, three) and ordinal (first, second, third).

Using this terminology, liturgical Ordinary Time ("tempus ordinarium" in Latin) simply means those Sundays and weeks that are numbered or "ordered." They are not part of a major liturgical period such as Advent and the Easter cycle (Lent and Easter seasons).

As you point out, for us the word "ordinary" has a pejorative connotation, something run-of-the-mill or routine, certainly not an appropriate designation for Sunday observance and celebration.

Up to now, however, no one has come up with a good English alternative. Perhaps the best solution is to avoid using the "ordinary" designation whenever it is appropriate, for example at the introduction of our Sunday liturgies.

Parish finances

Q. I'm uncomfortable asking anyone in our city about this. I hope you can help. We cannot seem to get any information about the financial condition of our parish. Our pastor has great responsibilities and a lot of buildings to care for. But he complains that about half of the 5,000 parishioners support the church. If the parish is in trouble, we'd like to know. But all finances seem to be considered secret.

Out of curiosity, is there anything in canon law about this? Do pastors have the option of not providing financial information to the parishioners?

A. General church regulations on finances are quite limited, partly because church financial structures, procedures and sources of income differ hugely from country to country.

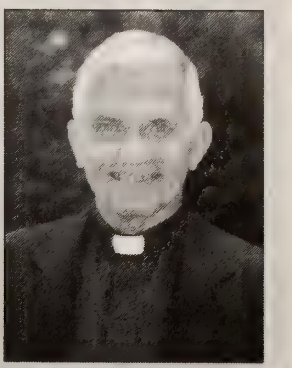
Canon law requires that each parish have a finance council. Accounting to parish members is demanded according to norms established by each diocese (Canons 537 and 1287). Most dioceses in the United States now require some form of financial accounting to the people of each parish.

It is certainly the right of parishioners to ask that they be supplied with this information. By far most parishes already provide financial reports in some form, at least annually.

Finance councils are, incidentally, the only parish organizations or councils actually required by universal church law. Parish pastoral councils are to be established in each parish if the bishop "judges it opportune" (Canon 536).

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 324, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Faith Formation



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Catechesis: Echoing the Word of the Risen Lord

I remember the day so vividly. Almost thirty-eight years ago I arrived as a newly ordained priest to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted parish in Waltham, Mass. On that occasion the pastor, Father Harrington, assigned me to be the director of CCD. I was to be responsible for a program that included sixteen hundred children and five hundred youth. That was no small task for a neophyte like me.

I'll always be grateful to Walter Kane, a committed and competent layman, who encouraged and enabled me in so many ways as I labored to fashion and form a viable and vibrant program at Our Lady's. Strengthened by his supportive and sustaining presence I slowly came to learn my role and love my responsibilities.

I, as a youthful director, was so impressed by the dedication and zeal exemplified by the many catechists who served the children, youth and adults of the parish. They were eager to learn themselves. They recognized that they could not give what they did not have. With enthusiasm they participated in gatherings intended to assist them to cultivate the qualities and competencies so necessary for the effective catechist. They were an inspiration to me as, together we strove to teach as Jesus did.

Those of us who are privileged to participate actively in the catechetical mission of the Church, whether in 1963 or 2000, are delegated to echo the vision, values and virtues proclaimed and exemplified by Jesus Himself. Each of us is commissioned to share the message, to form community and to inspire service.

On September 17, dioceses throughout the United States will celebrate Catechetical Sunday. It will be a time of remembrance and rededication. As Church we shall recall the words of Jesus spoken on the mount of the Ascension: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them everything I have commended you. Know that I am with you all days." Enriched by His continuing presence, catechists will take seriously and implement faithfully the command of the risen Lord.

Whenever we reflect upon the catechetical mission of the Church we cannot overlook the primary role of parents as educators. They exercise a unique responsibility in guiding their children to know, love and serve God. A father's and mother's care and compassion toward all in the family bear witness to the presence of God in their home. Their active desire to become better informed themselves regarding the teachings of Jesus Christ is a powerful example to those whom they love. Their commitment to bond with the parish community in the fulfillment of a common mission is truly reflective of the nature of the Church.

SEE CATECHESIS, PAGE 14

Faith Formation

Job of parish catechist called church's most important ministry

By GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR.
Catholic News Service

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Thomas H. Groome is convinced that there is no more important ministry in the Catholic Church today than being a parish catechist.

After all, he said, forming people in their faith and helping them to know Christ better is the central command of the Gospel — a command he believes religious educators are taking to heart.

But the Boston College theology professor told some 450 religious educators from across the country that they shouldn't be alone in their efforts.

He made the comments in keynote address this earlier this year at the National Association of Catechetical Directors' convocation in Baltimore.

"We have to stop thinking we can do this by ourselves," said Groome. "Christ said, 'Go make disciples of all people.' That's everyone's mandate."

He suggested that religious educators turn to a "total catechesis" approach to teaching the faith. They should involve families, teachers, pastors and others in the community to help foster a faith that is "life-giving and wholesome," he said.

Helping people to transform their lives through Christ is a key component of a total approach, he added.

"You don't want people just to know about Jesus," he said, "you want them to be disciples of Jesus."

Groome warned against "putting all the eggs in one catechetical basket."

Instead of using a single model in teaching the faith, such as relying on the Lectionary alone or structuring a program solely on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, he suggested that catechists draw from a wide variety of teaching methods to reach as many people as possible.

He praised the work catechists are already doing and told them not to lose heart in their mission.

"It's a myth that children aren't learning (the faith)," he said. "The data show you are doing a good job."

Groome visited the Diocese of Charlote in September 1999 to address catechists, school personnel and administrators on the importance of teaching the faith in the the new millennium.

In Balitmore, Eleanor Krupa, director of the archdiocesan catechetical center in San Antonio, said proper training is critical.

"It helps them understand the curriculum better and select good textbooks," she said. "If catechists have good grounding, they have the confidence to try new and different programs."

Joyce Evans, director of religious education at St. Clare in Essex, Md., said she is pleased to see more parishes attempting to involve the whole community in catechesis. She said they are turning to intergenerational, family programs that encourage family members to share the faith directly with their children.

It helps that parishes are doing more outside the classroom, she added, coordinating events like living rosary celebrations, live Stations of the Cross and more retreats. Even marriage preparation programs are becoming opportunities for catechesis, she said.

Carol Augustine, director of the division of religious education for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, said it is a good sign that catechists are recognizing the importance of reaching out to adults.

"Adult faith formation should be at the heart of what we're doing," she said. "It's really the primary form of catechesis."

Augustine said the introduction of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" into catechetical programs has become a "rich resource" that provides a "common language" for instruction. The challenge, she said, is to "unpack" the catechism for different age levels.

With parishes becoming more ethnically diverse, Sister Catherine Killoran, a Sister of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate on the staff of St. Augustine in Dallas, said it is increasingly important for catechists to consider different approaches for different cultural groups.

At her parish, where she is director of religious education, Sister Killoran said a large Hispanic presence has necessitated a sharper focus on evangelization and justice issues.

Stephen Palmer, associate executive director of the National Catholic Educational Association's department of religious education, said catechesis is in a "state of transition." More educators are trying to strike a balance between providing solid religious literacy and experiential learning, he said.

"We need that kind of balance," he said. "The two work together." ▼

Money in politics,
from page 12

lectively they have frequently directed their power in politics to more self-serving ends. Corporate taxes currently amount to roughly 13 percent of the federal income, down from 22 percent since 1960. And, federal handouts to corporations and wealthy individuals through tax breaks and subsidies amount to three times the money spent on welfare for the poor.

"It is a right of every American to be represented without the interference of a corrupt system of institutionalized bribery," says Granny D. Campaign finance reform comprises only the first step in making corporations and the rich responsible with their money in politics, but Granny D needs more folks to join her march.

Glenmary Father John S. Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Catechesis,
from page 13

As we continue our journey into the third millennium each of us is commissioned by Baptism and Confirmation to bear witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As His friends and disciples we appreciate that the comforting and challenging Word of Jesus is to be proclaimed, explained and lived in every time and place. Those of us who serve as catechists, whether priests, religious or lay exercise a truly valuable role in the achievement of that goal. What an ineffable honor and privilege. What a sacred and serious responsibility.

Father James Hawker is vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

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Production Associate: The Catholic News and Herald has an opening for a part-time production associate (30 hours per week). Good benefit package. Candidate will be proficient with Pagemaker 6.5, Photoshop 5.5, and Corel 7.0 (a PC environment preferred). Position involves layout and prepress of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience preferred. Please forward layout/design samples and resume to: Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC, or e-mail jskeane@aol.com

Teaching Assistants: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time teaching assistants. Available immediately. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview.

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PRAYERS & PETITIONS

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In Brief...

Carolina Day School seeks alumni

ASHEVILLE — The Carolina Day School Alumni Association in Asheville is looking for alumni of Carolina Day and her predecessor schools: Asheville Country Day, Gibbons Hall, St. Genevive-of-the-Pines and Genevive-of-the-Pines/Gibbons Hall. The Carolina Day School Alumni Association represents 7,500 former students of these five schools. Its purpose is to reunite students of the past and to support current students. Events are held throughout the year. If you attended any of these schools, please contact Eleanor Campbell, alumni coordinator, (828) 274-0757.

Asheville home-schooler named national Merit Scholar

Ascik

EVANSTON, Ill. — Mary Katherine Ascik, a home-schooler and parishioner at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville, was recently named a national Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. She was one of 2,500 students awarded the college-based scholarships, and she is now a student at the University of Dallas. Formerly the president of her youth group at St. Lawrence, she was also a church choir member. At the University of Dallas, she is on the Dean's List and is a member of the College Cantorium, a choir specializing in polyphony; Crusaders for life; the Intercollegiate Studies Institute; and the Classics Club. Ascik, who graduated from high school in three years, intends to major in classics and philosophy and is contemplating a career in law. She is the daughter of Thomas and Karen Ascik of Asheville.

Greensboro Council of Catholic Women to host luncheon

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all women to its fall luncheon at the Greensboro Country Club pavilion Sept. 27 at noon. Teresa Harston will speak on cultural diversity. For luncheon cost, council dues and other information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

Cancer support groups being held at area churches

Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center; St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building; and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. in the activity center in classroom five. For more information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

National CCHD director to visit diocese

Father Robert Vitillo, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, will visit the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville Sept. 22 from 7:30-9 p.m. and St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Sept. 23 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Father Vitillo will speak in both places on the importance of the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty campaign. In Asheville, he will be joined by Greg Wilson of the funded group Mountain Micro Enterprises. The event inludes a reception with light snacks. In Charlotte, where the event includes a luncheon, Father Vitillo will meet with representatives of two funded groups, Helping Empower Local People (HELP) and the Piedmont Peace Project. At both gatherings, awards will be presented for parishes participating in the annual diocesan CCHD collection. For further information, call Dr. Barney Offerman at (704) 370-3234.

COURTESY PHOTO

Holy Angels receives gift from State Knights of Columbus Council

BELMONT — Robert J. Singer, state deputy of the North Carolina State Council Knights of Columbus, presented a $20,000 check on Aug. 23 to Holy Angels, Inc., founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy to provide residential services and innovative programs to children and adults with mental retardation and physical disabilities. Holy Angels President and CEO Regina Moody accepted the check on behalf of the institution. The money will be used to repair and upgrade the hydraulic lift elevator used in the Main Center on the Holy Angels campus. Singer was accompanied by his wife, Marjorie, and several Knights of Columbus officers and members.

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Providence Ventures, a nation-wide marketer of Catholic books, videos and gifts is seeking candidates for the following full-time positions at its Charlotte-area headquarters:

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Sioux City priest’s fourth CD offers mix of prayer, praise

By RENEE WEBB
Catholic News Service

SIOUX CITY, Iowa (CNS) — Father David Hemann describes his fourth CD, “Holy Warriors,” as a mixture of prayer, love and victory in song.

“A vast majority of them are prayerful and reflective and yet there are also some pretty energetic songs of praise as well as a couple of traditional Irish jigs and reels,” said Father Hemann, a 41-year-old priest of the Diocese of Sioux City.

The compilation of songs, recorded in Omaha, Neb., and Nashville, Tenn., was released this summer through Heartbeat Records.

“I am a priest first,” he said. “I’ve always loved music and I’ve always loved the Lord. The two are very compatible with one another. Music has an ability to take theological concepts from the head to the heart.”

Some of the selections on the 14-song CD include “Morning Praise,” an instrumental and traditional Irish jig; “Longing,” a heartfelt prayer and one of the priest’s personal favorites; “Holy Warriors,” an upbeat song with elements of the traditional Litany of Saints; and “The Battle,” a battle between good (drums) and evil (bass guitar).

“I do feature a song called ‘Trilogy of Life’ which is a pro-life song,” said Father Hemann. “It is the real-life story of a little boy who lived for 26 days. Like the mysteries of the rosaries, it is split up into three parts — the joy at his conception and birth, the sorrow at his eventual death and the glory that he is living in the kingdom of heaven.”

The CD was dedicated to the infant, David Michael Ahlers, and “all of the little ones, whether they were wanted or unwanted, who have gone before us in death.”

Father Hemann said he was inspired for the title of the CD after visiting a former parishioner, John Lackman of Sanborn, in the hospital.

“He’s a fisherman, so I bought him a knife and thought about what I should have inscribed on it. I thought he is such a good, holy man who fights the good fight of faith, he’s like a holy warrior. I just knew instantly that would be the title,” he said. “Every day we all have to fight the good fight and these are songs of encouragement and love along the way.”

“Holy Warriors” features his first drum solo in four CDs. Drums are the priest’s first instrument, but he also sings and plays guitar and keyboards.

Ordained in 1985 after completing studies in Rome, this Fort Dodge native credited his musical and devout Catholic family for his love of Christ, the church and spiritual music.

The majority of CD sales follow concerts that include a mix of praise and sharing of the Gospel.

“I am a priest first,” he said. “I’ve always loved music and I’ve always loved the Lord. The two are very compatible with one another. Music has an ability to take theological concepts from the head to the heart.”

His first CD, “Let Nothing Trouble You,” was released in 1992. “Into the Light” came out in 1994 and was followed by his third effort, “In God’s Company,” in 1997.

“From the first three, I am constantly getting letters and phone calls from people saying how the music has helped them through a hard time, how it has helped them pray, and how it has brought God’s healing love to them,” said Father Hemann.

“Still, the greatest compliment people can give me is to say that when their loved one was dying, they only wanted to hear my music,” he said. “One of the greatest honors of my life is to musically usher somebody into heaven.” ▼

CNS PHOTO FROM G.R. LINDBLADE AND COMPANY

Father David Hemann of Sioux City, Iowa, recently released his fourth CD. “Music,” he said, “has an ability to take theological concepts from the head to the heart.”

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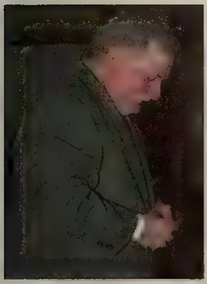
The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 22, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 3

Inside

Priests, religious, laity discuss Hispanic issues ...PAGE 3



Walesa attends Mass at National Shrine in D.C. ...PAGE 7

"Unseen Treasures" at Mint Museum ...PAGE 16

Local News

NC Dioceses remember shared past at Abbey ...PAGE 5

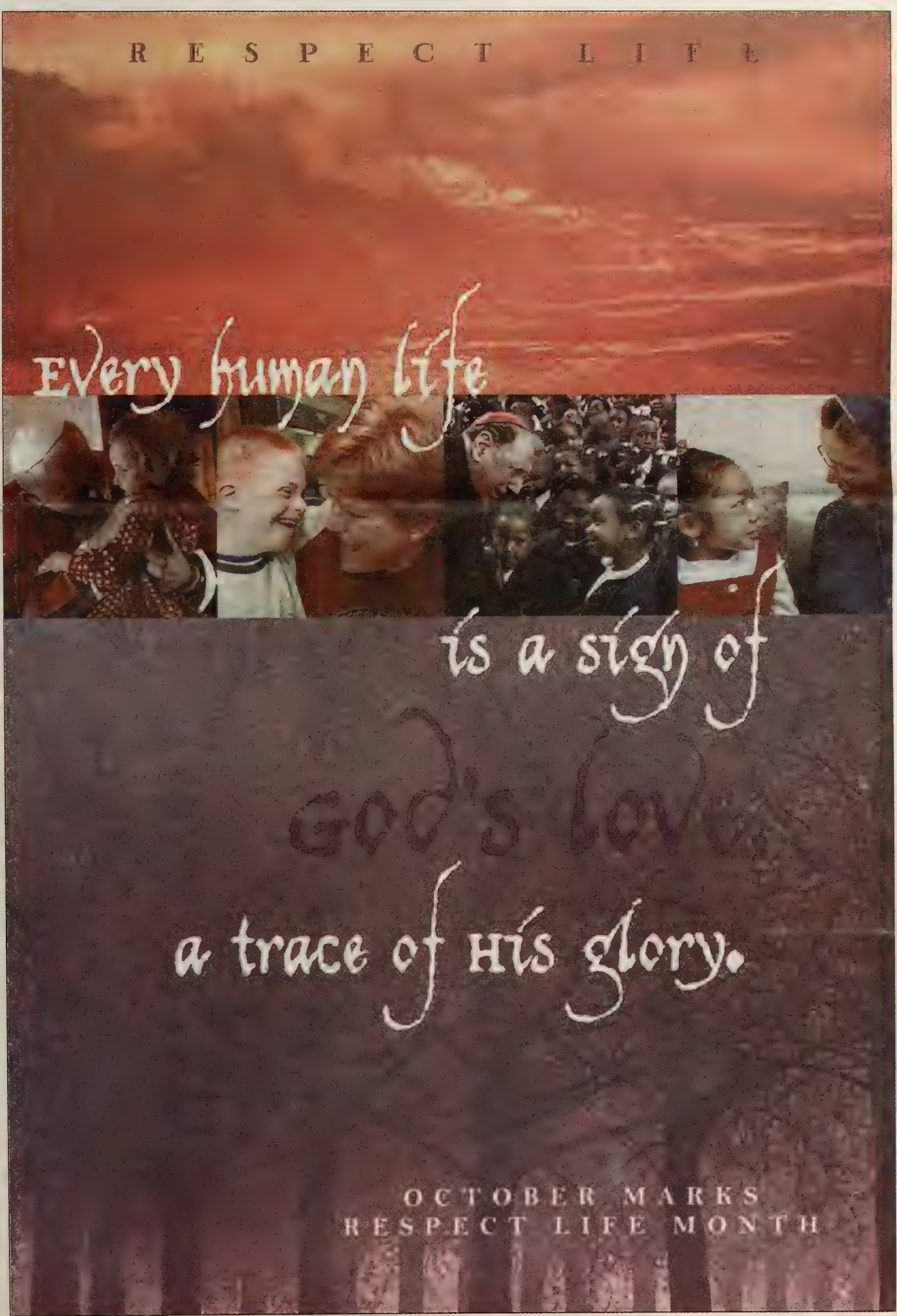
RCIA workshop nurtures catechists in mission ...PAGE 9

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

The Feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael archangels is Sept. 29.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OCTOBER MARKS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

CNS PHOTO BY VALERIE O'SULLIVAN

Franciscans in Killarney

Franciscan Fathers Oswald Gill, Declan Timmons and Brian Allen Wexford admire the ruins of Muckross Abbey while attending a Mass marking 500 years of the Franciscan Order in Killarney, Ireland, Sept. 18.

Immigration coalition eyeing law improvements

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bills to address criticized aspects of immigration law and give millions of people the chance to become legal U.S. residents could pass before the end of the congressional term. A coalition that includes unions, churches, business interests and ethnic organizations is pushing hard to get Congress to approve the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act before its Oct. 6 target adjournment date. Hundreds of people from around the country gathered for a Sept. 13 rally for the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act on the steps of the Capitol. Wearing headbands saying "El Salvador" and carrying American flags and assorted signs, they shouted responses to questions like: "What do you want?" "Residency!" and "When do you want it?" "Now!"

Bishops consult on revising health care directives

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 60 bishops, theologians and Catholic health care leaders had a consultation Sept. 14 on health care ethics. Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Doctrine, said the consultation "focused on the provisional texts for selected directives and the appendix of the 'Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.'" "The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the substance of the proposed revisions and to dialogue about their implications for Catholic health care ministry in the United States," he said in a brief written statement.

Austrian church to support fund for WWII laborers

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Church leaders in Austria agreed to support a government fund for compensating forced laborers from World War II. However, a spokesman said donations would be "symbolic only" and stressed that research was needed to determine how many foreign workers were used in Catholic institutions. "The Catholic Church was one of the most important victims of the German regime in Austria, but we also share responsibility for our history," said Erich Leitenberger, spokesman for the Vienna Archdiocese. "Our contribution will be symbolic only since few of the people involved are still living today, and since our aim is to show that Austrians are very sad about what happened," he said.

Montreal lawyer pleads guilty to embezzling nuns' money

MONTREAL (CNS) — Shedding tears, a Montreal lawyer pleaded guilty Sept. 8 to charges of embezzling at least $25 million (US$16.9 million) from two Quebec religious orders. Jean-Pierre Cantin, the former legal adviser to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Quebec and the Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicoutimi, admitted he was guilty of fraud, theft and corruption related to a project to develop a Montreal discount shopping center.

Coming weeks critical for Mideast peace, says professor

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — The time from now until late October will be critical for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and will see intensified dialogue, said a Bethlehem University professor who is leading back-channel negotiations. Sitting in his office at the Catholic university Sept. 12, Bethlehem University vice president and political science professor Manuel Hassassian said that theoretically, the Palestinians could declare an independent state by mid- to late November. "You can't really declare a state while you are still under occupation, because if you do then you are conceding that this is all we will get from Israel," said Hassassian, an Armenian Catholic.

Catholic colleges called crucial to mature Catholic identity

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's 1990 apostolic constitution on Catholic colleges, "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," was issued to "underscore the crucial importance of Catholic higher education in the formation of an intellectually mature Catholic identity," said Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore. Many colleges have "taken up the vision and challenge" of that document by "creating structures and processes to assure that our doctrinal and spiritual heritage is passed on to the next generation of university students and future leaders in society," he said. The cardinal spoke Sept. 8 on the role of Catholic higher education at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, where he also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Congressional medal for pope approved with little fanfare

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Little noticed as Congress rushed to adjourn for the summer, a bill awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to Pope John Paul II was quietly passed and signed into law in late July. The award, the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow, was approved for the pope "in recognition of his many and enduring contributions to peace and religious understanding," according to the text of the bill. On July 13, the Senate signed off on a House bill authorizing a gold medal for the pope. The action by "unanimous consent" means there was no formal recorded vote. Two weeks later, on July 27, President Clinton signed the House version of the bill into law.

English, Welsh bishops to review child abuse protection measures

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The Catholic Church in England and Wales has announced a review of its measures to protect children from sexual abuse. An independent group will examine and review arrangements made for child protection and the prevention of abuse within the Catholic Church in England and Wales and will make recommendations to the bishops' conference. The move was announced Sept. 12 by Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 28 — 10 a.m.
Meeting with Triad-area pastors
Holy Family Church,
Clemmons

September 30 — 11 a.m.
Permanent diaconate
Rite of Candidacy Mass
Charlotte

October 1 — 5 p.m.
Confirmation Mass
Immaculate Conception Church,
Hendersonville

October 1-6
Diocesan clergy retreat
Living Waters Reflection Center,
Maggie Valley

Diocesan planner

September

25 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Independent Schools' College Fair, sponsored by Charlotte Catholic High School, Charlotte Country Day School, Charlotte Latin School and Providence Day School, is being held at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., tonight from 7-9 p.m. Recruiting and admissions representatives from over 150 scheduled schools are going to be present to discuss college options with students and parents. For more information, call CCHS at (704) 543-1127.

SYLVA — St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., is having its parish mission beginning this morning with a mission talk during the 9 a.m. Mass and repeated at a 7 p.m. liturgical service through Sept. 27. The mission talks, the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick and the blessing of holy oil are being presented and administered by Franciscan Father Thomas F. Vigliotta. The mission will end on Sept. 27 with a 7 p.m. Mass. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496.

28 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre is presenting Scott McPherson's "Marvin's Room," a comedy-drama about how one family copes with life's challenges, beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. through October 7 at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. Auditions for the drama "A Piece of My Heart" are scheduled for Oct. 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., also at Haid Theatre. For ticket and other information, call (704) 825-6787 or Beth Barger at (704) 825-6890.

29 GREENSBORO — Today is the last day to pre-register for the 8th Annual Ecumenical Healing Retreat held Oct. 6 from 7-9 p.m. and Oct. 7 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at First Lutheran

Priests, religious, laity meet to discuss Hispanic issues

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — In recognition that Hispanics are migrating to the diocese at an ever-increasing rate, diocesan priests, permanent deacons, women religious and lay people gathered to discuss ways to minister to and reach out to the Hispanic population. With continuing efforts by members of Hispanic Ministry throughout the diocese, the group, which included Bishop William G. Curlin and Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry, gathered at the Catholic Conference Center on Sept. 12 for "Hispanic Ministry Priests' Cultural Awareness Day" — an introduction to Hispanic culture and language.

"I saw the need for our priests and deacons to come together to study Hispanic culture and to be able to celebrate the Eucharist in Spanish to better serve our Hispanic brothers and sisters, so I encouraged Father Finnerty to have a gathering where we could come together and share knowledge with one another," said the bishop.

According to statistics from the United States Census Bureau, North Carolina is one of four states where the number of Hispanics has grown significantly, more than doubling, between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1998. The population has grown more than 110 percent with approximately 300,000 people living in the state and an estimated 60,000 Hispanics in Charlotte alone.

The day consisted of talks, small group discussions and Spanish language instruction in celebrating the Mass from people involved in diocesan Hispanic Ministry and representatives of the South East Pastoral Institute or SEPI in Miami, Florida. The institute serves eight states in the Southeastern region of the country by aiding the bishops in the training and education of their diocesan faithful in the area of Hispanic Ministry through classes and other services.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Lydia Menocal, assistant director of SEPI, Piarist Father Mario Vizcaino, director of the South East Pastoral Insitute (SEPI), and Vincentian Father Vincent H. Finnerty, director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte, discuss the importance of culture within the Hispanic community.

Piarist Father Mario Vizcaino, SEPI director, and Lydia Menocal, assistant director of SEPI, offered insight into the lives and heritage of Hispanics. Father Vizcaino talked about the importance of culture and traditions not only in the Hispanic community but in other communities as well. He also stressed the need for acceptance and understanding of these various cultures.

"We are one Church in faith, doctrine and baptism, but we have cultural diversity, and we have to learn how to live with our various cultures," said Father Vizcaino. "Culture has to be respected because it offers a vision of who a person is, and knowing the experiences of other people and listening to other people's stories is important in forming that vision."

He also compared the various nationalities that make up the Church to a stained-glass window. "We must be like a church window with different pieces with its own beauty and color."

Father Vizcaino also explained the danger of becoming imperialistic in one's attitude toward his or her culture. "Even if Hispanics are going to be the majority of the Church in the future, we have to respect other cultures, accepting the diversity that God has created," he said.

Menocal followed with statistical information about Hispanics in this country. She stated that more than half of Hispanics who come to the United States are Catholic, but many of them do not attend Mass because of language barriers and transportation problems.

"Many Hispanics, even here in Charlotte, attend churches of other faiths because they don't have cars, and it is easier to walk to the nearest church on the corner," explained Father Finnerty. "One way of reaching these Hispanics is through small Christian communities."

Small Christian communities are one of the four points of the June 1998 Diocesan Hispanic Pastoral Plan based on the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry from the Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs of the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

The other three areas of concentration include team ministry, laity formation and the promotion of the missionary spirit. The diocesan plan will be re-evaluated at an upcoming meeting in June 2001 with representatives from the community and Hispanic Ministry, explained Father Finnerty.

The gathering supplied additional knowledge to those already working with Hispanics, and for those who have not been exposed to large numbers of Hispanics, the day was a one of information and prompting for further study and ministry.

"A meeting of this type with the clergy is very important to help them to become culturally aware of the Hispanics in their different parishes so they can relate with them and serve them better," said Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry in the Boone Vicariate.

Father Gregg Littleton, administrator of St. John the Baptist in Tryon, agreed, "This was important for me because I do not have any background or knowledge of the various Hispanic cultures, and I know there is a need in terms of our Catholic Church not only to reach out to them but to make sure we are all one as Christ himself says in Scripture. We need to work together, get to know one another and use each others' gifts and talents to build up the Church in North Carolina." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Church on Friendly Ave. The retreat is being led by Jesuit Father Matthew Linn, international retreat leader, author and therapist. For further registration and other information, call Jackie Phillips at (336) 282-8185 or write to 5208 Candlewick Rd, Greensboro, N.C., 27455.

30 CHARLOTTE — The Our Lady of Assumption Church fund-raising committee, 4207 Shamrock Dr., is hosting an international celebration with a multi-ethnic dinner and entertainment this evening from 4:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Assumption School. The proceeds will benefit the church debt reduction fund. For ticket and other information, call Marilyn at (704) 535-9965.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Knights of Columbus Council 10504 is having their 10th Annual Barbecue and Social this evening from 4-8 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 1919 South Main St., in the parish gymnasium. Barbecue, a choice of two or three sides, baked beans, potato salad, Cole slaw, rolls and beverages are being served, and children under age five eat free. For more information, call Mike Patrick at (336) 766-9394 or Tom Voignier at (336) 785-9966.

October

1 CHARLOTTE — The 49th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day is being held today at 3 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. Father Matthew Kauth from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte is speaking at the gathering. For more information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte area Life Chain is taking place today from 2-3 p.m. across Charlotte with participation from all area churches. To get involved or to find out more, call Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Winston-Salem area Life Chain is taking place today from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Hanes Mall Blvd., west of Stratford Rd. For more information, call Donna Dyer at (336) 940-2558.

3 CHARLOTTE — The Franciscan Friars and Secular Franciscans of Charlotte invite everyone to celebrate the Transitus, commemorating the passing of St. Francis, tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the parish hall. A reception follows the gathering in the parish hall. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

6 CULLMAN, Ala. — The Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center is sponsoring an Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat this weekend through Oct. 8 beginning with 6:30 p.m. registration tonight. The retreat is designed for those who practice centering prayer and wish to deepen their relationship with God through this method of prayer. For further details and registration, write to the Benedictine Spirituality Center, P.O. Box 488, Cullman, Ala., 35056, call Benedictine Sister Eleanor Harrison at (256) 734-8302 or e-mail shmon@hiwaay.net.

HIGH POINT — There is a Latin Mass taking place at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., at 7 p.m. tonight followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction. For more information, call the church office at (336) 884-0244.

7 CHARLOTTE — The 4th Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Charlotte Race for the Cure happens today at the First Union Atrium, 301 S. Tryon St., beginning at 6:30 a.m. with registration and packet pick-up. Anyone can participate in the one-mile fun run/walk, a timed and non-timed 5K run/walk and the Komen kids' 50-yard dash. Entry forms can be picked up at local YMCA branches and other businesses. For more information, call the Charlotte Office at (704) 442-RACE or 442-7223 or Beth Kemp at (704) 875-3696.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Parishioners to form links of Life Chain on Respect Life Sunday

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

On Respect Life Sunday this Jubilee Year, parishioners throughout the Diocese of Charlotte are being called to stand as prayerful witnesses for life by forming links in the Life Chain.

Founded in 1985 in Yuba City, Calif., the Life Chain crosses ecumenical lines to form one of the more visible stands against abortion in the United States and Canada each year. Churchgoers of various Christian faith traditions line city streets, praying for life issues and holding placards reading "Abortion kills children," "Jesus forgives and heals," "Adoption: the loving option" and "Abortion hurts women."

"The Life Chain affords us the opportunity to publicly give witness to the sanctity of life in a prayerful, peaceful manner," says Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte.

This year's Life Chain will form Oct. 1 from 1:30-3 p.m., with silent prayer from 2-3. Catholics will observe the day this year both as Respect Life Sunday and the Jubilee for Life.

"The Life Chain affords us the opportunity to publicly give witness to the sanctity of life in a prayerful, peaceful manner," says Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte. "The fact that we are even in a position to choose whether or not to participate means that our mothers chose life for us."

The U.S. Catholic Church observes October as Respect Life Month, and the Life Chain is for many parishes a notable kickoff event. In this diocese, parishes are participating along property lines of their respective churches, on city sidewalks and with other church groups in their towns.

Parishes and schools throughout the diocese are scheduling Respect Life Month events as well. In Charlotte, a Respect Life Mass will be celebrated Oct. 13 for the Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School community, which will also form a student Life Chain that day. Mary Beth Bonacci, a national Respect Life speaker, will address students at Holy Trinity Middle School and Charlotte Catholic High School Oct. 18-19. She will also speak to the public at Holy Trinity Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

"Each October, the Catholic community sets aside this month to focus on the issue of life," Nadol says. "It has become necessary to do so, because our society is drowning in the culture of death. Perhaps we should reflect on one of the first questions in the Baltimore catechism: 'Who made me? God made me.' This is simple, awesome truth."

This summer, the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities issued an informational packet with the theme "Every human life is a sign of God's love, a trace of his glory." The packet included the artwork illustrated on page one of this issue.

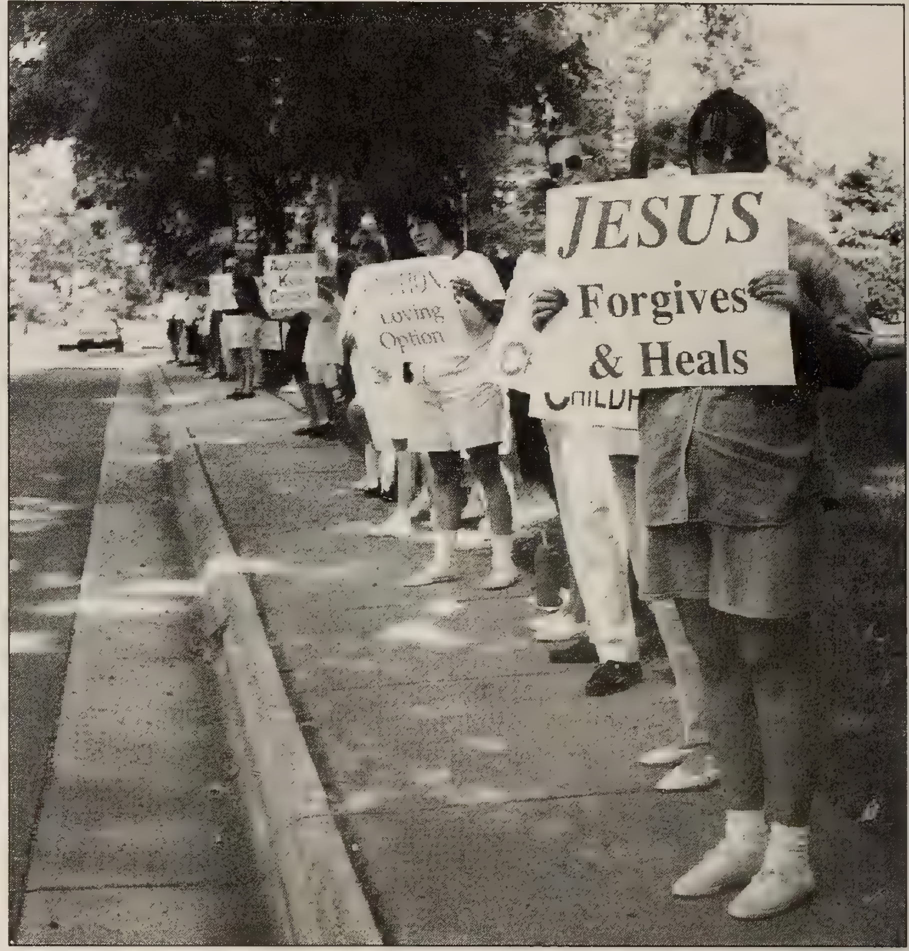
The theme is one that will be prayerfully celebrated with special emphasis in October, starting with the Life Chain.

"The Life Chain is a chance for Christians in the area to come together, which is a powerful statement — that we go beyond denominational lines and join in on something that we truly believe and know to be the truth, which is the sanctity of human life," says Diane Hoefling, a Charlotte-area Life Chain coordinator and parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church.

"This is a peaceful, prayerful family activity, which also makes it a powerful statement." ▼

Call your parish office for details about local Life Chain participation.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org



COURTESY PHOTO

Parishioners from across the diocese are encouraged to participate in this year's Life Chain on Oct. 1.

Post-abortion healing retreats scheduled

Retreats for women and men whose lives have been affected by abortion have been scheduled in the Diocese of Charlotte. Evening retreats will be at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory Oct. 12 at 7:30, and at Holy Family Church in Clemmons Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m., with the sacrament of reconciliation offered. A weekend retreat is Dec. 8-10 at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory. For details, call Debbie or Martha in confidence at (336) 659-1342. The retreats are co-sponsored by the diocesan Respect Life Office and Transfiguration Ministries. ▼

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Thursday, Oct. 19 — St. Mark, Huntersville
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Deadline: Oct. 18th *(limited space)*

For more information, call Sandra Breakfield (704) 370-3220 or Meg Smith (828) 464-8442

To register, send form and $8.00 fee (includes lunch) to:
Sandra Breakfield, Catholic Social Services
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203

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$8.00 fee per person — Make checks payable to Catholic Social Services
Group registration forms and directions to the Conference Center are available at church offices and with Club leaders.

Charlotte, Raleigh Dioceses remember shared past

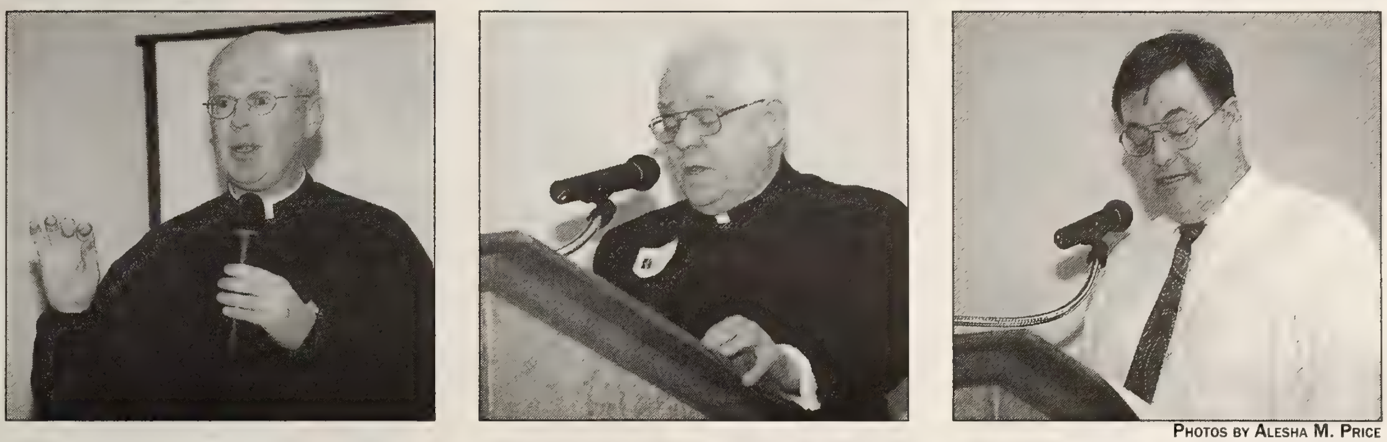
By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — It seemed like the old days when there was only one diocese in North Carolina as many of the older priests from the Charlotte and Raleigh Dioceses came together to reminisce about the past, while, the newer priests learned more of their diocesan history and looked toward the future.

Sponsored by the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College and made possible through support from the Koch Foundation in Gainesville, Florida, the symposium entitled "A Common Bond — The Catholic Church and Priesthood in North Carolina: Sharing Our History" was a day filled with memories and diocesan factoids for the priests, women religious, permanent deacons and laity in attendance. Three speakers were on hand for the day's events, which also included a tour of the campus of Belmont Abbey College and evening Conventual Mass in Belmont Abbey Basilica.

The Bradley Institute, founded in June 1996 for the purpose of the education and promotion of Western Christian culture among clergy and laity, works with the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee of the Presbyteral Council, advisors to the bishop, to develop educational programs for diocesan priests, deacons and brothers, explained Lawton Blandford, executive director of the Bradley Institute.

"So many of the people involved in ministry in North Carolina have their own personal roots someplace else, and many of them come here and go through seminary and preparation for ordination, but they don't know a lot about our state history or the history of Catholics in this state," explained Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville and chair of the Priestly Life Committee. "This was a way to bring together the priests from Raleigh and Charlotte again."



Photos by Alesha M. Price

From left to right, Father Stephen C. Worsley, M.D., pastor of several churches in the northeast area of the state in the Raleigh Diocese, Monsignor Gerald L. Lewis, vicar general and moderator of the curia of the Diocese of Raleigh, and Simon Donoghue, director of the Belmont Abbey Players, spoke to a crowd of clergy, women religious and lay people at a symposium on diocesan history on Sept. 13 at Belmont Abbey College.

About 92 people traveled to Belmont on Sept. 13 to hear diocesan history from antebellum to modern North Carolina and the Benedictine presence in this area of the state.

"We were one diocese, and we share common roots in our Catholic identity. Moreover, it was fascinating to hear the wonderful stories relating to the history of Catholics in North Carolina," said Bishop William G. Curlin. "While I was already familiar with most of it from my own study of many incidents of our history, I was not aware of many of the struggles that were endured in the establishment of the faith in certain areas of the state."

Father Stephen C. Worsley, M.D., pastor of several parishes in the northeast corner of the Diocese of Raleigh, brought the audience back in time to the beginnings of the Diocese of Raleigh. Through his research and from his findings, he told the audience of the journey of Catholicism through the state during the 1800s. In 1820, there were 650,000 people in North Carolina, and 150 of those people were Catholic, said Father Worsley, and by 1868, out of one million people, there were 600 Catholics in the state.

He also informed the attendants about the travels and accomplishments of Bishop John England, the first bishop who explored what was then the Diocese of Charleston during the 1820s, which included all of North and South Carolina and Georgia.

"When I started research, reading diaries and letters and catching little pieces here and there, I found that the people who lived here 150 years ago had a lot of vision and courage, and a lot of what they did seemed to me had relevance to what we do today in terms of how do we start churches where there are no buildings, no priests," said Father Worsley.

Simon Donoghue, director of the Belmont Abbey Players, spoke on behalf of Benedictine Father Paschal Baumstein about "The Benedictine Mission in North Carolina." He talked about the arrival of the order in 1876 to Gaston County in North Carolina, where, they established their monastery and school.

Monsignor Gerald L. Lewis, vicar general and moderator of the curia of the Diocese of Raleigh, brought the audience up to the present with his focus on the spilt of the Diocese of Raleigh into two and the changes and growth that have occurred with many Catholic moving to all areas of state over the past 25 years.

"I am convinced that we cannot know where we are going until we know where we have come from, and I believe all of the struggles of forming the Church in North Carolina have helped us to grow stronger, and by recognizing them, we can go forward in the future," said Monsignor Lewis. "Today, there was enough said to recognize the different people who make up our Church and how important all of us are." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Pope names top aide to head Congregation for Bishops

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named one of his top aides, Italian Archbishop Giovanni Battista Re, to head the Congregation for Bishops. Archbishop Re, 66, will preside over one of the most influential Vatican departments, in charge of preparing bishops' nominations worldwide. He also becomes president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. The Vatican announced the appointment Sept. 16. He replaces Brazilian Cardinal Lucas Moreira Neves, who submitted his resignation on his 75th birthday. Cardinal Neves reportedly has had serious health problems related to diabetes over the last two years.

'Insight,' 'Romero' producer Father Kieser dies at 71

Father Kieser

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Ellwood "Bud" Kieser, who produced the "Insight" drama anthology series from 1960 to 1983 as well as movies on Archbishop Oscar Romero and Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day, died of colon cancer Sept. 16 in Los Angeles. He was 71. A evening funeral Mass was scheduled for Sept. 22 for Father Kieser at St. Paul the Apostle Church in the Westwood section of Los Angeles, with burial Sept. 23 at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, Calif. Father Kieser had undergone surgery for colon cancer in late August, and doctors found the cancer had spread to his abdomen and liver.

Native American nun named chancellor for New Mexico diocese

GALLUP, N.M. (CNS) — Katharine Drexel would be proud. One of her own, a member of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, has been named chancellor of the Diocese of Gallup and is the first woman and first Native American to fill the post. Sister Consolata Beecher's appointment comes just as the diocese and the rest of the world prepares to celebrate the Oct. 1 canonization of Blessed Katharine Drexel. Sister Consolata told The Voice of the Southwest, Gallup's diocesan newspaper, that she hasn't had much time to contemplate what has happened to her. She also will serve as secretary to Gallup Bishop Donald E. Pelotte.

Celebrities, others clash over embryonic stem-cell research

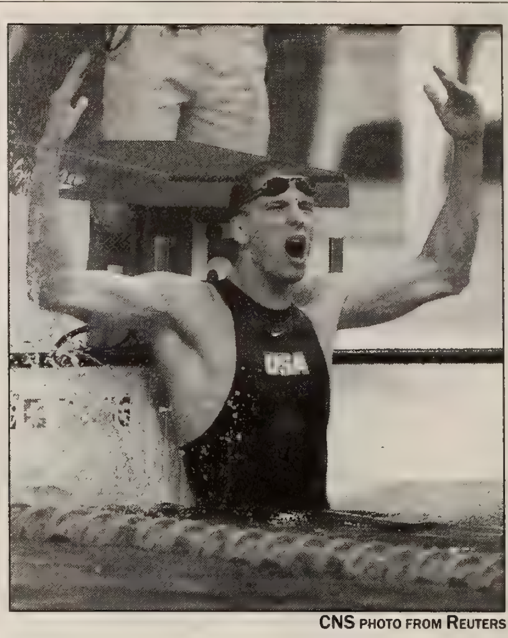
WASHINGTON (CNS) — For the second time in five months, Hollywood celebrities squared off with lesser-known Americans before a Senate subcommittee Sept. 14 over human embryonic stem-cell research. Actor Michael J. Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, and actress Mary Tyler Moore, who has diabetes, asked the Senate Appropriations Committee's subcommittee on labor, health and human services and education to quickly approve legislation for government funding of stem-cell research involving aborted fetuses and discarded embryos. Among those speaking against the proposed Stem Cell Research Act of 2000 were a paralyzed motivational speaker from California and two men with diabetes — a Lutheran pastor from Missouri and the chief scientific officer for a North Carolina company that is developing treatments for diabetes from adult stem cells.

Archbishop Egan joins in prayer service opening U.N. assembly

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York said Sept. 11 that Christ would be present in the United Nations when believers who worked there carried his image within them. Speaking for the first time at the annual prayer service marking the opening of the U.N. General Assembly, the archbishop said those who would work for peace had to "bring peace" within themselves. When believers involved with the United Nations are compassionate and courageous, then "Jesus Christ is present in the United Nations in each and every one of us," he said.

Vatican official says 'Big Brother' provokes ethical discussion

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the eve of the Italian debut of the controversial television program "Big Brother," a senior Vatican official criticized the show but said he appreciated the ethical discussion it provoked. In a Sept. 13 written statement to Catholic News Service, Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, called for "careful and sympathetic evaluation of people's sensibilities" before passing judgment on the program. "Big Brother" was to premiere in its Italian incarnation Sept. 14.


CNS photo from Reuters

Catholic swimmer sets new world record
U.S. swimmer Tom Dolan celebrates after setting a new world record in the men's 400-meter individual medley at the Olympic Games in Sydney Sept. 17. Dolan has fans at St. Agnes Catholic Parish in Arlington, Va., where he grew up.

New Jersey nun first nonordained woman to offer House prayer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Dominican nun from New Jersey became the first nonordained woman to offer the opening prayer at the daily session of the House of Representatives Sept. 12. Sister Catherine Moran, of Newark, N.J., prayed for "those elected to public office to act on the promises made to those who rely on them," and especially for them not to forget the poor and oppressed in their decision-making. Sister Moran works for the New Community Corporation in Newark, an economic development and community service organization founded by Msgr. William Linder.

Benedictines elect German as new abbot primate

ROME (CNS) — Benedictines meeting in Rome elected German Abbot Notker Wolf as the new abbot primate of the Benedictine Confederation. Until his election Sept. 7, Abbot Notker, 60, was the head of the Benedictine Congregation of St. Ottilien, Germany. He succeeds U.S. Abbot Marcel Rooney, who stepped down for health reasons Sept. 4, midway through his eight-year term. About 260 abbots from around the world gathered at the St. Anselm Benedictine community in Rome for the Sept. 4-12 Benedictine Confederation congress, held every four years.

U.S. priest urges action on behalf of blacks in Sudan

NEW YORK (CNS) — An effort to build a protest movement among American blacks against the treatment of blacks in predominantly Arab Sudan has drawn the support of a black Franciscan priest in New York. Father James E. Goode, president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life, spoke Sept. 9 at a largely Pentecostal Sudan memorial service in New York. Held at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, a site near the United Nations often used for demonstrations related to international issues, the religiously oriented rally protested not only conditions in Sudan but also the presence at the United Nations earlier in the week of the Sudanese president, Omar el-Bashir.

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Pope says church, society need witness, talents of elderly

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Placing himself firmly among his peers, Pope John Paul II said the church and society need the witness, experience, talents and prayers of the aged.

Changing his prepared text as he addressed participants in the Jubilee for the Elderly, the pope said, "You have — or rather, we have because I, too, am your age — a special contribution to offer for the development of an authentic culture of life.

"The church needs us, society needs us," the 80-year-old pope said during the Sept. 17 Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Those who are in their 70s, 80s and 90s are called to witness to the world "that every moment of existence is a gift of God and every season of human life has specific riches to place at the disposition of all," Pope John Paul said.

"In a world like ours, where strength and power often are mythicized, you have the mission of giving witness to the values which truly count," the pope said.

Pope John Paul used the jubilee not only to call for better church ministry among the aged and increased government and family support for the elderly, but also to call upon the elderly to continue contributing to the life of the church.

Pausing several times during his homily to take deep breaths, the pope told his peers fear is a natural reaction to suffering.

"But the true response to the challenge of pain which weighs so heavily on our human condition lies precisely in the redeeming suffering of Christ," he said. "Christ has taken our sufferings upon himself and has made our pain his burden, placing them through his cross and resurrection in a new light of hope and life."

During his midday Angelus address after the Mass, the pope gave thanks to God, "who has allowed us to reach the year 2000 and to celebrate the great jubilee."

Several hundred jubilee participants attended a Sept. 16 meeting to discuss "the dignity and mission" of older church members.

Italian Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi of Genoa told conference participants the church must acknowledge that all its members have gifts to offer and all are in need of conversion.

"Only those who allow themselves to be renewed in heart and mind by Jesus can be credible witnesses of his Gospel," the cardinal said.

Like everyone else, the elderly have a right to the satisfaction of their basic needs such as shelter and health care, he said.

"They have a right to social relationships, and they have a right to have their spiritual and religious needs met.

"Think of the crisis of faith the aged face when life means solitude, sickness and pain without relief and anxiety before the prospect of judgment by God," he said.

Yet, Cardinal Tettamanzi said, when life is difficult, even as it approaches its end, "God can and does break through with surprising energy."

The cardinal said: "The journey toward holiness is a journey without rest stops. It continues in every stage of life and requires determination."

The elderly need the Good News of salvation, and they have a responsibility to share the Good News with their peers and their families, he said.

Msgr. Charles J. Fahey, a professor of aging studies at Fordham University in New York, said the growing number of people living beyond 70 and 80 years of age is a new phenomenon and one that challenges the old as well as the young.

"We who are older have a responsibility to process our lives, to remember what ought to be remembered, to forget what ought to be forgotten," he said.

"We who are older, both lay and religious, have a special responsibility to give witness to the impact of faith on our lives, to be a voice of what we recall as having contributed to our personal and community growth in faith and, indeed what have been obstacles to God's grace in our personal and community lives," the priest said.

Msgr. Fahey told the meeting, "There is nothing inherent in living a long life that makes a person good or bad, wise or foolish, generous or selfish, faith-filled or despairing."

When the period of working and raising children is over, he said, "we should try to make sense out of our lives and to make peace with ourselves, to have a sense of self-worth and overcome the temptation to frustration and despair."

Older people have a special responsibility in witnessing the faith and showing others that it has validity, he said.

"Do we come at life and accept our circumstances as people of faith or no differently than those who have none, and in so choosing do we proclaim the Good News or do we make it less credible?" he asked.

Church leaders, the majority of whom are elderly, must be on guard against perpetuating "the stereotype of the elderly as unduly conservative and unwilling to adapt," he said. ▼

Walesa attends Washington events marking Solidarity anniversary

By RICHARD SZCZEPANOWSKI
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The collapse of communism in Poland and the sweeping political and economic reforms there and throughout the former Iron Curtain would not have occurred without heavenly intervention, the former president of Poland said Sept. 15.

CNS photo by Bob Roller

Former Polish President Lech Walesa kneels in prayer in the Chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 15, 2000.

"We keep forgetting that this was a gift from heaven," said Lech Walesa, the first president of Poland to be democratically elected after the defeat of communism. "Man resists accepting the truth, and the truth is this (the fall of communism) is a heavenly gift."

Walesa, a founder of the Solidarity trade union and winner of the Noble Peace Prize spoke after a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

The Mass, sponsored by the Polish American Congress, was offered as "a thank-you Mass for Poland's freedom" and to mark the 20th anniversary of the Solidarity movement.

About 250 Polish-American Catholics and others gathered for the Mass, which was concelebrated by Polish priests serving in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Crediting God for the end of nearly half a century of communist rule in Poland, he said that "during the hard times" of Solidarity's early years, no one believed there was a peaceful way to overcome communist oppression.

"When I ran Solidarity, I spoke to presidents, prime ministers and chancellors all over the earth. None of those great men believed there was a chance to overcome (communism) and they asked me, 'How can you do this is a peaceful way?'" Walesa recalled.

"Even the most advanced computers could calculate the number of armies and the number of weapons, but they excluded what we have learned in 2,000 years of Christianity."

He called the peaceful overthrow

See WALESA, page 15

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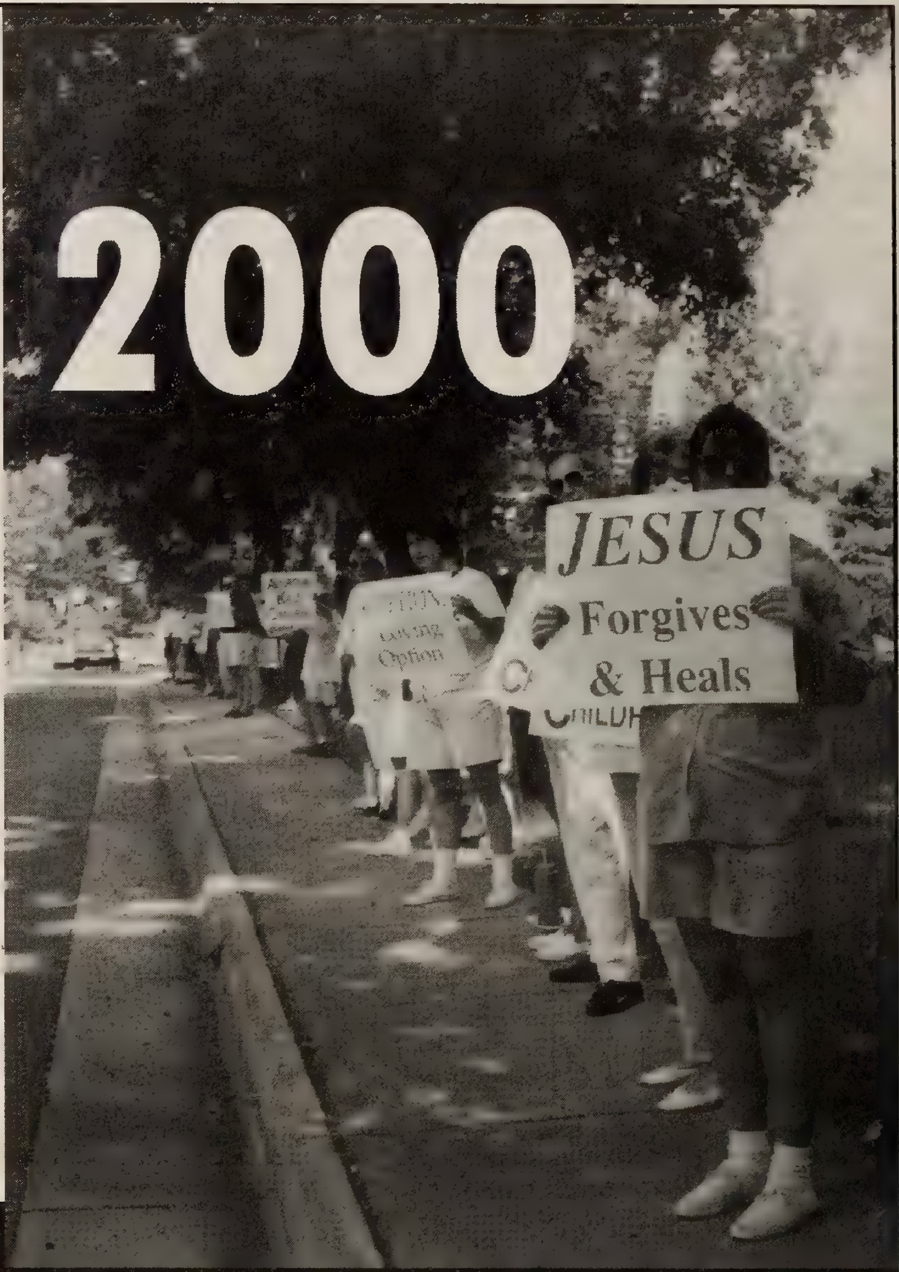
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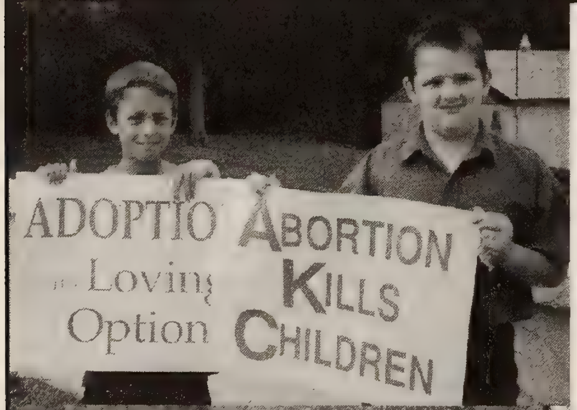
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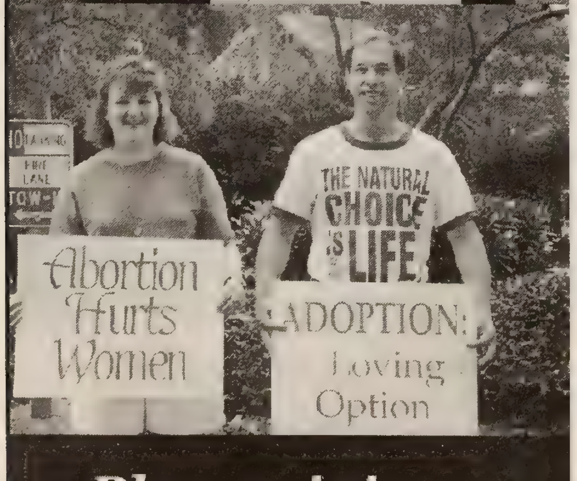
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RCIA workshop nurtures catechists in mission

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BROWN SUMMIT — Sparked by their interest in ministering to men, women and children fully entering the Catholic Church, more than 100 catechists gathered recently to discuss a variety of ways of furthering their skills in outreach.

"The Initiating Community: Developing the Ministries" was a gathering of catechists involved in initiation ministry in the Dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh and elsewhere in the Southeast. Their mission was to explore ways of including the entire church community in the initiation experience.

In the Catholic Church, that experience centers around the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process of inquiry, prayer, study and celebration of the sacraments of initiation — baptism, Eucharist and confirmation.

The process can be adapted for children of catechetical age as well.

The gathering at The Summit: An Episcopal Center Sept. 14-16 focused on four areas of ministry: catechesis for adults, catechesis for children, involvement of liturgists and musicians in the process, and involvement of clergy and coordinators.

"It was a very powerful experience," said Linda Licata, who served as local coordinator of the event. "There were a lot of people there who brought other members of their (parish RCIA) teams.

"It gave them all a chance to experience the Rite depending on what part of that process they work in — to learn something, to be able to leave there excited, to go home and to bring that back to their parishes."

Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte, the gathering was presented by the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, a network of pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists and theologians who assist catechists in their ministry of putting the RCIA into action in their parishes and dioceses.

"The Forum provides us with an understanding of the Rite that is theological, that is liturgical, that is catechetical in nature," said Licata, who is the RCIA coordinator at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro and is a member of the diocesan RCIA Commission.

"They help us grow in that understanding of what the liturgical law of the church is all about," she said. "They help to encourage and affirm and challenge the people that work on the teams in parishes to understand and to implement the Rite with integrity and to the best of their ability."

The North American Forum team, which led sessions during the gathering, comprised:

— Steve Janco, an editorial staff member of World Library Publications, who is also a composer and music staff member of the Chicago Office for Divine Worship;

— Eliot Kapitan, director of worship for the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., and a teacher, writer and workshop presenter on liturgy and catechumenal ministry;

— Jeannette Lucinio, associate professor of religious education, director of the master of arts program in pastoral studies, and director of field education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago;

— Mickey Main, an active RCIA minister at the parish, diocesan and national levels for 20 years, and a North American Forum member.

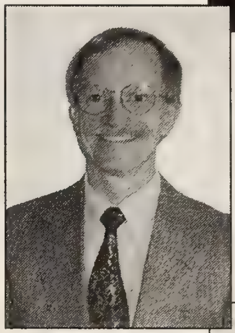
While each track explored various ways ministers can make the RCIA process both enriching and appealing to participants, the gathering focused on a central theme: The initiation process is a shared responsibility of the church.

"We always remember that it is the call of all the baptized to be initiating," said Licata. "We need to work together not just as RCIA teams, but as parishes. We need to look at how we welcome, so when someone comes into our midst and wants to know what Catholics do, we can say to them, 'Come and see what we are about.'

"Because we are baptized into Christ's body, it is all of our responsibility to walk with these people, to support and encourage them, and to share our faith." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Steve Janco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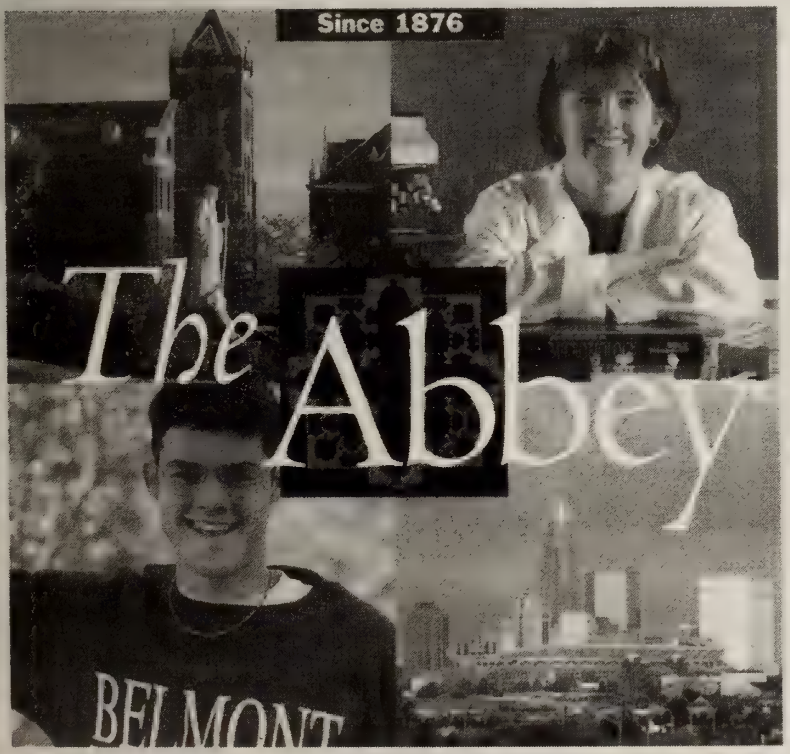

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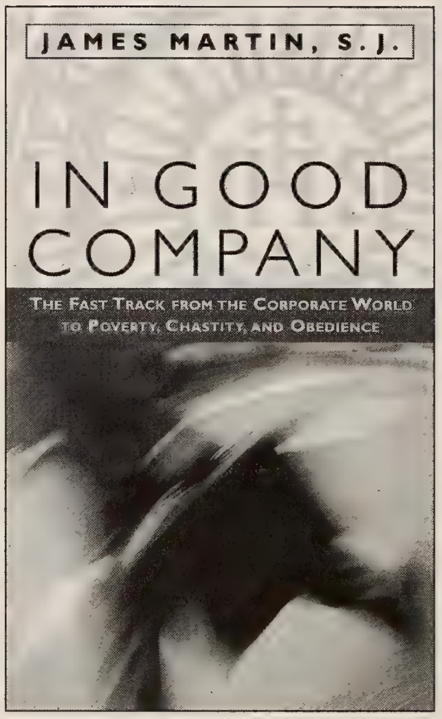
Book Review

Optimistic book shows quality of new priests

Reviewed by MARY KENNY
Catholic News Service


JAMES MARTIN, S.J.
IN GOOD COMPANY
THE FAST TRACK FROM THE CORPORATE WORLD TO POVERTY, CHASTITY, AND OBEDIENCE

If you have been disturbed by negative stories in the media about Roman Catholic clergy, "In Good Company: The Fast Track From the Corporate World to Poverty, Chastity and Obedience" is for you. The story of a young man who joins the Jesuits is a good read which leaves the reader optimistic about the quality of new young priests.

After growing up in Pennsylvania and attending the prestigious Wharton School of Business, author James Martin took a job in the finance department of General Electric. As the years went by, he was increasingly bothered by the stress of work, the competitive nature of relationships and, above all, the lack of meaning in his life.

He read Thomas Merton's life-story and thought of doing something like that with his own life. The idea would not go away. Behind the closed door of his office, he telephoned the Jesuits in his own area of New England. He visited and began to get literature about the Jesuits. He threw it out because it was "weird" and "absurd," he thought. But the idea would not go away.

Father Martin did eventually join the Jesuits. His previous book, "This Our Exile," recounts his time in East Africa while in formation as a Jesuit. "In Good Company" is Father Martin's prequel, a personal account of his search for meaning in his life and his formation as a Jesuit.

"In Good Company: The Fast Track from the Corporate World to Poverty, Chastity and Obedience"
By Jesuit Father James Martin
Sheed & Ward (Franklin, Wis., 2000)
201 pp. $15.95

This book has much to recommend it. Father Martin is a skilled storyteller. His behind-the-scene look at entering religious life today is funny, touching, engrossing.

Father Martin was not raised in a very religious family — no church attendance beyond Sunday Mass, no Catholic school, only a little CCD. He gently pokes fun at his own lack of knowledge. When a bishop suggests praying the "Memorare," young Martin hasn't a clue. His call is not to a fixed set of prayers and devotions but to a spirit of loving and giving.

Father Martin has the maturity to describe his own failings and foibles, and thus is able to share with the reader his own stages of growth. Readers can experience his feelings as he works at a homeless shelter distributing winter clothing.

In one example, he offers one man an orange jacket, "God, that's ugly," he says the man tells him. "Do you think I would want to be seen in that?"

"Initially I thought, 'He's a homeless person; he should be grateful.' But then I thought, 'Why should he want to wear something ugly just because he happens to be homeless. It doesn't mean that he's not an individual with feelings or taste or pride."

By discussing his own search for meaning, Father Martin raises questions of importance outside as well as inside religious life. He reflects on the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, addressing them in ways that make sense in our modern world and challenge lay Christians as well as religious.

This is recommended as a positive book about becoming a priest today, an insight into living a meaningful Christian life, and a good story well told. ▼

Kenny is co-author of "Family Talk," a weekly column from Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

September 24, Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B
Readings:
1) Wisdom 2:12, 17-20
Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6-8
2) James 3:16-4:3
3) Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

After long labor, little Mary Mae was born last month, the eagerly awaited and much loved daughter of good friends. The pleasure of seeing her with her adoring parents and proud sister was a blessing I savored. When I read in this week's Gospel Jesus' teaching that "whoever welcomes a little child welcomes me," I thought of Mary Mae. I'm comforted knowing that the immense love and affection into which she was born and which have bathed her existence ever since are felt by the Lord Jesus as well.

In her winsome face, the face of God is visible. Solace extended to her on colicky nights is solace extended to Christ, and the shelter of her mother's arms also shelters God.

If that were as far as Jesus' image went, this would be an easy Gospel. But in his world and time, the symbol of a child would call to mind not only warm associations of family life, but the harsh social reality in which children represented all who were powerless, without rights, subject to the whims of others, not considered when making decisions.

It's harder, sometimes, to welcome such people to our circle, to clasp them to our hearts and shower them with affection. Although her day-to-day care takes lots of effort, it's easy to love Mary Mae, but what about those among us, children or not, who are not indescribably cute and appealing, but unattractive or troublesome or boring or otherwise hard to love?

Herein lies the challenge: to receive as Christ those whose powerlessness invites not an instinct of care and protection, but a reaction of irritation or harsh judgment.

May the affection we have for children we know and love so expand our hearts that we receive all God's children with open arms.

Questions:

How can I be more receptive to people in my daily life who are not taken seriously by others? What's one way in which my community can be an example of Christ's instruction to include the powerless?

"So he sat down and called the Twelve around him and said, 'If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last one of all and the servant of all.' Then he took a little child, stood him in their midst"
— Mark 9:35-36a

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 24 - 30, 2000

Sunday, Wisdom 2:12, 17-20, James 3:16-4:3, Mark 9:30-37; **Monday**, Proverbs 3:27-34, Luke 8:16-18; **Tuesday (Sts. Cosmas and Damien)**, Proverbs 2:1-6, 10-13, Luke 8:19-21; **Wednesday (St. Vincent de Paul)**, Proverbs 30:5-9, Luke 9:1-6; **Thursday (St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Compansions)**, Ecclesiastes 1:2-11, Luke 9:7-9; **Friday (Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels)**, Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, John 1:47-51; **Saturday (St. Jerome)**, Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8, Luke 9:43-45

Readings for the week of Oct. 1 - 7, 2000

Sunday, Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48; **Monday (Holy Guardian Angels)**, Job 1:6-22, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Tuesday**, Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday (St. Francis of Assisi)**, Job 9:1-12, 14-16, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday**, Job 19:21-27, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday (St. Bruno)**, Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (Our Lady of the Rosary)**, Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-16, Luke 10:17-14

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Emmy-winning actress is Feminists for Life honorary chair

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When actress Patricia Heaton, in accepting her Emmy Award Sept. 10, thanked God "for thinking me up and my mother for letting me come out," the remark was more than just words. Heaton, who plays Debra Romano on the CBS comedy "Everybody Loves Raymond," is also honorary chair of the pro-life organization Feminists for Life. "It sounded like a group I wanted to be in," Heaton told Catholic News Service in a phone interview. "Their focus is the most appropriate approach to a very difficult subject."

New at the Box Office

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Almost Famous" (DreamWorks)

Poignant drama set in the 1970s about an aspiring rock journalist (Patrick Fugit) who lands a free-lance assignment at age 15 with Rolling Stone magazine to interview a hot new rock band (led by Billy Crudup) as they tour the United States. Director Cameron Crowe's semi-autobiographical, coming-of-age story skillfully reflects the era, yet remains on a largely superficial level. Implied sexual encounters, fleeting nudity, an extramarital affair, some drug use including an overdose and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Bait" (Castle Rock)

Insubstantial seriocomic actioner in which a bumbling petty thief (Jamie Foxx) is used by the government to trap a computer mastermind (Doug Hutchison) who stole gold bullion worth millions from the Federal Reserve. It's style over substance in director Antoine Fuqua's slick flick which starts off promisingly then fizzles with a scrambled script, one-note characters and a too-neat Hollywood ending. A sexual encounter, intermittent violence and recurring rough language with fleeting profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Duets" (Hollywood)

Lightweight road trip comedy about six individuals (including Gwyneth Paltrow, Huey Lewis, and Andre Braugher) who converge in Omaha to compete for a $5,000 grand prize in a karaoke singing contest. Colorful characters sweeten director Bruce Paltrow's superficial film where toe-tapping music and the carefree subculture of karaoke singers take precedence over exploring any serious issues raised. A sexual encounter with brief nudity, a few sexual references, some violence, and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"A Piece of Eden" (Film Acres)

Flawed drama about a New York publicist (Marc Grapey) who returns to his family's Indiana fruit farm to make peace with his sick father (Robert Brueler). Director John Hancock's sentimental film takes an endearing look at familial relationships but a lackluster script, unexceptional performances and a sappy, Hollywood ending fail to impress. An implied sexual encounter with brief crude language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

Priest's guidance helps addicts

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Former substance abusers describe their new lives since their association with an enthusiastic Catholic priest in the inspiring documentary, "Glidepath to Recovery," airing throughout October on public television stations (check local listings).

From Family Theater Productions, the hourlong program puts a human face on longtime addicts — and shows that they can completely turn their lives around. Instrumental in this road to recovery is Albany's Father Peter Young, whose battle cry is "Rehabilitate: Don't Incarcerate!"

The documentary wisely focuses not on the priest, or religion for that matter, but on a dozen or so ex-cons and former addicts who are now holding responsible jobs. It's heartwarming to hear them proudly asserting that they are taxpayers. Many are so thrilled about having decent lives back they want to help others reject substance abuse.

In filmed group therapy sessions, the ex-addicts' stories of transformation clearly make an impact on those struggling to overcome their self-destructive ways. "I left a lot of wreckage behind in my life," one admits, but the point is now he is a clean and sober wage earner with his own apartment, a far cry from the gutter or a jail cell.

Father Young explains his "glidepath" philosophy as believing that ex-convicts need help making a safe landing for their lives once released and his programs include recovery, six months of housing where basic life skills such as cooking are taught, and job placement.

Amazingly, the priest has been able to acquire community-run businesses such as a hotel, three fast-food establishments, a copy center and cafeterias that provide jobs. The recovering addicts are gradually given greater responsibilities and their professionalism is laudable. A guest at the Schuyler Inn would never dream that the articulate general manager, assistant manager and chief housekeeper all had addiction and crime in their pasts.

This fine documentary's director, Gerard Thomas Straub, saves the startling statistic of the recovery program's success rate for the end — a whopping figure that underlines how no human life should be considered unsalvageable.

"Glidepath to Recovery"
Various dates on PBS
through October

The individual recovery stories, from the former assistant attorney general of New York state to a young woman who was raped and whose mother was murdered and whose father hanged himself, have real emotional resonance. Father Young's caring intervention has helped restore their dignity and self-esteem and they in turn inspire others battling addictions. He feels his programs give ex-cons time to start new behaviors and reassemble their lives. Another outreach program provides shelters for abused mothers and children.

Nicely paced and well-edited, the program is never dull; in fact, it's inspirational in the best sense of the word. ▾

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

TV programs of note — week of Sept. 24

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television programs of note for the week of Sept. 24:

Monday, Sept. 25, 10-11 p.m. EDT (A&E) "Rock Springs, Wyoming." From the "City Confidential" series, fact-based account of how in 1978 a police chief ended up killing one of his own former undercover drug officers in a Wild West-type shootout.

Tuesday, Sept. 26, 8-9 p.m. EDT (PBS) "Asteroids: Deadly Impact." Season premiere of "The World of National Geographic" nature series explores how comets and asteroids streak through the skies, some striking the Earth, with geologists' analyses of meteorite impacts.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 8-9 p.m. EDT (A&E) "Jimmy Hoffa: The Man Behind the Mystery." From the "Biography" series, a profile of the controversial labor leader who changed the face of U.S. commerce after organizing the country's most powerful union, the Teamsters.

Wednesday, Sept. 27, 9:30-11 p.m. EDT (PBS) "Berlin Philharmonic Europakonzert: From Krakow." From the Church of St. Mary's in Krakow, Poland, a concert commemorating the founding of the orchestra in 1882, with works by Mozart and Chopin among others.

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

During bishops' jubilee, pope to entrust world to Mary

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When bishops from around the world gather for their jubilee celebration in early October, the statue of Our Lady of Fatima also will make a pilgrimage to Rome.

Pope John Paul II and the world's bishops will gather around the statue for the recitation of the rosary Oct. 7 and, in the presence of the statue Oct. 8, they will once again entrust the world to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Once before, in March 1984, the pope had the statue brought from Portugal to St. Peter's Square where, in union with the bishops of the world, he consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The act of consecration was one of the requests the three shepherd children of Fatima said Mary made during her apparitions to them in 1917.

Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, the only surviving Fatima visionary and a cousin of the other two, has said that the 1984 ceremony fulfilled the request.

Embedded in the statue's crown is one of the bullet fragments removed from Pope John Paul's body after he was shot May 13 — the feast of Our Lady of Fatima — in 1981.

In conjunction with the May beatification of Sister Lucia's cousins, Pope John Paul ordered publication of the so-called "third secret of Fatima," which had been kept sealed at the Vatican for some 50 years. According to the Vatican, the message predicted the struggles of the church with Nazism and communism and foretold the shooting of Pope John Paul.

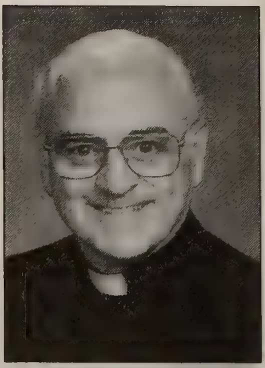
The Vatican's Holy Year committee said formally entrusting the world to Mary Oct. 8 will be a plea "for the protection of the mother of Christ over the church and over the world at the beginning of the third millennium."

The statue is scheduled to arrive from Portugal Oct. 6 and be kept that night in Pope John Paul's private chapel. The morning of Oct. 7 it will be transferred to St. Peter's Basilica for public veneration.

Pope calls for new efforts in Christian-Jewish understanding

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Warning of the reappearance of racism and anti-Semitism in certain parts of the world, Pope John Paul II called for new efforts to help Jews and Christians at every level "to know, respect and esteem more fully each other's beliefs and traditions." Welcoming Israel's new ambassador to the Holy See, Yosef Neville Lamdan, Pope John Paul said Sept. 18 that he considered his March pilgrimage to the Holy Land "a kind of testimony that I would like to leave, especially to the younger generation, as an invitation to build a new era of relations between Christians and Jews." He said a "culture of emptiness" and a rise of selfishness and materialism were the source of discrimination and persecution.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

Vote your conscience

A woman told me recently that she wasn't going to vote in November because she was anti-abortion and at the same time fiercely opposed to the death penalty. Since Gore is pro-choice and Bush is for the death penalty, she was opting out of the process.

I advised her against sitting on the sidelines.

There is never going to be a perfect candidate. Religious people have to make prudential judgments based on the preponderance of evidence available. The United States is the only remaining superpower, and every citizen counts in keeping our leaders on their toes.

If you do not vote your conscience in these matters, you will fail in your patriotic duty.

Way back in 1964, long before I was director of the Christophers, I interviewed Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement. Her cause for canonization is now pending.

Day often talked about the importance of voting your conscience. She celebrated the tremendous freedom that the laity have in the church. In fact, she said, as a convert to the faith it was this freedom that attracted her to the church in the first place. "I don't think I could stress this enough," she said. "Our freedom comes from the Gospels. Christ never coerced anyone."

I asked her whether her involvement as a social activist ever had gotten her in trouble with the hierarchy. She brushed it off and said: "What if there is a strike for better wages? Do the bishops listen to the people who are on strike or do they listen to the bosses? How are they going to direct the laity?"

She believed that many conflicts have to be hammered out by means of public debate. The bishops are clearly pro-life, which means they are also against the death penalty. How will they vote? Will they differ from one another? Who knows? Probably yes, but I'm sure each one will vote his conscience.

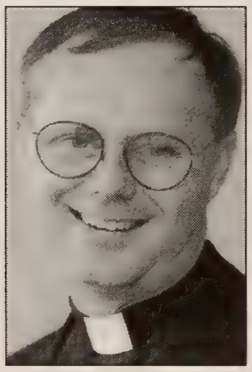
Did you know that diocesan Catholic newspapers risk losing their tax-exempt status if they promote one candidate over another? They are not even allowed to take political advertisements. This may explain the relative silence of the official church in the election process.

Of course, there will be some zealous priests and members of the laity who will insist that a Catholic should vote on the basis of the abortion issue alone, but even though the anti-abortion agenda is meritorious, I find this view too simplistic. The election should not be subject to a litmus test on one issue.

In the last presidential election, 65 percent of all Catholic women voted for the Democrats. The bishops never dictated how they should cast their vote, nor did they condemn the women after the election for voting as they did.

These women did not think that they were voting for abortion, any more than a vote for Bush in the next election would imply that the person voting was in favor of the death penalty.

Pray for the grace to make the right decision, all things considered, and put your mind at ease.



Parish Diary

FATHER PETER DALY
CNS Columnist

"Practical Ecumenism" in Northern Ireland

A friend of mine, Eugene O'Hagan, sings opera. He also sings show tunes and sentimental favorites. I don't mean he just sings in the shower. He actually sings for audiences in his beautiful, clear tenor voice.

All this is not particularly remarkable for an Irishman, except for the fact that O'Hagan is also a priest of the Diocese of Down and Connor in Northern Ireland. This is the part of Northern Ireland that includes the city of Belfast, the most religiously divided of cities.

But what really makes Father O'Hagan's singing remarkable is where he sings. He sings with a group headquartered at a Presbyterian church in downtown Belfast. The group, composed of Protestants and Catholics, travels throughout Northern Ireland singing at halls and churches.

Father O'Hagan calls it "practical ecumenism." "They can come to know you as a human being first, before they think of you as a priest or a Catholic. They find out we don't have horns or cloven feet," he says.

In pluralistic America, this seems like an ordinary interdenominational club, but in the troubled confines of Northern Ireland it is revolutionary. Feelings run deep in Northern Ireland.

On a tour of Belfast, Father O'Hagan drove us past the parish where his brother Martin is pastor. It is surrounded by a steel wall. The wall is topped with barbed wire and concertina wire. The houses of Catholics near the church are also surrounded by the same high wall. A gate constructed in a "Z" pattern admits you to the area. This gate is designed to prevent a suicide bomber from just driving through into the neighborhood.

As we drove around Belfast that same day we saw some neighborhoods flying orange flags and the British Union Jack. These were the Protestants. Just a few blocks away, other neighborhoods flew the Irish Republican flag. These were the Catholic neighborhoods. Except in the upper-middle class, there is not much mixing of religions.

The newspaper in Belfast that day contained an article about the effort to recruit Catholics for the police force in Northern Ireland. This was a result of the Good Friday agreement of 1999. There are hardly any Catholics on the police force. To many Catholics it is more like an occupying army than a guardian of the peace. Police stations in Belfast look more like bunkers than public buildings.

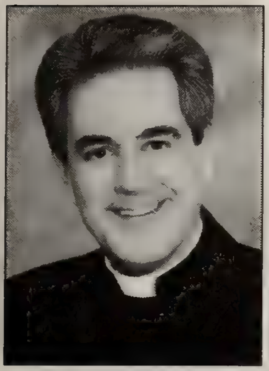
In the midst of all this Father O'Hagan and his Presbyterian friends are doing something remarkable. They actually are living the Gospel as Christ intended, reaching across the gulf that separates us and taking the Lord at his word — that he desires that his followers be one and live in peace.

Places like Northern Ireland are a test for the church in our new millennium. If the followers of Jesus, be they Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox or Evangelical, cannot contribute to the reconciliation and peace of the world, then we will have little credibility.

It is time to put the disputes and the distinctions of the 16th century to rest. We cannot do that if either side in the dispute adopts an attitude of superiority or intransigence. There is plenty of guilt from the past on all sides.

Since the historical hatreds and divisions are still sore points, perhaps we will have to put those disputes aside for a while and just come together as people. Singing seems like a good way to start.

Father O'Hagan and his friends have found a formula for "practical ecumenism" in song. It is heavenly music in deed.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"If I were you ..."

At a busy New York City intersection, one evening, a car stops at a red light. A yellow taxi, right behind stops also. A frail old lady with a cane steps off the curb and begins to hobble across the street.

As she reaches a point midway between the car's glaring headlights, the traffic light turns from red to green. Immediately, the taxi driver leans on his horn. The driver of the car in front shuts off his engine, removes the key from the ignition, gets out of his car and walks back to the taxi where he confronts the driver.

"Here are my car keys," he says. "You run her over. I haven't got the stomach for it!"

It is easy to identify with that elderly woman crossing the intersection. We all know the feeling of powerlessness that overtakes somebody in the middle of crossing a busy intersection when the light changes. You are trapped, helpless, at the mercy of the driver. And if you don't exactly cry out, "Have pity on me," the plea is certainly reflected in your anguished deer-in-the-headlights look.

Now, reverse the situation. Put yourself behind the wheel. With whom do you identify more closely, the driver of the car or the taxi driver?

Most of us, I am sure can remember times when we did, in fact, lean on our horns, not because of a vicious compulsion to see someone knocked down - but out of sheer habit.

We can acquire the bad habit of hearing but not listening, or looking and not seeing. We hear the cry, we see the anguished look, but we don't personalize it. It just does not register that a real, warm, live human sister or brother is in distress. Our time is valuable, we have a right to feel impatient and frustrated. So we learn how to push and shove and compete and lean on our horns, and soon these things become habits, even reflex actions.

Some people lean on their horns automatically, just as some inevitably say "No!" when someone approaches them for help. There are people who routinely look the other way when they see someone in distress, in order not to get involved. There are those who are absolute masters at changing the subject whenever someone tries to share a problem with them.

Charles Mayo, a founder of the world-famous Mayo clinic, made a valuable rule for himself. "When I am your doctor," he said, "I try to imagine the kind of doctor I'd like if I were you. Then I try to be that kind of doctor."

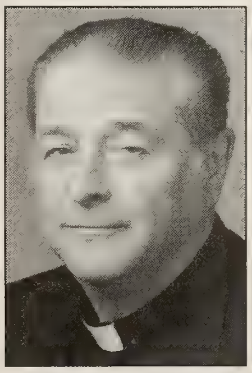
That's a good idea, whoever we are or whatever we do. We don't all think the same way, or react the same way to a given situation.

Staying sensitive to the needs of others can demand a lot of us, but the effort involved is worth the trouble. One day each of us will be asked not only if we cared about the feelings of others, but also if we showed compassion in the process.

There's a lot to be said for putting yourself in the other person's shoes. Or driver's seat.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

What is the Gospel of Thomas?

Q. At the end of the movie "Stigmata," there was a printed statement that a Gospel of Thomas (words of Jesus) was found near the Dead Sea scrolls. It states that the Vatican will not accept this Gospel, calling it heresy.

The message from Jesus in this Gospel is supposed to be that "the kingdom of God is within us all." What is this all about? Does the Gospel exist, and if so why is it kept from us?

A. The so-called Gospel of Thomas is perhaps the most well-known of several early Christian "gospels" that are not included in the books of the New Testament.

Written most likely before the year 100, its existence had been known for centuries through brief references and quotes in other Christian documents. The complete text, however, has been available for only 55 years.

The accidental discovery of the entire document in 1945, in a clay jar near the modern town of Nag Hammadi in upper Egypt (not near the Dead Sea scrolls), is among the most significant archeological events in the history of New Testament scholarship.

Unlike the four canonical Gospels, the Gospel of Thomas contains no narrative or theological structure. It consists solely of 114 "hidden sayings" of the "living Jesus," many of which can be found nearly word-for-word in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

A good example is the passage you point out. Actually the Thomas Gospel, Saying 3, reads, "The kingdom is inside you and outside you." The Gospel of Luke (17:21) quotes Jesus, "The reign of God is already in your midst" — literally, within you.

While not among the accepted books of the Bible, the antiquity and content of the Gospel of Thomas have proven enormously helpful in studying the life and words of Jesus. It also, however, reflects many gnostic beliefs which caused serious theological and pastoral problems in the early Christian church.

As in other gnostic literature, for example, Peter is portrayed as hostile to Mary (Magdalene) in blatantly sexist ways. The final saying of the Gospel of Thomas has Peter telling Jesus, "Mary should leave us, for females are not worthy of life."

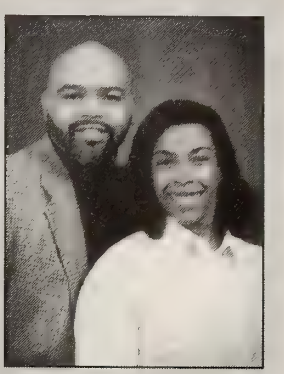
Jesus responds, "I shall guide her to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every female who makes herself male will enter heaven's kingdom."

The Catholic Church has had no occasion to take a formal position on the Gospel of Thomas. And since it is not one of the four canonical Gospels, it is seldom, if ever, referred to in official Catholic documents or liturgy.

But there's nothing secret about it. The document is readily available in several publications. A new translation, with the original Coptic text and notes, was published in 1992 by Harper Collins Publishers in New York.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen at Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Family Reflections



ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Marriage Encounter

Our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary is approaching soon. As the big day nears, we find ourselves more introspective and reflecting on what the last twenty-five years have meant.

It was in the Jubilee year 1975 that we professed our vows among family and friends. For us this was not an ominous thing. It seemed so right and so easy. Our worldview was clear. At the ages of 23 and 21, we were independent, confident and on a roll of good fortune. Between us, what could go wrong? As long as people left us alone, we'd be okay. The lyric goes like this: "I've got the world on a string; sittin' on a rainbow; got the ring around my finger..." We believed that in us we had all we needed; love would see us through to forever.

The ensuing early years were tough for us. It wasn't as simple as we thought it would be. We had some growing up to do. By year-two the vision began to crumble. Had our luck run out?

It was through friends that we found Marriage Encounter and discovered God in us. It was through a community of married couples that we learned how to live in hope. It was the loving embrace of a parish that said, "We want you with us" that stretched our boundaries of love. It was steadfast presence of family that showed us that it's really about all of us, and no one gets left behind. It was the gift of children that showed us the simplest joys in life.

Some might call it luck that we stumbled into such rich associations and resources. We call it grace.

In this Jubilee year twenty-five years later, we are humbled by the awesome grace with which we obliviously started. Tempered by the trials of life that have taught us that we have not been charmed, our confidence comes not from ourselves, but from the faith community in which we love and are loved.

Not even half as smart as we thought we were twenty-five years ago, we have grown in wisdom, age and grace. We know that the grace that came our way was sometimes quite the opposite of what we had desired-to be left alone and for others to stay out of our affairs. God certainly answers prayers, and we're glad that sometimes his answer is "NO!"

Twenty-five years is plenty reason to celebrate. We are planning a special Eucharistic Liturgy for the occasion. However, we know that though the focus may be on the two of us, what we celebrate goes far beyond that. The accomplishment of fifty, twenty-five, ten, or even one year of marriage takes a village.

With love and gratitude we celebrate the journey we have traveled and recommit to the adventure ahead.

The Lykes are coordinators of marriage ministry in the African-American community for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

McDermott joins vocation ministers at National Religious Vocation Conference in NJ

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — On Sept. 7-11, Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, joined over five hundred vocation ministers and accompanying community members for the National Religious Vocation Conference's biennial convocation held in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Convocation speakers Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, and Mr. Tom Beaudoin elaborated on the theme "Building Bridges between Young Adults and Members of Religious Communities" from their own areas of expertise.

Sister of Notre Dame Catherine Bertrand, president of the National Religious Vocation Conference, invited McDermott because of her communications with members of religious congregations serving the Diocese of Charlotte, whom McDermott contacted about involvment in young adult ministry.

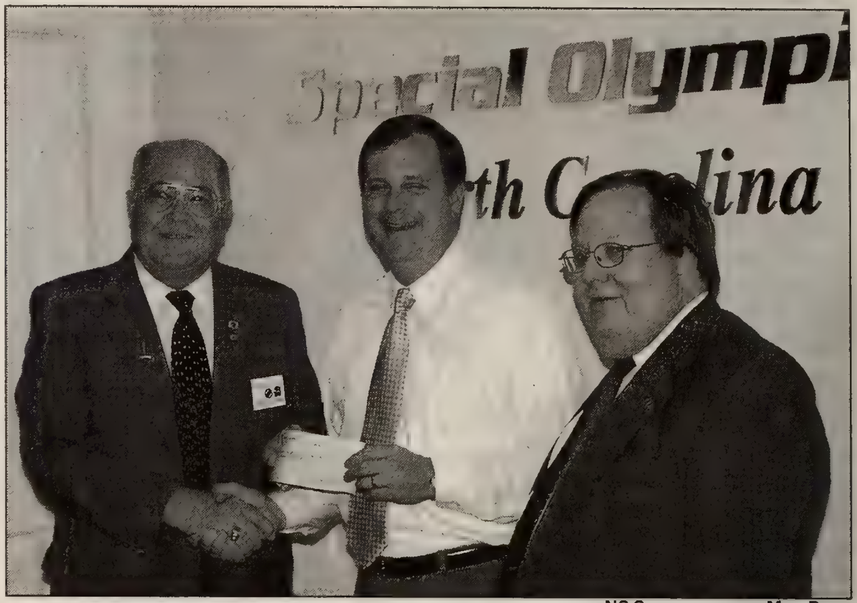
Mary Johnson is an associate professor of sociology at Emmanuel College in Boston. As a social scientist, Mary Johnson shared the information gained from two national research projects, one focused on young adult Catholics and the other on post-Vatican II entrants in religious congregations. Tom Beaudoin is co-founder and co-leader of Xairos, a Generation X Catholic ministry at the Paulist Center in Boston and authored "Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X." Tom presented the worldview of Generation X from his own experience as a Generation Xer and as a theologian.

In addition to these presentations, a panel of young religious presented what drew them to religious life, what sustains them in the way of life, and what is their experience of inter-generational living. The audience interacted with the panel in a question and answer session. Participants continued their active role by identifying major issues/concerns and then developing action plans to address these issues/concerns. The resulting strategies will be collated and published at a later date.

Lewis Green, an associate member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, was intrigued by the energy and enthusiasm of the vocation directors present for the convocation. He stated, "I am so fortunate to be involved with the Sisters and am excited to do my part to spread the good news about religious life." As a first-year vocation director, Pam Mueller, OSU, felt that this conference was very helpful in discovering what communities and the Church need to do to attract young adult Catholics. "I especially appreciated being able to invite other members of my community to attend so that we can develop a plan of action together."

The Harvest Award, which is given to non-NRVC members in recognition of their service to vocation ministry, was given to three people/organizations this year. Carol Shuck Scheiber, who serves as the editor of the NRVC journal, HORIZON, and the NRVC news, a quarterly newsletter.

Also receiving the Harvest Award was Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, for her involvement in vocation ministry through her research projects, workshop presentations for NRVC, and interest in young adult Catholics. The third recipient of the Harvest Award is Rev. Mark Brummel of Claretian Publications for their role in publishing VISION magazine, a discernment magazine for inquirers. ▼



NC Catholic photo by Matt Doyle

Knights of Columbus present check to North Carolina Special Olympics

The North Carolina State Council of the Knights of Columbus presented a check for $15,000 to the North Carolina Special Olympics. As a result of the tremendous success of the International Special Summer Games held in the Triangle last year, the Knights of Columbus have become very active in the 105 local areas in which there are councils, and also on the state level. Presenting the check on Aug. 14 to Keith Fishbourne, center, are Robert Singer, North Carolina State Deputy and John Gouldie, the Knight's State Chairman for Special Olympics.

Faithful Citizenship

The next millennium requires a new kind of politics, focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests. ... We must challenge all parties and every candidate to defend human life and dignity, to pursue greater justice and peace, to uphold family life, and to advance the common good.

—*from "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," U.S. Catholic Bishops' Administrative Board*

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Music: Full-time position as Director of Music for growing parish of 650 families who love to sing! Responsibilities include: Liturgy preparation and planning; playing for 5 weekend masses, holy days, funerals. Weddings negotiated; directing and developing adult mixed choir; organizing and directing children's choir; attend conferences and workshops for continued education and renewal; and attend weekly parish staff meetings. Competitive salary and benefits. Experience a plus, but musical accompaniment skills (piano & organ) a must. Send resume to Search Committee, Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, NC 28144, or fax to 704-647-0126.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

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Home Business: Work from home. Earn $450-1500 per month part-time or $2000-$4500 full-time. www.ouranswer.com or call (800)585-0760.

Marketing Assistant: Funeral Director in High Point seeking a part-time individual to work 12 - 20 hours per week speaking with clients on the telephone. Work hours are flexible, but need to consider evenings and some Saturday mornings a top priority. Experience is not required, but a willingness to learn, pleasant telephone voice and positive attitude are a must. Hourly wages plus bonus. Contact Tom at the Harold C. Davis Funeral Home (336) 887-1715.

Production Associate: The Catholic News and Herald has an opening for a part-time production associate (30 hours per week). Good benefit package. Candidate will be proficient with PageMaker 6.5, Photoshop 5.5, and Corel 7.0 (a PC environment preferred). Position involves layout and prepress of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience preferred. Please forward layout/design samples and resume to: Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC, or e-mail jskeane@aol.com

Teaching Assistants: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time teaching assistants. Available immediately. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview.

Youth Ministry Director: Full time. Master's or undergraduate degree in Catechesis or a youth related field. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick Cathedral, Attn: Joanna Catabui, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

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Gearing up to 'Race for the Cure'

CHARLOTTE — Breast cancer strikes thousands of women every year, and every 33 minutes, 11 women are diagnosed with the deadly disease. In an effort to combat the disease, people are getting ready to join area athletes in the 4th Annual Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Race for the Cure on October 7 in uptown Charlotte.

The Komen Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker in honor of her sister, Komen, who passed away at the age of 36. The race is the largest series of 5K runs/walks in the world with 114 scheduled with more than one million participants in the United States this year. Seventy-five percent of net proceeds from the race will fund local breast health education projects and grants, and twenty-five percent will fund the International Grant Program of the Komen Foundation.

The Race for the Cure is taking place at the First Union Atrium, 301 S. Tryon St., beginning at 6:30 a.m. with registration and packet pick-up. Anyone can participate in the one-mile fun run/walk, a timed and non-timed 5K run/walk and the Komen kids' 50-yard dash. Entry forms can be picked up at local YMCA branches and other area businesses. For more information, call the Charlotte Office at (704) 442-RACE or 442-7223 or Beth Kemp at (704) 875-3696. ▾

Diocese hopes 'coin' will spur prayers, foster vocations

By THOMAS R. PAPEIKA
Catholic News Service

WHEELING, W.Va. — Hundreds of West Virginians will soon be reminded to pray for vocations every time they take some change from their pockets.

Wooden "vocations coins" will be distributed throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston this fall, recalling the biblical injunction to pay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, but pay to God what belongs to God.

The inch and a half wooden coins feature a reminder to "Pray for Vocations," the diocesan toll-free telephone number — (888) 434-6237 — and the diocesan coat of arms and mailing address.

"It's another way for us to heighten awareness of vocations," said Father John Gallagher, director of the Office of Vocations. "We really need to get people talking about vocations, and hopefully the coin will help keep the issue in front of them.

"Imagine what would happen if everyone spoke to just one person after Mass on Sunday about vocations," Father Gallagher said. "That's not happening now, and we need to articulate the reasons why."

"Do we personally help people discern what their vocation is?" Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt asked. "We've got a lot of work to do to make vocational awareness a reality."

The coins are seen as a way to "change" attitudes, to remind people to keep talking about — and praying for — vocations.

The "Diocesan Vocations Proposal" notes that more than 50 percent of current priests are from outside the diocese, meaning that they are either from religious orders or from other countries or states.

As the priest shortage is felt in other countries and dioceses, Wheeling-Charleston is less likely to receive vocations from them, according to the proposal.

For at least 50 years, the diocese has ordained on average only two priests per year. If the trend continues, the diocese will have only 34 new diocesan priests in the year 2015 serving a projected population of nearly 170,000 Catholics. ▾

Former Polish President Lech Walesa attends Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Sept. 15. The Mass was held to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Solidarity movement that eventually brought an end to communism in Poland.

CNS photo by Bob Roller

Walesa, from page 7

of communism "a gift from heaven nobody expected and nobody even considered."

Walesa said that from the beginning of the Solidarity movement, he stressed the importance of the intercession of God and the Blessed Mother.

"That (heavenly intercession) is not always publicly mentioned by the press," he said. "In all my speeches, in all my talks, I speak about it but it does not always get reported. It is the truth, that these events are a gift from heaven."

Solidarity began Aug. 31, 1980, as a trade union of shipyard workers on the docks of Gdansk, Poland.

Walesa, an electrician at the shipyard, was one of the founders of the union, and was jailed many times during the union's struggles against the government. A series of Solidarity-sponsored nationwide strikes that nearly crippled that nation's economy ended with the milestone recognition of the union by communist officials.

However, communist authorities backed way from their agreement and in December 1981 attempted to abolish the union by declaring martial law. For eight years, the union fought against repression, and eventually toppled Poland's communist regime in 1989.

Walesa won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, and donated the $200,000 award to the Polish National Gift Fund in 1990 to help rebuild the country. He was elected Poland's first democratic president in 1990, serving until 1995.

During the Mass at the shrine, Bishop John W. Yanta of Amarillo, Texas, praised the former president for his faith and for his willingness to do God's work.

"I saw a picture of Lech on the front page of the USA Today newspaper, and there he was at the Gdansk shipyard between a picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Holy Father," Bishop Yanta, who is of Polish descent, said during a homily he delivered in English and Polish. "Lech said 'yes' to God's plan to free Poland from the shackles of communism."

He said the Walesa and the Solidarity movement employed "only the weapons of truth and justice and a Gospel spirit in the face of adversity."

The bishop also praised Walesa for his "beautiful and simple faith" in God and in the "intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa and Queen of Poland."

Bishop Yanta hailed the Solidarity movement as "a blueprint on how to resolve conflict and difficulties" and said that the movement was a tool of God.

After the Mass, participants offered the former president a prolonged standing ovation. Walesa urged those present to remember the lessons of Solidarity.

"I am concerned that if we do not remember, then man of the 21st century cannot build a future that is peaceful and just."

Prior to the Mass, he visited the basilica's Chapel of Our Lady of Czestochowa, where Pope John Paul II also prayed during his 1979 visit to Washington. There, Walesa placed a bouquet of flowers on the altar and offered prayers to Our Lady.

"He wanted to visit the chapel because he attributes the success of the Solidarity movement and the demise of communism in Poland to the intercession of Our Lady," said Peter Sonski, spokesman for the basilica. ▾

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Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World

CHARLOTTE — The story of Russian America, a 126-year period of exploration and colonialism on the North American continent, is presented in the exhibition "Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World" at Charlotte's Mint Museum of Art, Sept. 9 - Dec. 31, 2000.

Over 300 historic artifacts and works of art from the Russia State Historical Museum and the State Archive of the Russian Federation are featured. Objects range from etchings of native Aleuts of the Island of Unalaska to the splendid costumes and jewelry worn at the Imperial Court of St. Petersburg. Original letters from Thomas Jefferson and Leo Tolstoy help present the historical context of the period. The personal belongings of Russian emperors, gem-set icons of the Orthodox Church, sailing paraphernalia used by explorers, colonial equipment and products, costumes, portraits and paintings tell stories of the Imperial and the everyday.

Among exhibition highlights is the red lace and satin court dress, trimmed in swan down, worn in 1860 by Princess Dagmar of Denmark (later to become the Empress Maria Feodorovna). Most striking is the elaborately carved Masquerade Sleigh, resembling an ancient triumphal chariot decorated with a sculpture of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and war, used by Catherine the Great at a masked pageant for her coronation ceremony in 1763.

"Unseen Treasures" is organized by the American-Russian Cultural Cooperation Foundation in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Russian American Company. The exhibition's Southeast appearance is sponsored by Wachovia and Wachovia Companies Offitbank and Barry, Evans, Josephs & Snipes, Inc.

The story of Russian America begins with a conversation in London in 1698 between Peter I and William Penn who urged the Russian Tsar to send an expedition east of Siberia to discover whether the Russian and American continents were connected. Building a navy to enable such a venture would wait another 23 years. With the signing of the Treaty of Nystad with Sweden in 172 1, Russia acquired passage to the Baltic Sea and entry to the world's oceans. Russian naval enterprise began in earnest.

Peter I commissioned the Danish mariner Vitus Bering seven years later to find an answer to William Penn's question and to explore expanding his empire eastward. Under severe hardships the Bering Strait was discovered and chartered, but the ships St. Paul and St. Peter failed to land in North America, hampered by continuous fog and the coming winter. On its second attempt, Bering's Kamachatka expedition sighted the spectacular peak of Mt. St. Elias and landed on the American coast on July 15, 1741, well after Peter the Great's death.

A 1760 portrait of a far-draped Princess A. A. Volkonsky in the exhibition serves as a reminder of the major attraction of the New World. Bering's sailing crew returned to the Siberian port of Petropavlovsk with sea otter pelts, soon judged to be the finest fur in the world. The sea otter became highly prized in China, opening exchanges for tea, silk, porcelain and other goods.

Russian colonization of America was led by private trading companies, with the Russian-American Company eventually gaining exclusive trading rights. The majority of early colonists came from the working classes, in particular, the state serfs of northern Russian and Siberia, renowned for their hunting, fishing and woodworking skills. As the colonies expanded, greater self-sufficiency skills were required. Most of the hunting and fur trade fell to the local Eskimos, Coniagmuites and Aleuts while Russians maintained the trading fleet, managed enterprises and defended the colonies.

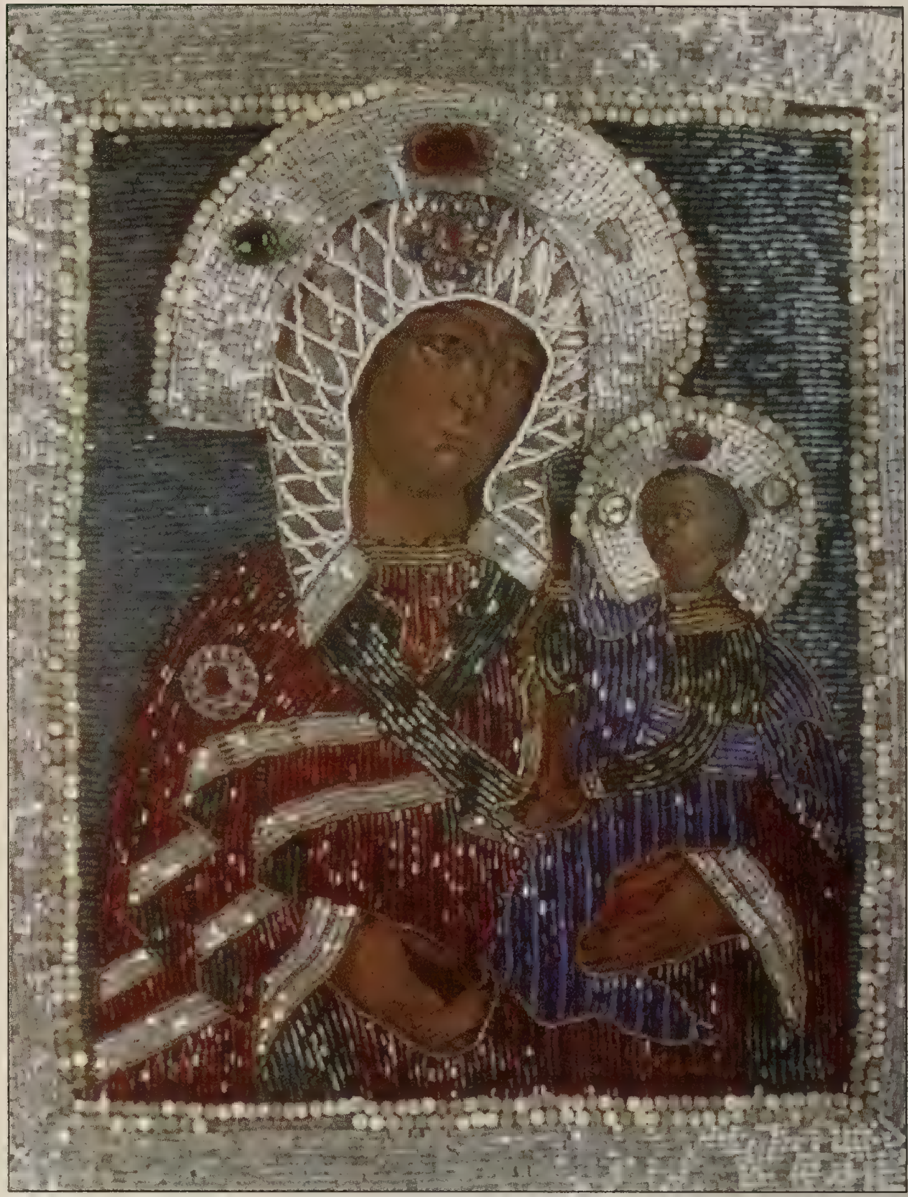

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINT MUSEUM OF ART

"Icon of Shviskly Smolensk with Oklad" is part of "Unseen Treasures" at the Mint Museum from Sept. 9 - Dec. 31, 2000.

The first settlement was in Three Saints Bay in 1784 near present day Kodiak, serving as the capital until the Russian American Company moved its headquarters to richer sea otter grounds in Sitka in 1806. The governing administration by merchant companies was characterized by greed and cruelty. Alexander Baranov, the first governor, aggressively expanded Russian territory. His severe treatment of natives led to a massacre in 1802.

The Russian navy was placed in authority in 1818, immediately changing the appalling treatment of natives. Sitka, or New Archangel, became known as the "Paris of the Pacific," the largest cosmopolitan settlement in the North Pacific. It was port of call for traders who also visited Europe, Asia, the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) and the American west coast.

The strength of "Unseen Treasures: Imperial Russia and the New World" is the ability of the paintings and objects to resurrect stories of hardships, heroism and incredible faith. ▼

The Mint Museum of Art is located at 2730 Randolph Road, Charlotte. Call the museum at (704) 337-2009.

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

September 29, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 4

Inside

Bishop dedicates Asheville home for new CSS office ...PAGE 3

From the Cover
Art bridges history, faith for Charlotte native ...PAGE 7

TV special explores the popular St. Therese of Lisieux ...PAGE 11

Local News

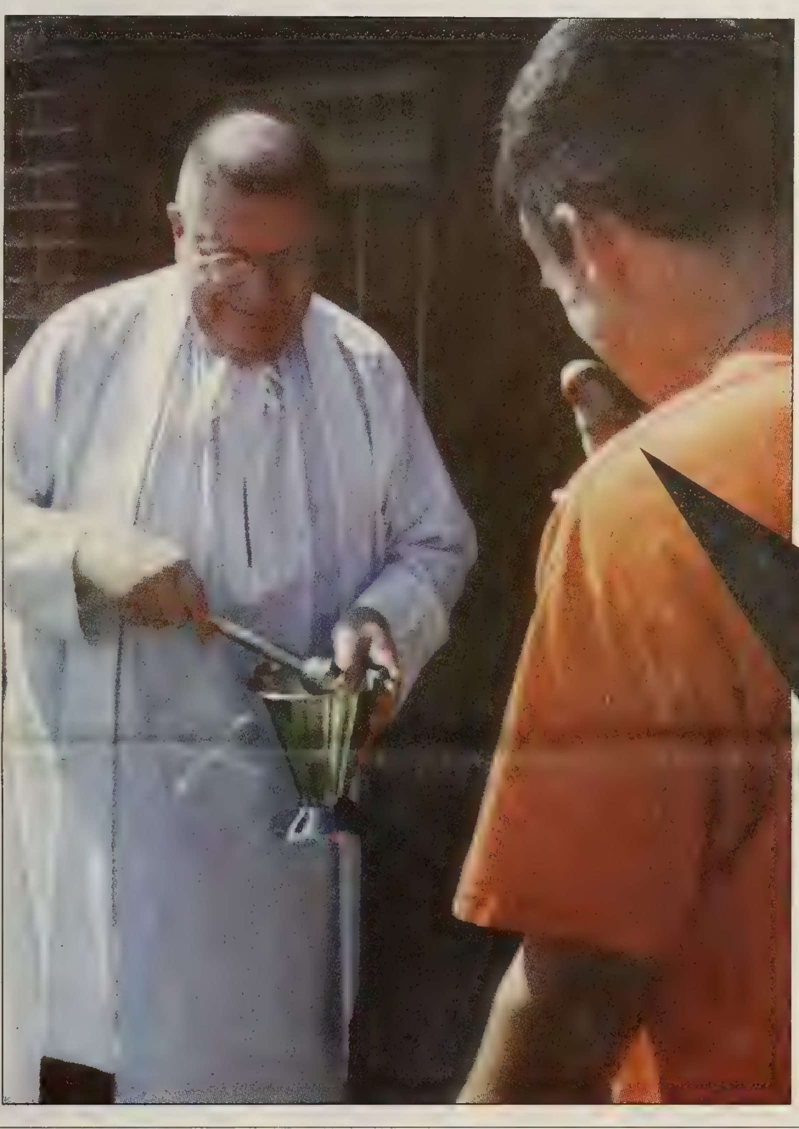
Program taps into young adult resource ...PAGE 9

Class in session for teachers at in-service ...PAGE 15

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

The Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi is October 4.



Blessing of the Animals

Father Richard Hanson, parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte, blesses Crackers, the parrot pet of 14-year-old Kieron Kennedy. St. Vincent de Paul held its annual blessing of the animals in conjunction with the Humane Society of Charlotte.

SEE ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, PAGE 5

PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE

National CCHD director visits with message of thanks and hope

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In Asheville, local artists will soon have a place to sell their wares and learn how to develop business skills.

In Kannapolis, the Piedmont Peace Project is helping people of many races and classes to participate in the political process and to speak out against injustice.

In Charlotte, Helping Empower Local People (HELP) ensures a place for people of various backgrounds in the political and economic decisions that affect their communities.

These are but three western North Carolina projects funded in part by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), the U.S. Catholic bishops' domestic anti-poverty campaign. And on Sept. 22 and 23, local participants and beneficiaries of the campaign celebrated the theme of helping people help themselves with the campaign's executive director, Father Robert Vitillo.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Alberta Hairston, Father Robert Vitillo, and Jan Valder Offerman present a parish participation award to Jesuit Father Robert Paquet of St. Peter Church in Charlotte. Hairston is the diocesan CCHD committee chair and Valder Offerman is a committee member.

"Through their association with CCHD, Catholics in the United States could rejoice in the fact that their celebration of the jubilee year takes on new and more profound meaning," said Father Vitillo to an audience gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Sept. 23. "Jesus taught by his own example that we cannot turn our backs to brothers and sisters in need."

Father Vitillo was in the Diocese of Charlotte to announce three national grants to organizations within the diocese, and to visit campaign-funded projects in Asheville and Charlotte. He addressed audiences at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Char-

SEE CCHD, PAGE 4

The World in Brief

POR EL RESPETO
MÉXICO
QUIERE ACABAR CON LA POBREZA NO CON LA VIDA
LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS COMIENZAN CON EL DERECHO A LA VIDA
AÑO 1 D.C. BELEN
AÑO 2000 D.F.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pro-life march in Mexico City

Pro-life activists march against abortion in Mexico City Sept. 24. Some politicians are seeking to tighten abortion controls while Mexico City Mayor Rosario Robles has proposed reforming anti-abortion law to ease the ban. Abortion is allowed only in the event of rape in most Mexican states.

African youths stay in Rome, apparently illegally, after WYD

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One-fourth of the Senegalese and almost half of the Zambian youths who participated in World Youth Day in Rome apparently decided to remain in Italy illegally, a Vatican news agency reported. Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, reported Sept. 23 that 60 of the 232 Senegalese youths and 45 of the 102 Zambians stayed behind when their peers returned home after the Aug. 15-20 event. "The situation should speak to the world and the governments of Africa about the desperate situation of disenchanted African youth without a future in Africa," said Father Alphonse Seck, national director of Senegal's Catholic laity office.

Vatican spokesman says Chinese canonizations not political

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's decision to canonize 120 Catholics martyred in China has no diplomatic or political message, the Vatican spokesman said. The fact that the ceremony will take place Oct. 1, China's National Day, was not an intentional snub and may have been avoided if China and the Vatican had diplomatic relations, said the spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls. For Catholics, October is traditionally dedicated to remembering the importance of missionary activity, and Oct. 1 is the feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, patron of missions. For Chinese, Oct. 1 marks the anniversary of the 1949 proclamation of the People's Republic of China and the beginning of communist rule.

Sister Nirmala gets bail granted for nun charged with child abuse

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Missionaries of Charity Sister Nirmala Joshi, the order's superior general, appeared before an eastern Indian city court and admitted that one of her nuns was guilty of burning children's hands. The Alipore court in Calcutta granted bail to Sister Francesca Sept. 19 after Sister Nirmala appeared at the hearing on behalf of the accused nun and promised to pay bail, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In a statement Sept. 20, Sister Nirmala said that Sister Francesca, in charge of Mahatma Gandhi Welfare Center in Calcutta, where Mother Teresa began her work and founded the congregation, "is guilty of hurting four little girls by touching them with a hot knife."

World must decrease guns in war zones, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If the international community wants to decrease the number of child warriors, it must decrease the handguns and small weapons that make their way into war zones, a Vatican official said. "The world has looked on in horror at images of children brandishing, at times apparently cherishing, possession of small arms in many conflict zones," said Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The bishop represented the Vatican at a Sept. 16-17 International Conference on War-Affected Children sponsored by the Canadian government.

Sudan bombs church-run clinic after bishops call for cease-fire

ROME (CNS) — A Sudanese government warplane dropped three bombs on a church-run medical clinic days after Sudanese bishops called for a cease-fire among warring factions in the country. The attack in Naurus, a village in southern Sudan about 30 miles from the Kenyan border, occurred Sept. 18, reported MISNA, a missionary news agency in Rome. The Sudanese bishops' conference, meeting in Italy, issued a statement Sept. 15 calling for a cease-fire to be "strictly observed" and requested that the United Nations monitor and assess the cease-fire "to avert the violations that have characterized similar initiatives in the past."

Rights workers say dangers they face tiny next to overall threat

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dangers faced by human rights advocates are minimal compared to those faced by people whose rights they advocate, according to Bruce Harris, director of Covenant House's Central American affiliate, Casa Alianza. "I don't think we've suffered any hardship that you can speak of," Harris told a Washington human rights gathering. "If we are attacked, we can run away. We can run to you and you can come to our defense." But the children whose rights he champions "will continue to suffer until we get off our backsides and do something about it," Harris said. Harris was speaking at an American University symposium on human rights.

Jewish-Christian dialogue day postponed after Jews withdraw

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican-sponsored Day of Jewish-Christian Dialogue was postponed indefinitely after leaders of Rome's Jewish community withdrew their participation. Rabbis Elio Toaff and Abramo Piatelli, who were scheduled to speak at the Oct. 3 event, canceled after the early September publication of the Vatican declaration "Dominus Iesus" on "the unicity and salvific universality of Jesus Christ and the church." Neither rabbi was available for comment Sept. 21. Dominican Father Remi Hoeckman, secretary of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, told Catholic News Service that a new date for the day of dialogue — part of the Vatican's Holy Year calendar — had not been set.

Fall campaign for execution moratorium proposed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic social justice activists are being asked to wage a fall campaign calling for a moratorium on the death penalty. Social justice ministers and state Catholic conference directors were asked in a Sept. 1 memorandum from the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Social Development and World Peace to support Moratorium 2000, calling for a nationwide moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The campaign is spearheaded by Sister Helen Prejean, the Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille whose experiences as spiritual adviser to death-row inmates became a best-selling book and Academy Award-winning movie, "Dead Man Walking."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 1 — 5 p.m.
Confirmation Mass
Immaculate Conception Church,
Hendersonville

October 2-5
Diocesan clergy retreat
Living Waters Reflection Center,
Maggie Valley

October 6-7
Guest speaker at Eucharistic
Congress 2000
Archdiocese of Washington D.C.

October 9-13
Directing priests' retreat
Diocese of Palm Beach, Fla.

Diocesan planner

October

3 CHARLOTTE — The Franciscan Friars and Secular Franciscans of Charlotte invite everyone to celebrate the Transitus, commemorating the passing of St. Francis, tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., in the parish hall with a reception following the gathering. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

6 CULLMAN, Ala. — The Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center is sponsoring an Intensive Centering Prayer Retreat this weekend through Oct. 8 beginning with 6:30 p.m. registration tonight. The retreat is designed for those who practice centering prayer and wish to deepen their relationship with God through this method of prayer. For further details and registration, write to the Benedictine Spirituality Center, P.O. Box 488, Cullman, Ala., 35056, call Benedictine Sister Eleanor Harrison at (256) 734-8302 or e-mail shmon@hiwaay.net.

HIGH POINT — There is a Latin Mass taking place at Christ the King Church, 1505 East Kivett Dr., at 7 p.m. tonight followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction. For more information, call the church office at (336) 884-0244.

MAGGIE VALLEY — The Cross and the Rainbow, the 3rd annual retreat for lesbian and gay Christians, is a weekend consisting of spiritual reflection with prayer, group sessions and Mass. The weekend, sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Commission of the Diocese of Charlotte, is being held at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, through Oct. 8. For details about donations and other information, contact David Ferguson at (704) 521-8911 or write to P.O. Box 12451, Charlotte, N.C., 28220-8911.

Bishop dedicates historic Asheville home for Catholic Social Services

PHOTO BY WENDY MURRAY

Bishop William G. Curlin, back left, Sr. Marie Frechette, front left, Elizabeth Thurbee, far right, and the staff of the CSS Western Regional Office celebrate the dedication of their new location.

New location carries on legacy of human rights pioneer

By WENDY E. MURRAY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — It seems fitting that the Western Regional Office of Catholic Social Services should be the new occupant of a home once owned by Dr. Mary Frances Shuford, an early pioneer for human rights.

On Sept. 20, Bishop William G. Curlin dedicated the historic landmark as the new offices of Catholic Social Services in Asheville. The dedication was attended by 130 community supporters.

"It's wonderful to have our offices in a home that can provide opportunities for others to use their talents in helping to change lives," said Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity Sister Marie Frechette, director of the CSS Western Regional Office.

Catholic Social Services' Western Regional Office, with a staff of 12 and over 50 volunteers, offers family counseling, pregnancy support, adoption and immigration services. Now, it is housed in a place where a legacy of caring continues.

Dr. Shuford had lived in the house since she was 3 years old. Built in 1880 by O.H. Henry, the house was purchased by Shuford's father, a superior court judge, in 1900. When Shuford was a child, her family's beloved African-American cook died of appendicitis because there was no medical aid for many of Asheville's black residents. This was the impetus for her medical career.

Returning to Asheville in 1943, Shuford launched a crusade to establish a hospital for African-Americans. She succeeded.

Shuford died in 1983 after a long medical career that spawned health insurance, a savings and loan plan, a health clinic and a community center — all for residents of "Stump Town," a name given to the neighborhood where most blacks resided during those years.

After major renovations, the house at 50 Orange St., a 4,900-square-foot Victorian home, has been returned to the purpose of helping others in need.

Among Catholic Social Services Western Regional Office's means of outreach, one area that continues to grow is immigration services.

"Our staff provides education on how to fill out employment authorization forms, family reunification papers and even provides assistance for someone wanting a driver's license," said Sister Marie.

The international adoption program has continued to grow markedly as well, and the office has placed more than 250 children from Russia and China. In 1993, Elizabeth Thurbee, now executive director of Catholic Social Services in the diocese, was exploring international adoptions. "She had the heart to get it going," said Sister Marie. "Domestic adoptions were dwindling, and there is always a need to help children find a home."

Growth is also evident in the counseling services provided by the office, as it is one of the few agencies in the Asheville area that offers bilingual counseling to its clients.

Some expansion into other counties is slated for the future. "I always thought the growth would be to the west of the mountains, but there is a clamor for Hispanic services to be provided in the Morganton area," said Sister Marie. "We're hoping more grants will enable us to be fully present there."

The new home also houses Lilies of the Field, Inc., a food pantry which feeds an average between 100 to 150 families a month in western North Carolina. The diocese donates free rental space for the pantry, founded by Diana Riddle, and Catholic Social Services pays for its utilities and phone.

For further information on CSS Western Regional Office's services, call Sister Marie at (828) 253-0717. ▼

BMHS graduate awarded President's Student Service Scholarship

WINSTON-SALEM — Sarah Fahey, a graduate of Bishop McGuinness High School, has been awarded a President's Student Service Scholarship by the Corporation for National Service and Home School Association in recognition of her outstanding service to the community. Announced by President Clinton and administered by the Corporation for National Service, the President's Student Service Scholarships are awarded to high school juniors or seniors to recognize an exemplary record of community service. The Corporation for National Service funds $500 of the $1,000 scholarship, which is matched with a locally funded scholarship of at least $500 from the school, a local civic group, business or faith-based organization. Fahey plans to attend Appalachian State University in Boone. She is the daughter of Kevin and JoAnn Fahey.

New St. Francis Church to host Transitus service

LENOIR — The Transitus service will take place in the new St. Francis of Assisi Church building on Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. This Franciscan celebration commemorates the passing of St. Francis of Assisi from this life to the next. All are invited to join Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott and members of the Brother Francis Secular Order Fraternity from the Unifour area. The church is located on Highway 321 North, just before Wal-Mart. For more information, call Sister Andrea at (828) 754-0286.

7 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is having a craft sale, sponsored by the Busy Bunch Craft Group, today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the church building fund. For more information, call Karen Quick at (704) 588-0326.

CHARLOTTE — The Our Lady of Assumption Ladies' Guild is having their annual attic and bake sale today from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in the church parking lot at 4207 Shamrock Dr. If rain occurs, the sale will be held on Oct. 14 at the same location. Call Teresita Staub at (704) 455-2608 or the church office at (704) 535-9965 with any questions.

CHARLOTTE — The theme for the St. Patrick School Fall Festival 2000 is "Around the World," and this year's event includes food, fun and games with an international flavor. The festival is being held today from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the school grounds located at 1125 Buchanan St. The proceeds will support school academics and beautification. For details, call the school office at (704) 333-3174.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place today at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

11 CHARLOTTE — The St. John Neumann Church 50+ Club is having their monthly meeting this morning at 11 a.m. in the parish center at 8451 Idlewild Rd. A representative from a national fast food chain is this month's featured speaker, and donations are being taken for lunch. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

12 CHARLOTTE — Bereavement Ministry Training for the fall season is taking place beginning tonight at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in rooms A and B of the ministry center on the 1st floor from 7-9:30 p.m. and continuing Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 2. This is a four-week basic training course for those who wish to support and assist the bereaved. Registration is required, so call the church office at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 201, for further explanation.

CHARLOTTE — The Fordham University Alumni Club of the Carolinas invites the alumni of all Jesuit colleges and universities to its 1st Jesuit Alumni Networking Night, held tonight at 6 p.m. in the upper room of the Tyber Creek Pub, 1933 South Blvd. The evening includes light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres, a guest speaker and a non-structured networking environment. For further information or directions, call Joe Robinson at (704) 366-3759. The Fordham Alumni Club was organized in 1997 and holds various social activities during the year.

13 BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College Homecoming 2000 weekend includes a salute to graduates from 1950 and 1975 and their 25th and 50th reunions, the dedication of the Student Commons to Abbot Walter Coggin, O.S.B., and the Fun Field Celebration held by the athletic fields with a climbing wall, putt-putt golf, food, games and music for all ages. Call the alumni office for a more complete schedule and further information at (704) 825-6889 or check the website at www.belmontabbeycollege.edu.

HOT SPRINGS — There is a retreat taking place for caregivers entitled "If I Only Had a Weekend for Myself" held through Oct. 15 at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70. The retreat is being led by Rev. Jane Curran, a Methodist minister and chaplain for Hospice in Asheville. For more details, call Mercy Sister Peg Verstege, director, at (828) 622-7366. The House of Prayer is open most of the year and offers private and Ignatian-directed retreats.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

CCHD, from page 1

lotte and the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville.

Founded in 1970 by the nation's Catholic bishops, the campaign focuses on ending poverty and injustice by effecting societal chance and empowering the poor to develop an economic and political voice.

In Charlotte, Father Vitillo's message focused on commemorating jubilee, a time of celebration for Christians across the world, but an era still marked by dire poverty for many.

Pointing to the jubilee theme of setting aside time and resources to recognize God's gifts to his people, especially the poor, Father Vitillo noted the importance of that idea in this dawn of the third millennium.

"Perhaps the observance of jubilee is more needed now — and most especially in the United States — than it was in biblical times," he added. "The pope envisioned this jubilee not simply as a time to give more handouts to the poor, but as a time to set right the relationships in society which lead to such conditions as poverty, discrimination and injustice.

"He also sees it as a time for those living in poverty to educate the rest of society about the ways to address social problems in a structural manner and to build a civilization of solidarity and love."

That vision, Father Vitillo noted, echoes the purpose of CCHD.

"CCHD recognizes that people who are poor must take the lead in creating solutions for their communities' problems, and that all of us must be engaged in these efforts," he said.

"By initiating the campaign, the bishops developed a strategy of supporting social change efforts undertaken by poor people themselves," he said. "They also mandated the campaign to educate Catholics about the root causes of poverty."

Hence the funding of some 3,000 economic and job development, community development and housing, and family and community issues projects across the United States in the past 30 years. The national CCHD office has offered more than $250 million in support of these projects, which are controlled by the poor and low-income people they serve.

While the campaign operates in the name of U.S. Catholics, it reaches out to all disadvantaged people, regardless of creed, social status or location, Father Vitillo noted.

A national collection is taken in parishes each November. A quarter of the proceeds in each diocese is retained by that diocese to fund local projects as well.

The campaign at work

In addition to thanking Dr. Barney Offerman, diocesan CCHD director, the diocesan CCHD committee and parish leaders for their commitment, Father Vitillo said participation in the campaign is healthy in the Diocese of Charlotte.

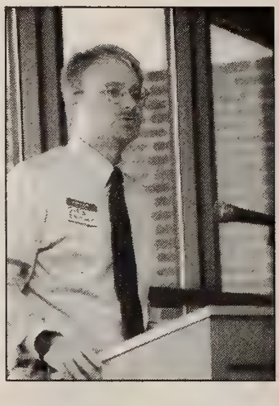
"Over the years, the clergy and the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte have been most generous and attentive to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development," said Father Vitillo. "In its 30-year history, the campaign has received $967,000 from this diocese. Another $322,000 has been retained here for local funding."

In addition, he said, the campaign has offered $1.2 million of national funding to 39 projects in the diocese.

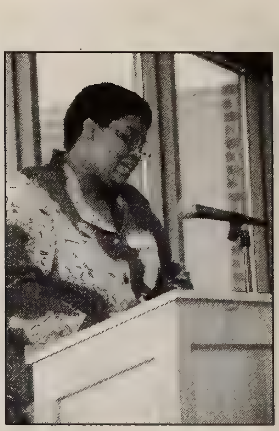
Three of those projects received grants this year in this diocese:

Mountain MicroEnterprise Fund: Two grants totaling $100,000 were announced to open a second office to support the western North Carolina organization's outreach and to open MountainMade, a store selling locally produced crafts in Asheville. Mountain MicroEnterprise operates in 11 rural western North Carolina counties, creating and sustaining jobs, providing business training and offering loans for local low-to-moderate income entrepreneurs.

Mountain MicroEnterprise, whose executive director is Greg Walker-Wilson, expects that MountainMade will have annual sales of $360,000 by its third year and that it will create 15 full-time and 10 part-time jobs while supporting local artists and businesspeople.



Chris Baumann



Theresa Williams Bethea

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Greg Walker-Wilson

Piedmont Peace Project: A grant for $35,000 will fund the ongoing operation of "Puentes," Spanish for "Bridges," a Latino organizing project whose goals are to involve Latinos in all aspects of the Piedmont Peace Project to effect social changes.

Based in Kannapolis, the Piedmont Peace Project works with and for people of many races, empowering them to stand up to injustice, inequality and lack of economic opportunity. It offers training programs assisting people of various races and classes to communicate effectively. Theresa Williams Bethea is its executive director.

Helping Empower Local People: An organization that has benefited from CCHD in the past, HELP has received a $45,000 grant to fund staff and expenses in order to broaden its Rural Organizing Project. The organization is planning to put in motion agendas for neighborhood development in low-income areas and to extend more job training for working poor people.

HELP involves about 55 religious communities, neighborhood associations and parent-teacher organizations to lead to institutional change in Union and Mecklenburg counties. Chris Baumann is a key organizer who addressed the Charlotte audience.

Father Vitillo's visit also included three visits to funded projects, MountainMade crafts store under construction in Asheville, the Community Culinary School in Charlotte and the David B. Waymer Center in Huntersville.

The culinary school offers food service training, helps workers move from welfare to work, trains them for the food service industry and offers meals to needy people. The Waymer Center is a site of HELP's Rural Organizing Project.

In addition, Father Vitillo helped confer awards to a dozen parishes with noteworthy participation in the campaign.

In both Asheville and Charlotte, Offerman noted, the spirit of celebrating helping people help themselves was electric. "You've made it a grand day here," he told the Charlotte audience. "It's really been a joy meeting you and seeing you. This truly is a gathering of friends. We thank you very much." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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St. Francis of Assisi inspires annual rite of blessing

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Lilly was right at home in the Sunday heat. The tiny lizard was one of the creatures — great and small — on the lawn of St. Vincent de Paul parish for the annual Blessing of the Animals. The tiny green lizard and her caretaker, Lizzy Martin, got a quick splash of holy water, as did a varietal menagerie of animals.

Cats, dogs, a smattering of guinea pigs, fish, a parrot and a snake were in tow as Father Richard Hanson, parochial vicar of the south Charlotte parish, welcomed the animal-loving crowd.

"We have come to together on this Feast of St. Francis of Assisi to ask God's blessing on all the little children and on all the dear pets of our households," he said.

The feast of St. Francis is observed Oct. 4.

With dog biscuits for the pooches and cookies for the kids, there was something for everyone. But the focus didn't stray as the pets came forward, one by one, for the blessing rite.

In spite of the broiling heat, the pets were quite well-behaved as they waited patiently for their blessing. "They're handled well by their masters," said Father Hanson.

While the dogs made their presence known in very vocal terms, Father Hanson introduced Patti Lewis of the Humane Society. For 22 years, Lewis' mission has led her to be a guardian for animals in the area.

Marlo, a guide puppy-in-training, wore a special jacket denoting his status as a future guide dog. His foster 'Mom,' Judy Graham, brought the six-month-old black beauty for an appropriate blessing. Marlo took the attention in stride following the blessing, promptly resting his body on the cool concrete.

The puppy's no stranger to St. Vincent de Paul — he's been to Mass, though he's prone to impromptu solos. As part of the dog's training, Graham works to indoctrinate her charge with the aspects of daily life.

While blessing of the animals and children is commonplace in parish communities, Father Hanson sees a distinct difference with the St. Vincent de Paul blessing, held in conjunction with the Humane Society. "They bring treats for the pets, for the adults, for the children. That's what makes ours special." ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Five-year-old Ben and his three-year old twin brothers, Scott and Will, take a look at family 'pet' snake, Arobot.

Jenny Boush hangs on to her puppy.

Four-year-old Tory Boush holds Daisy, waiting for the sprinkling of Holy Water.

Marlo, a guide-puppy-in-training, chills following the blessing.

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Monday, Oct. 30th — Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency — Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M., Pastoral Associate

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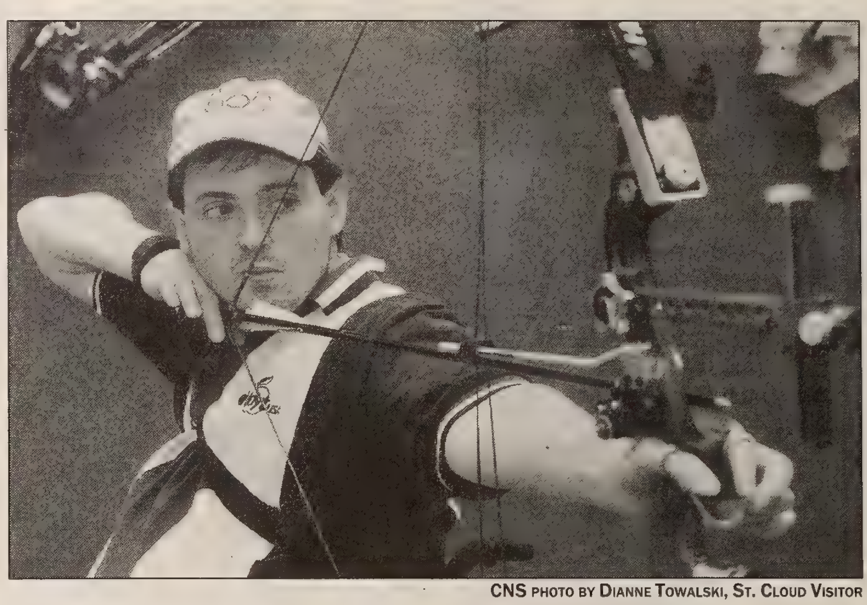

CNS PHOTO BY DIANNE TOWALSKI, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

Paralympic Games to be held in October

Archer Aaron Cross practices at Mike's Archery in St. Cloud where he works part time. He will compete in the Paralympic Games in Sydney in October.

U.S. archbishop says church urgently needed in Internet world

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — The rise of the Internet means the church must re-emphasize its mandate to make disciples, said the retired archbishop of San Francisco. But Archbishop John Quinn said the ideals and values needed by society will be best learned not through the Internet, but offline in churches, mosques, temples and synagogues. "In the new world of the Internet, the church will be more necessary than ever," Archbishop Quinn said in a keynote talk that kicked off the four-day Assembly 2000 of the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Australian priest achieves 'personal goal' at Olympics

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Father Rex Hackett, parish priest of Casino, in the north of New South Wales, said he achieved a "personal goal" attending the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. The emotion of the Opening Ceremony was unforgettable, said the priest, who held tickets to 16 events. "I was eight rows from the front, and the atmosphere was electric," he said. "When the united Korea team entered, the whole stadium roared as one. It was the same when the East Timorese entered, 110,000 voices shouting their approval for this new nation."

Carmelite nun receives annual Cooke Right to Life Award

NEW YORK (CNS) — Carmelite Sister M. Aloysius McBride, who directed the Cardinal Cooke Guild until her retirement last year, received the guild's annual Cardinal Cooke Right to Life Award Sept. 19. Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York presented the award at the guild's annual luncheon at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Sister McBride, who said her family brought her to the Bronx at the age of 12 from their native County Tyrone in Northern Ireland, was named by the late Cardinal John J. O'Connor to direct the Cooke Guild when he launched the cause for Cardinal Terence J. Cooke's canonization in 1984.

'Titans' actress sees value of all-girls Catholic education

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Lourdes Benedicto, one of the cast members in NBC's new prime-time soap opera "Titans," knows the value of a Catholic education. Benedicto went from kindergarten through her senior year of high school at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Manhattan. Her parents may have hoped she would follow in their footsteps and become a doctor, lawyer or businesswoman, but she chose acting. "Just being in a same-sex school for 13 years empowers a woman to be not only independent but strive for whatever she wants in life and look for (it)," Benedicto said.

Catholic, only female Olympian from Pakistan, faces obstacles

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — A Catholic woman is the only female athlete on the Pakistan team competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Shazia Hidayat, 20, a middle- and long-distance runner from a village near Chichawatni, a small town about 220 miles south of Islamabad, said she had to overcome big obstacles to become a member of the national team. "My father, a teacher, always supported me, but the whole atmosphere in the country is so male-dominated that everybody told him not to send me for the athletic meet," she told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Some quarters were insisting that the Pakistani team be all male, she said, recalling that the question was raised of how a Pakistani woman could race in a competition in which other women do not wear clothes that cover their body.

British church officials voice concern over ruling on twins

LONDON (CNS) — British church officials expressed concern that a child's right to life would be denied as a result of a court ruling allowing an operation to separate Siamese twin girls against the wishes of their Catholic parents. Supporting an earlier High Court ruling, three judges at London's Court of Appeal voted unanimously Sept. 22 to permit the separation, in which the weaker of the twins would die. In a statement that day, Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Birmingham expressed dismay at the ruling, saying the judgment "amounts to the direct killing of a person, whose basic right to life will be denied."

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- ☐ Civil Law Affecting Lay Ministers [Fri]
- ☐ Facilitating Faith Experience [Fri]
- ☐ Employment Issues Affecting Lay Ministers [Sat AM]
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Presenters: Leadership Team

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Presenters: Leadership Team

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- Skills for Spiritual Growth and Companioning

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Employment Issues
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Presenter: Terry Aiken, Juvenile Court Counselor, Consultant for Diversity and Sensitivity Group

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Presenter: Barney Offerman, PhD Diocesan Director, Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Note: *PART II Workshops (March 23-24, 2001) include Listening Skills, Conflict Management, Volunteer Recruitment and Management.*

Art bridges history, faith for Charlotte native

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Ellouise Schoettler describes her life and her work as journeys of serendipity, series of encounters both linking her to past generations and ensuring their memory lives on.

A storyteller and visual artist born and raised in Charlotte, Schoettler has become well-acquainted with long-deceased family members she never knew and has secured a legacy she believes will keep the stories alive for future generations.

"If you don't tell your story and name your people, they're dead," she says. "But if you name them and let their memory live, they're not completely gone."

A professional storyteller since 1997, Schoettler has also been telling tales through collages and fabric work for even longer. An interest in women's issues dating back to the late 60's and early '70s finally made its way into art.

"The path I took was through equal rights for women artists," says Schoettler of that era, during which she had returned to college to pursue an art degree. By then, she had married Jim Schoettler and had three children.

Influenced by Miriam Schapiro, a leader in the feminist art movement who urged artists to work for equal rights while remembering women of the past, Schoettler began creating abstract art pieces whose themes focused on what it meant to her to be a woman.

"I work in collage, which is bits and pieces," she says. "It's sort of natural, it seems, that I have come to work in bits and pieces of fabric, because so much of the talk in those days — and still the reality for a lot of women — is that you make your life out of bits and pieces. You're a bit of a mother, you're a bit of a career person, you're a bit of this and that.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Ellouise Schoettler works on a new collage during a recent visit to Charlotte. The storyteller and visual artist traces her roots to the Queen City.

"For me, working in collages is pretty much the same as how you put your life together, when you're trying to wear so many hats."

Schoettler continues to create and show her fabric works, using the same sewing machine she used 35 years ago to make her daughters' clothes.

"There's an interconnectedness of your living in this work," she says with a smile.

Another fork in the road

Ellouise Schoettler, the daughter of Robert and Louise Diggle of Charlotte, comes from a line of people who appreciate a good story.

"My dad's family were great talkers," she says. "They weren't particularly formal storytellers, but they were talkers and tellers — and the truth had to be varnished up a bit."

Years later, a continued interest in genealogy sparked Schoettler to begin a series of shows where she and a historian friend read poetry, letters and wills — "genealogy entertainment," she calls it. Since then she has performed solo, blending folklore, family tales and local history to tell stories that celebrate women's lives.

"What I found was that I didn't know anything about any of the women in my family history past my two grandmothers," she says. "The stories weren't lost — I just never listened, or they weren't talked about."

"Part of what I want to do with telling the family stories that I've uncovered is encourage people to tell their own," she continues. "They don't have to be special. Ordinary stories are important; ordinary people are important."

One of the stories she has uncovered involves St. Peter Church, the oldest existing Catholic Church in Charlotte. In her aunt's home, Schoettler found a piece of paper signed by Father J.J. O'Connell, a missionary priest of the 1800s who made his way through the Southeast. The paper mentioned Catherine Lonergan Cobb, Ellouise's fraternal great-great grandmother.

The Lonergans, Ellouise discovered, were among those who raised the walls of the uptown Charlotte church in the 1850s.

Aside from a few details of Catherine's life, Schoettler knew very little of her. "She had been dead 48 years when I was born," she says. "When I talk about her, I have to imagine her from the family I knew that came from her."

Hence the development of "Irish Gold." The program tells the imagined story of Catherine, whom Schoettler describes as a sad person who lost those closest to her.

See STORYTELLER, page 14

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'We need a little elbow room,' say churchgoers

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — It did not feel much like the third day of the fall season as the parishioners stood in the field under the tent awaiting the first turn of earth. The parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point gathered in the Sunday afternoon heat on Sept. 24 to celebrate the beginnings of their future church with a groundbreaking celebration.

The land was blessed, and the participants were welcomed as they watched the first stirrings at their new site. Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, made the first dig, and Franciscan Father Joseph C. Zuschmidt, IHM pastor, followed suit to ceremoniously start the construction of the new church. Parishioners gathered stones on the property to take home and pray over to lay in the foundation before the cement is poured.

"It (gathering the stones) was a commemorative gesture so that everyone could put his or her thoughts into the church, and it was a way to make everyone feel a part of the celebration," said Grace Bischoff, co-chairperson of the groundbreaking committee. "The day felt nice; there was a sense of community and excitement."

Courtesy photo

Young IHM parishioners lend a hand in digging toward their futures as they cast their child-size shovels in the dirt at the church groundbreaking in High Point on Sept. 24.

The overflow has become too much to handle with the approximately 1,000 families registered and the five weekend Masses with standing room only in the 400-seat structure. "If you don't get to 10:00 a.m. Mass by 9:30 a.m., you have to stand; it is always really crowded," said Bischoff.

The new 28,000 square-feet church, being built several miles away from the present building, will hold between 800 and 900 people with the capacity to be expanded to hold up to 1,200. The church's fellowship and gathering areas will be able to be used for additional space as needed until the hall is built sometime in the future, said Father Zuschmidt.

"The long-range goal, 20 to 25 years from now, is that everything, including the school and the rectory, will go out to the property. For now, the church is the first structure being built."

The new brick church, containing two nurseries, administrative facilities, a small chapel and a kitchen facility, will have an open and spacious feel with exposed wooden support beams, explained Perry Kairis, chairman of the building committee.

The $4.1 million capital campaign goal has nearly been met due to diocesan and parishioner support, which, Al Guecia, co-chair of the groundbreaking committee and chair of the communications committee, said, is because of the positive interaction between the members of the parish.

"What has made the capital campaign so easy is that we are a close community spiritually and socially, and there is a lot of fellowship among us. People are always willing to help," said Guecia.

Construction is scheduled to officially begin in October, and the tentative completion date is Christmas 2001. ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Program taps into young adult resource

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Young adult Catholics in Charlotte and surrounding areas will have the chance to connect with other Catholics from their generation at a newly developed series of evening gatherings in the diocese.

Theology on Tap is a program that originally began in Chicago as a way for people in their late teens through their thirties to connect and share their faith through discussions, music and dialogue. The program has since spread to the Southern area of the country and has been successful, explained Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry.

"Our program is based on the one in the Archdiocese of Chicago that moved to Atlanta two years ago. We thought it would work here because we have a similar young adult population with the same dynamics in an urban setting."

The eight sessions will be held alternately at local restaurants and churches starting in October and continuing through December. The main focus is theology and Catholic teaching in a setting where participants can ask questions that concern their age group to the featured speaker and enjoy fellowship with others.

"The program is open to anyone who wants to come, and there will be discussions of Christian-based topics with a Catholic focus surrounded by praise music," said McDermott. "The goal is to have more involvement from young adults and to invite them into the Catholic community in Charlotte and other areas."

Because of college, new jobs and new locations, many young adults find themselves not registered in a parish or lacking the support of a larger Catholic community. Theology on Tap is one way for people to gather with other young Catholics that they would not necessarily meet either during or after work or outside of a parish setting. This serves as a chance for them to establish relationships, said McDermott.

Theology on Tap is one way for people to gather with other young Catholics that they would not necessarily meet either during or after work or outside of a parish setting.

"We have people from several different parishes all over the Charlotte area planning the series, and many of them are people who are working directly with young adults in their parishes," said Jennifer Rupp, diocesan program coordinator for youth and young adult ministry. "Our job is to reach young adults and to meet them where they are. This program will offer insight into the Catholic Church, which people may not necessarily gain after confirmation."

The target parishes are those in the Charlotte area and those within a one-hour radius of Charlotte; however, anyone in the diocese may travel to attend the free sessions. The plan is to get Theology on Tap started throughout the diocese and to get vocation directors involved with young adult ministry, explained Rupp.

All sessions will be held from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Sundays at various locations. The first session will be on October 10 at Southend Brewery in South Charlotte with Conventual Father Jude DeAngelo, campus minister at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, as the guest speaker. The series concludes on Dec. 3 with Bishop William G. Curlin at St. Peter Church in Charlotte. ▼

If you are a young adult or if you know any young adults who might be interested in attending, call Jennifer Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Upcoming schedule for Theology on Tap:

October

15 Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy.

24 Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, director of faith formation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, at Southend Brewery, 2100 South Blvd.

29 Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, at St. Thomas Church, 1400 Suther Road.

November

7 Jesuit Father Lucien Martinez, parochial vicar at St. Peter Church in Charlotte, at Southend Brewery, 2100 South Blvd.

12 Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd.

21 Julie Ostergaard, associate campus minister at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, at Southend Brewery, 2100 South Blvd.

December

3 Bishop William G. Curlin at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St.

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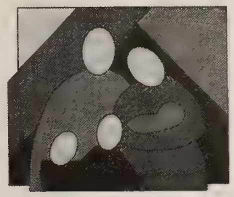
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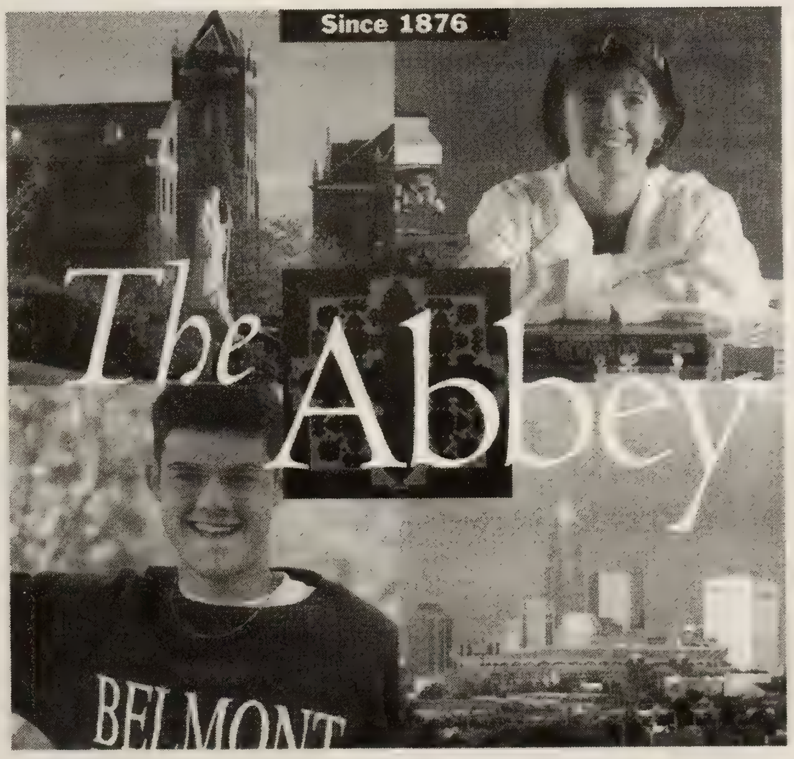

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Book Review

Novel shares conversion story, vocation in communist China

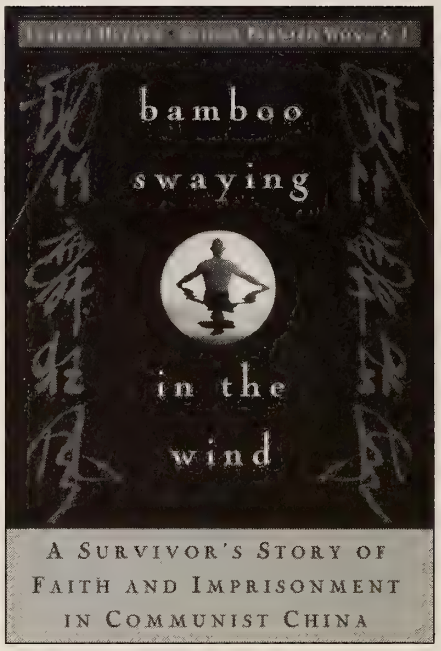
Reviewed by MAUREEN E. DALY
Catholic News Service

"Bamboo Swaying in the Wind" deserves to be ranked with Thomas Merton's "The Seven Storey Mountain" and St. Theresa of the Little Flower's "Story of a Soul" as a record of a conversion, discovery of a vocation, and an account of how a religious life is lived. But it is also a prison narrative, for most of Father George Bernard Wong's vocation as a Jesuit has been lived in detention in Chinese prisons and labor camps and in the restricted conditions of a released ex-convict.

The Chinese government arrested Father Wong in 1955, when he was 34 years old. Chinese by birth, he had been ordained a priest in Shanghai just four years before. From 1955 to 1962 he was held prisoner, without charges, often in solitary confinement. In 1962 he was finally tried and convicted as a counterrevolutionary and a supporter of a subversive organization, the Legion of Mary. He was sentenced to complete a 15-year term by serving another eight years of hard labor on a prison farm. But he would not be released even then. In all, he would spend more than 40 years as a convict or forced laborer. Not until 1991, at the age of 70, was he permitted to emigrate to California. Yet his portrait today shows a man with a broad sincere smile, "a man entirely without rancor," as a friend today described him.

"Bamboo Swaying in the Wind"
By Claudia Devaux and Jesuit Father George Bernard Wong.
Loyola Press (Chicago, 2000).
206 pp., $21.95.

The Chinese character for the word laugh is a picture of bamboo because, "It is said that a person rocking with laughter looks like bamboo swaying in the wind," Father Wong writes. "Laughing makes us happy, healthy, and strong like bamboo. I am grateful that I have been strong like bamboo for these 80 years."


bamboo swaying in the wind

A Survivor's Story of Faith and Imprisonment in Communist China

Father Wong was the first Chinese Jesuit of the California province and his spirituality is truly East and West, grounded in Ignatian exercises and enriched by his Chinese heritage. His prayer life in prison included silent daily Mass — which he called "a dry Mass" without bread or wine — a daily examination of conscience, often four rosaries a day, keeping up with the seasons of the church and occasionally completing an Ignatian retreat with four weeks of spiritual exercises.

Father Wong's fellow Jesuits thought he had been too traumatized by his experiences to set them down in writing after he was permitted to emigrate to California. But his co-author, Claudia Devaux, has given voice to an extraordinary narrative of suffering and triumph from a little-known period. This portrait glows with Father Wong's gentle optimism, sincere faith, humble kindness.

"The world needs thousands of books like this one," said the famous Chinese human rights activist Harry Wu, who also spent years on Chinese prison labor farms for thought crimes. I couldn't agree more. ▼

Daly is an associate editor in the special projects department of Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

October 8, Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Genesis 2:18-24
Psalm 128:1-6
2) Hebrews 2:9-11
3) Mark 10:2-16

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

This weekend's readings show us that God, in his kindness, gave us special human relationships so we could understand his love for us. But knowing that our nature will bring trials to those relationships, he warns us not to let our selfishness destroy them.

My own experience of marriage has shown me God's grace in relationship. Despite our best efforts to ignore God's bidding in all aspects of our lives back then, he somehow managed to join my husband and me together in marriage.

Today, 28 years later, we shake our heads in amazement and thanksgiving. We dated only three months before we got engaged. (I had never dated anyone longer than three months before.) Tommy was only a year past a discomfiting experience of Vietnam. We had not met each other's families. We had grown up in different Christian denominations but never talked about church or God.

I guess the reasons we decided to get married were these: physical attraction, common interests and we each figured it was about time.

Understand: We were very much "in love" and excited about the prospects of married life together. We just hadn't thought it through. Now, through the long lens of retrospect, we can see that God definitely chose us for each other. Even though in our early years we were not attuned to God's presence in our marriage, he placed in us a commitment to work through our difficulties together. For us there was no other option.

As we both grew in faith, we were strengthened in this because our marriage now was based on our trust that the Lord had indeed joined us together with good reason, which became obvious in the many blessings of our life together and the growth of our love for each other. We know that many marriages are not of God's choosing, and thankfully our church provides the marriage tribunal and the annulment process to reconcile those cases.

My husband and I are forever awed that God graciously brought us together when we weren't even paying attention. We just think, "Whew!" Nevertheless, all human relationships of God's choosing — including family, friendship and community — require care and commitment to love one another.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 1 - 7, 2000

Sunday, Numbers 11:25-29, James 5:1-6, Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48; **Monday (Holy Guardian Angels)**, Job 1:6-22, Matthew 18:1-5, 10; **Tuesday**, Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23, Luke 9:51-56; **Wednesday (St. Francis of Assisi)**, Job 9:1-12, 14-16, Luke 9:57-62; **Thursday**, Job 19:21-27, Luke 10:1-12; **Friday (St. Bruno)**, Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5, Luke 10:13-16; **Saturday (Our Lady of the Rosary)**, Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-16, Luke 10:17-14

Readings for the week of Oct. 8 - 14, 2000

Sunday, Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16; **Monday (St. Denis & Companions)**, Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday**, Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday**, Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday**, Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday**, Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday (St. Callistus I)**, Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28

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CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

NBC to bring Old Testament to life

Jacqueline Bisset stars as Sarah in the miniseries "In the Beginning" to air this fall. It is expected to air on a consecutive Sunday and Monday during the November ratings sweeps period. And, contrary to the customary focus on women in such projects, the miniseries will be structured along the lives of the patriarchs of Jewish life.

USCC sponsors 'Faith on Film' festival in NY

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As part of Jubilee Year 2000 activities, the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting will host a film festival Oct. 13-14 in New York City.

The theme of the seven films slated for showing is "Faith on Film: Stories of Christ and Christians."

The festival, to be held at the Clearview Cinema in Manhattan, is being underwritten by the bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign.

Gerri Pare, director of the USCC film office, said the festival seeks to explore film depictions of Jesus and to examine his legacy as seen through the cinematic art form.

Movies scheduled for the afternoon of Oct. 13 are: "The Gospel According to St. Matthew" (1964), "Godspell" (1973), and "Black Robe" (1991). A panel discussion will feature four film authorities: Paul Baumann of Commonweal, Jesuit Father James Martin of America, Rod Dreher of Our Sunday Visitor, and Eva Stadler, a professor at Fordham University in New York.

Movies to be shown Oct. 14 include "King of Kings" (1927), "A Man for All Seasons" (1966), "Nazarin" (1958), and another still to be named. Participants in that day's panel discussion will be Dreher, Father Bob Lauder of St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y., Eleanor O'Sullivan of the Gannett newspapers, and Henry Herx, former head of the USCC Office for Film and Broadcasting. ▼

Get more information or register for the festival by phoning the Office for Film and Broadcasting toll-free at (888) 363-7440, or by visiting its Web site at www.nccbuscc.org/fb.

TV special explores the popularity of St. Therese of Lisieux

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — "Therese: Living on Love," an hourlong program to be aired on NBC stations across the country after Oct. 11 (check local listings) movingly explores the extraordinary popularity of St. Therese of Lisieux.

During a four-month exhibition in the United States as part of its worldwide tour, the relics of St. Therese drew an estimated 1 million people. The central question the succinct program asks is, why? Why is there so much ado about dry bones? The answer is a complicated one.

Throughout the program, individuals — from secular reporters to Carmelite priests and nuns to the average person — attempt to comprehend St. Therese's attraction and explain it. One priest aptly describes it as being not about her bones, but about her spirituality and her accessibility as an ordinary person who did small things greatly.

Touching the plastic encasement that surrounds the ornate wooden reliquary containing shards of St. Therese's bones in some ways made people feel close to her, as if one were "actually meeting her," describes one person. In fact, many who visited the relics felt strong emotions, some finding it difficult to put into words what they felt.

The program also explores the meaning of relics in a spiritual context. It conveys that relics, as religious symbols, bring a feeling of intimacy, a knowledge that the saint was at one time among the living, and that they are somehow present now. Physically touching the reliquary gives some a powerful connection with the saint.

"Therese: Living on Love" also faces the issue that some view the relics as a kind of talisman, with hopes of miraculous cures and succor for specific problems. But it does not delve too deeply into this aspect, leaving viewers to make up their own mind about that perspective.

The program also offers a brief look at the person of Therese. Born in 1873, at the time of the Industrial Revolution and impressionistic painting, St. Therese is described as the "accessible saint." Her views of God as a merciful father ran contrary to the Jansenistic view prevalent at the time, where it was believed that one's lot in life was to suffer. She was a practical joker who loved to laugh and a great mimicker; but above all she stressed God's mercy and love.

Through coverage of the relics tour, interviews and vintage photographs, "Therese: Living on Love" aspires to explain St. Therese's popularity. But it does not pretend to find a definitive answer; instead, it offers many.

Appropriate for adults and adolescents, for whom St. Therese is a perfect role model, the program is quality family fare. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for film and Broadcasting.

"Therese: Living on Love"
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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope meets with, reassures Reformed leaders on ecumenism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After an alliance of Protestant churches criticized a Vatican document as "ecumenically insensitive," Pope John Paul met with alliance representatives and underscored the Catholic Church's commitment to improving ecumenical relations.

"The commitment of the Catholic Church to ecumenical dialogue is irrevocable," he told members of a formal dialogue commission of Catholics and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches meeting Sept. 13-19 outside Rome.

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches said it had considered canceling that meeting after the Vatican released a document Sept. 5 reiterating church teaching that the "church of Christ ... continues to exist fully only in the Catholic Church."

The declaration, titled "Dominus Iesus: On the Unicity and Salvific Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church," said some Christian denominations — those without a Catholic-recognized Eucharist and ordained ministry — are not "properly speaking churches."

Setri Nyomi, general secretary of the Geneva-based World Alliance of Reformed Churches, expressed "dismay and disappointment" with the declaration and said it "seems to go against the spirit of Vatican II, as we understand it."

In a Sept. 8 letter to Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, Nyomi said the alliance interpreted the document "as part of a sustained effort by Catholic conservatives to deny the growing relationship and respect between and among the different ecclesial communities."

He said the alliance had considered canceling further dialogue with the Catholic Church "until we are sure of where we stand in our relationship," but instead decided to bring these concerns to the September meeting.

Pope John Paul greeted the commission members Sept. 18 as "dear friends" and said the commission's dialogue "has already led to significant results." He said a significant part of theological dialogue was to clarify "our respective positions and explore the reasons for our differences."

"Our dialogue then becomes an examination of conscience, a call to conversion, in which both sides examine before God their responsibility to do all they can to put behind them the conflicts of the past," he said.

"At that point, the Spirit fills us with a yearning to confess together that 'there is one body and one spirit, ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all,'" the pope said. "We feel this as a duty, as something that must be done so that 'the world may believe.'"

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches is a fellowship of 215 Congregationalist, Presbyterian, Reformed and United churches, which claim a total membership of 75 million Christians in 106 countries.

The alliance formed a dialogue commission with the Catholic Church in 1970. The current phase of dialogue has as its theme "the church and the kingdom of God."

Editor's Notebook

JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Silent passing

Carmen lived 94 full years on this earth. She died a widow, childless, without any close relations, estranged from the Church she loved.

Recently, I had the opportunity to walk through her home. It's a strange thing to see someone's life laid out on a series of tables, all items marked with tags, pricing out the treasures of a lifetime.

Carmen and her late husband lived five houses away from the childhood home where my parents still live. As my mother and I walked towards Carmen's home, I thought out loud that it must be a good thirty years since I'd been inside the house we approached on this eerily overcast day. What I recalled, I said to my mother, was the distinct aroma of Carmen's house. Neither pleasant or unpleasant, but what — I rationalized as a child — was just the way an older person's house smelled like.

Carmen, as it turns out, was devoutly Catholic, to the degree she'd considered religious life as a young woman in the late 1920s. As fate would take her, she met her to-be husband, changing that possible path in life.

Carmen and Harry married in the 1940s. Her first [and only], his second marriage. Somewhere along the line, Carmen was told that in light of Harry's previous non-annulled marriage, she could no longer be of welcome to receive the sacraments. No talk of tribunals, no discussion of how to reconcile this dilemma in the pre-Vatican II church.

Carmen lived a life under a shroud. For the better part of her lifetime, she felt unable to fill her appetite for the nourishment of the sacraments.

Somehow, she reconciled herself to church in the shadows — Mass with a sign of peace, but without the sacramental body and blood.

She died in this Jubilee year. A priest officiated at her memorial service. She was a stranger to him. He graciously encouraged her friends and neighbors to stand and share memories of this demure, yet complicated woman. This priest, alien to her Protestant friends, warmly welcomed them as they shared various stories of her kindness and particularly her love of gardening, and her love for the Church.

Back with my mother, we walked through the jalousie door, and the smell smacked just as strong as it might have back in the late 1960s. That familiar musty, metallic smell.

Her late husband was a civil engineer, whose work took him frequently to the Middle East. Their home was filled with trinkets and treasures, memories of his travels; specifically, copper and brass. I finally understood the metallic aroma.

Wandering room to room, I saw the external traces of Carmen's faith in virtually every room. Crucifixes on walls, small crosses buried in boxes that contained sewing items. Daily missals on the shelves. Her personal Bible. Statues of the Virgin and Child. Over the living room mantel, a beautiful print of the interior of a basilica. It had a very familiar look. With closer inspection, I saw the images of Franciscan priests and quickly recognized the Italian Basilica of St. Francis. We took the picture from the wall and moved it from its dark recesses into the light. Sure enough, the bottom corner noted the Assisi basilica with a turn of the century date.

I purchased a couple remembrances at the estate sale. The basilica print being too rich for my pocketbook, I settled on an intricately hammered Iranian copper plate depicting an unusual, but seemingly typical Middle Eastern farmer plodding along behind his donkey. And from her kitchen, a delft-blue print, a chart of cooking with herbs. It was one of those prints with the right colors with just a hint of Provencal France. I carried the framed print to the dim light filtering through the window. In tiny type, the 1948 reproduction noted it was printed for the Herb Society of the National Cathedral of Mount Saint Albain in our nation's capital. Even in the most obscure places, traces of her beloved church. For me, appropriate keepsakes from her home.

Carmen lived a life under a shroud. For the better part of her lifetime, she felt unable to fill her appetite for the nourishment of the sacraments.

Ironically, her death is a paradoxical testament to her devotion to — yet distance from — the Church. In the end, however, it would be a priest to lay her to rest: Sending her home. To the open arms of the Lord.

Jubilee Days in October

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Jubilee for Life (USA)
October 3
Day of Jewish-Christian Dialogue
October 4
Jubilee of Environment (USA)
October 8
Jubilee of Bishops
Dedication of 3rd Millennium to Mary
October 14-15
International Family Celebration in Rome
October 20-22
International Missionary Congress
World Mission Sunday
October 29
Jubilee of Sports
Jubilee of Youth (WYD USA)

We welcome your comments and letters.

Please send your Letters to the Editor to:
Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald,
1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203
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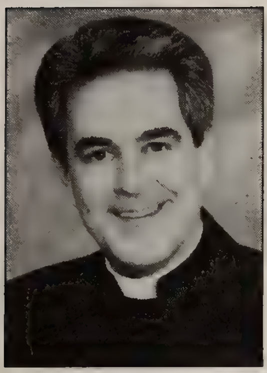
Faithful Citizenship

"We urge the United States to pursue ... more concerted efforts to ensure the promotion of religious liberty and other basic human rights ... [and] more consistent financial and diplomatic support for the United States, other international bodies, and international law."

— U.S. Catholic Bishops' Administrative Board, "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium"



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Driver, the White House!"

Of all the gifted and caring people I've had the joy to meet, no one quite compares to the uniqueness of character embodied in my friend and hero Monsignor George Higgins.

You may have seen a photo of him recently at the White House where President Clinton honored him with America's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom. George, as he prefers to be called, has been this nation's chief "labor priest" for the greater part of his 84 years. And there is no slowing him down.

He served for thirty-six years in the Social Action Department of the U. S. Catholic Conference, twenty-five as its director. Since his "retirement" in 1980, George has remained deeply involved in social issues and labor relations here and abroad. In addition to teaching at The Catholic University of America in D.C., he served as chair of the United Auto Workers' Public Review Board and the United Farm Workers' Martin Luther King, Jr. Fund. His nationally syndicated column, The Yardstick, continues to argue for the enduring relevance of organized labor and the supporting role of the Catholic Church.

In season and out, he has vigorously grabbed hold of Catholic pro-labor teaching and cogently made the case for the God-given rights of average working people. In spite of a couple of knee and hip surgeries, George manages to keep a schedule that would daunt many younger folks. So it was pure luck that I managed to snag him for dinner while in D.C. a week after he received the Medal of Freedom.

When I drove in to pick him up at the campus priests' residence where we had first met 12 years ago, a torrential thunderstorm let loose, cascading rain down the steep flight of steps he would have to travel. But before I could get out of the car, there he was with cane and umbrella doggedly descending the stairs. His surgical treatments had obviously put a spring back into his step.

Shortly we had two more friends on board, and were happily hydroplaning to our favorite Italian restaurant in nearby Virginia. Once settled, I was eager to know George's thoughts about the White House ceremony. I knew his self-effacing manner wouldn't allow for an ounce of self-importance, so after admitting he was indeed "grateful," he quickly got to the thing that pleased him most.

With a playful glint in his eye, George explained how each of the 15 honorees was permitted to invite only seven personal guests. "So, of course, there was my sister, Father Bob Friday and friends from CUA and . . ." he beamed, "my taxi driver!"

"Your taxi driver?" we chimed in unison.

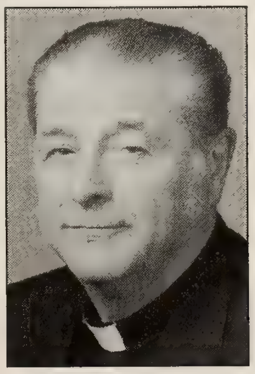
"Why certainly! Sylvester Judd! He's been driving a taxi for over 40 years. He's a convert, you know, and ushers at Saint Al's on North Capitol where a Jesuit friend put us in touch with each other.

"It is close to impossible to get a cab where I live. So for the past four years since I stopped driving, Sylvester's been carting me around two or three times a week. He helps walk me in and out of the airports and such. It's amazing how well he does for a 70-year-old guy!"

That' s my hero! George and Sylvester really are two of a kind: honest workers facing each day with dignity and purpose. That, indeed, is something worth honoring and imitating.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

What is the Communion of Saints?

Q. I hope you can help me with a question from my young nephew. He recently lost his grandmother, and has been quite upset.

At the funeral I told him he would see his grandmother someday, and that until then she would be looking out for him. I understand this is what the "communion of saints" is about, but I'm not sure.

Does this mean the "living" have some kind of bond with the "dead"? That there is some contact between us? My nephew is 10 years old.

A. That is exactly what the doctrine of "communion of saints" is all about; not only that there is a bond, in Christ, between us who are still on our earthly pilgrimage, but that this bond extends beyond death.

The reference to the communion of saints is found in the Apostles' Creed before the year 500, but it was already spoken of in the Eastern Churches before that.

The doctrine is founded on the truth that the Church of Jesus Christ is a fellowship, a communion of members that is formed by the Father, in Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit. This communion is a gift of love and grace from the Father and the Son, with the Spirit forming a fellowship of those who receive that love and grace (2 Cor. 13:13).

For this reason, the communion that is formed is not broken by death. It continues as a living intercourse between us on earth and those who have gone into eternity before us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting the Vatican II "Constitution on the Church" ("Lumen Gentium"), puts it quite explicitly and beautifully: "So it is that the union of wayfarers with the brethren who sleep in the peace of Christ is in no way interrupted, but on the contrary, according to the constant faith of the church, this union is reinforced by an exchange of spiritual goods (49).

Just as the interaction of the communion of Christians here on earth helps us come closer to Christ, so our communion with those in heaven joins us together with Christ, from whom flows all "grace and the life of the people of God" ("Lumen Gentium," 50).

So you are on the right track with your nephew. This interplay of support and fellowship with those who have died — with his grandmother — should be a source of genuine consolation and encouragement for him, as it should be for all of us.

God has told us all this is true. He has obviously not, however, given us the details of how he makes it all work out. But those are not necessary.

All we need do, as St. Paul reminds us, is to lovingly bear with one another, with humility, gentleness and patience, to preserve that communion of peace which the Spirit has brought about.

When we do that, the bond, the connection of love, is made more fruitful, not only between us who are still "on the way," but also between us and those who are already with God in eternity (Eph. 4:1-4).

Questions may be sent to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

Part I: Human Dignity

Principles, once internalized, lead to something. They prompt activity and direct choices.

The point of laying out principles of Catholic social thought is to clarify the basis for action, social action, on the part of Catholic believers.

Catholics are called to live their faith in the world, to translate their "credenda" (what must be believed) into an "agenda" (what must be done).

A wise, witty observer of the human condition once remarked that the trouble with the world is that "the people who do all the thinking never act, and the people who do all the acting never think!"

Thinking Catholics, once they realize that the church's social teaching is an essential part of their faith, must face up to the challenge of putting legs under their beliefs — "walking the talk," as the saying goes — and doing something to reduce obstacles to the coming of Christ's kingdom of justice and peace.

No one believer has to be active on all fronts. But the community of believers, in the sum of all its wonderful parts, must act for justice, and each believer has a share in this responsibility.

The cornerstone, the foundation of the entire body of Catholic social doctrine is human dignity.

Every human being is created in God's image. Every person — regardless of race, sex, age, health, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, employment, economic or social status, intelligence, achievement or any other differentiating characteristic — has inherent dignity and is worthy of respect.

It is not what we do or have that gives us a claim to respect. Being human establishes our dignity. In the Catholic view the human person is never a means, but always an end.

Catholic social teaching begins with the human person, but does not end there. For in emphasizing individual human dignity the church does not endorse individualism, a term that suggests imbalance, an overemphasis on the individual to the neglect of the larger community.

The recently observed Labor Day provides a useful context for considering the principle of human dignity.

— Work is for the worker, not the other way around.

— Capital is for the human person, to be used in producing goods and services for the use of others in the human community. Capital never should consume the human person.

Labor and capital interact for productive purposes, but human persons must never be ground under on the road to economic "progress."

Catholic social teaching endorses and supports the right of workers to organize. There is a proper role for free trade unions in giving labor a voice in wages and working conditions. Substandard wages, unsafe and inhuman working conditions constitute an assault on human dignity.

Exploitation of workers, discrimination in

SEE HUMAN DIGNITY, PAGE 15

Storyteller, from page 7

In researching her family, she discovered the significance of the church to those earlier generations. "I began to imagine a very small community that lived close to St. Peter's," she adds. "I began to see how important that church had been."

> "This serendipitous journey has got to be the work of the Holy Spirit."
>
> — *Ellouise Schoettler*

Schoettler, now a resident of Chevy Chase, Md., hopes to tell the story in that church someday.

She continues to teach a class called "Telling Your Family Stories" and performs a variety of storytelling programs in her travels.

"What I'm trying to do," she says, "is universalize my ordinary women so that you can hear my story and somehow have an insight into someone in your family — and, in turn, decide that you really need to tell *your* story."

Blending art and faith

"I've always felt that in my work, prayer is so close to the creative process," says Schoettler, whose works include illustrations published in "Witnessing the Holy Land: A Pilgrimage in Image and Word" (Paulist Press, 1999). "When you are in the creative art, you lose your sense of time. You're that involved; you're so intent. That's prayer — when your mind has cleared and when you're really in touch with a presence."

She has developed and taught a workshop called "Journey to the Center," which she dubs as a prayerful experience with art. She also has designed workshops blending meditation and drawing.

"This serendipitous journey has got to be the work of the Holy Spirit," she says with a smile. "Art is an expression of faith, and I'm just being open to the opportunities that are placed in front of me. I'm trying to see what's there and just follow along." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

Priest visits with message of making world a better place

TRYON — Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Bill Auth, a missionary who works on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, visited St. John the Baptist Church in Tryon recently to appeal to the parish for help in the Indian villages where he works. Several parishioners visited him in Mexico earlier this year and reported that there is a definite need for continued support.

Donations were used to help with the construction of a computer room and purchase of computers in one village to help prepare students to get jobs and support themselves and their families. Father Auth focuses on education in his ministry as a means of helping people lift themselves out of dire poverty.

Some funds are used for food or house repair for the elderly poor and widows. Trained lay ministers play an important role in the parishes.

COURTESY PHOTO

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Bill Auth recently visited St. John the Baptist Church to appeal for help in the Indian villages of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where he works.

"I praise God for the goodness I see in these people and am thankful that we are in this world together," Father Auth says of those to whom he ministers. ▼

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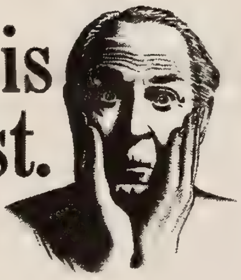

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Class in session for teachers during in-service

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Diocesan middle school and high school teachers gathered at Charlotte Catholic High School on Sept. 22 for a day of instruction on morality and moral issues. Paulist Father Richard Sparks, campus minister at Holy Spirit Church in Berkley, Calif., and a moral theologian, spoke to sixth- through twelfth-grade teachers about "Catholic Morality Across the Curriculum."

The in-service began with introductions by Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools, and, a reflection prayer led by Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor.

Using examples and illustrations from his published books, Father Sparks gave the teachers a brief overview of his talk to diocesan teachers a couple of years ago, explained how one can teach morality and the moral tradition and addressed some of their concerns about popular and modern moral topics among teens.

"One of the key teachings is how morality is as much caught as it taught; students can learn by inspiration and stories as much as being argued with or logically convinced," said Father Sparks. "All teachers in all classes can inspire, and their integrity, compassion and commitment should be conveyed to their students, which is what any good Catholic school and those in that school should do."

Sources of moral truth, making sense of Christian morality today, the Catholic virtue tradition and a definition of conscience were some of the topics that Father Sparks addressed during the morning session. The afternoon session, which concerned "hot moral topics," including racism, gender and sexuality and environmental responsibility, involved a question and answer period.

"You have a stake in passing on moral tradition, and how you view God makes a difference. For a lot of kids, you will reinforce what they learn at home, or you will be the only person from whom they can learn moral values," said Father Sparks. "You have to try to help your students build good patterns and good character in their lives and be more virtuous."

Connie Rafferty, a junior British Literature teacher at Bishop McGuinness High School in Winston-Salem, said that she would try to incorporate what Father Sparks said into her classroom teaching by asking moral questions about the characters in the plays, short stories and poetry that she teaches.

"I had been discussing with some colleagues about how do you teach character. What Father Sparks has done here is to explicitly show us how we can model the kinds of character-building traits of morality into our classes without doing it didactically, but by modeling it and looking at the issue subjectively and not so objectively," she said. "Whenever I have a literature unit of some kind, I will look for the kinds of morality that he has expressed here today."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Paulist Father Richard Sparks talks to Augustinia Father James Cassidy, principal of CCHS, at the teacher in-service on Sept. 22

Father Sparks also spoke to over 50 parish catechetical leaders about "Taking a Prophetic Stance on Today's Morality" at their in-service on Sept. 23 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

"I think that Father Sparks' talk gave them a strong sense of centeredness in Christ and the ability to trust that grace," said Peg Ruble, Central Region coordinator for faith formation. "Morality is a part of who we are as God's people, and it is a challenge every day. As parish catechetical leaders, morality is a blessing for their ministry."

Kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers gathered at Camp Thunderbird in South Carolina for their in-service also on Sept. 22. Capuchin Father Jack Racthschmidt and Gaynell Cronin presented "Sarah's Evergreen: Raising Children for Faith," and Diane Lampitt, staff member of the National Conference of Catechetical Leaders" presented "@ the Call of a Teacher." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@ charlottediocese.org.

Human Dignity, from page 13

hiring and promotion, incivility, harassment and deceit in the workplace — all these negate basic human dignity.

Individuals are capable of denying their own human dignity at work and elsewhere. Some things we do to "make a buck," get the upper hand or take unfair advantage of others are done at a price to our own human dignity.

The church's official prayer (Daytime prayer on Mondays) would have the worker — salaried or hourly, manager or anyone down the line — pray these words to the Lord: "Work is your gift to us, a call to reach new heights by using our talents for the good of all.... Teach us to live in the spirit that has made us your sons and daughters, in the love that has made us brothers and sisters."

That prayer presupposes respect for human dignity and commitment to justice every day of the year. ▼

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

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Baseball, service unite Florida and Dominican teens

By MARY ST. PIERRE
Catholic News Service

FORT MYERS, Fla. (CNS) — When five students from Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers traveled to the Dominican Republic in August, they were motivated by a passion for baseball.

But they returned with an appreciation for all they have in life.

The students play on the Florida Eagles, a baseball club in southeast Florida. For years, Eagles' president and team manager Gary Winrow had been tossing around the idea of combining baseball and community service in such a trip.

He contacted Leonardo Garcia, program/volunteer coordinator of Catholic Hispanic Social Services, a division of Catholic Charities in the Venice Diocese. The Dominican-born Garcia helped make connections in Santiago, while physicians Dave and Mary Reardon, the parents of player Zach Reardon, handled arrangements in Florida.

The Eagles had to find accommodations, get passports, raise funds to repair Dominican homes and schedule games with Dominican teams.

Garcia told The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper that three participating Dominican teams lent players to fill out the U.S. roster. "It was really more of a friendship tournament so the kids would have the opportunity to share with one another and learn about a different culture," he said.

According to chaperone Mary Reardon, a flat tire en route to the Miami airport and luggage that arrived a few days late helped students change their outlooks and realize that adversities sometimes prepare you for what's coming.

The place the group stayed had no running water or air conditioning, extended periods without electricity and one bathroom.

Reardon said she wondered how the kids would handle such circumstances. "They never swayed in their commitment, never complained and they adjusted and adapted beautifully," she said.

During morning baseball games, Winrow said he was amazed at how quickly the teens learned to communicate.

"You always hear that baseball is a universal game," he said, "but you could really see it played out when the players from two different countries got together on the same playing field and expressed genuine warmth and friendship to one another."

Garcia said baseball is taken seriously in the Dominican Republic because the sport often is seen as a way out of poverty.

Zach Reardon, 16, a Bishop Verot junior and serious player himself, said he noticed a significant difference in the attitude of Dominican players.

"They're just so happy to get a chance to be in a game and they don't dwell on the negative side of things," he said. They don't throw things after a bad at-bat, he noted, and they applaud good plays made by opposing players.

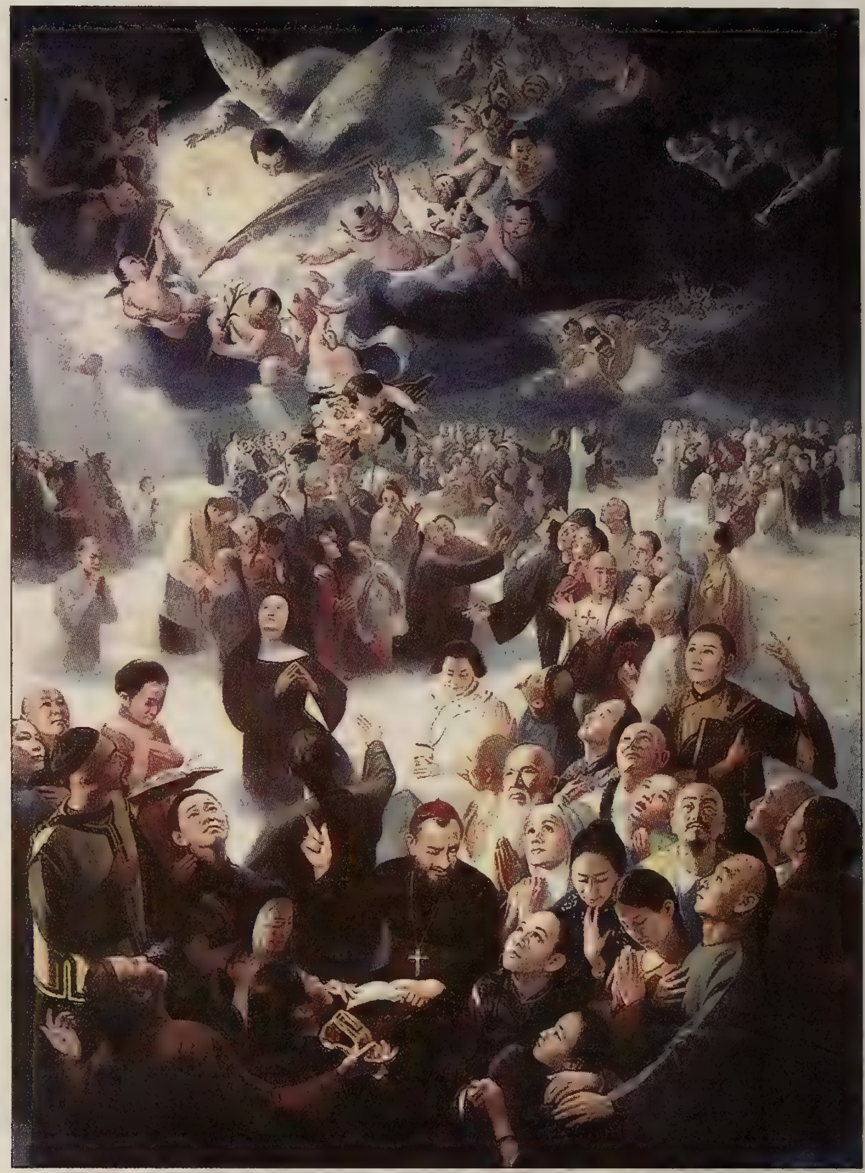
Each afternoon the Eagles' agenda changed to repairing Dominican homes, and they soon realized it would be more challenging than anticipated.

Mary Reardon said the first home was made of thin board siding on a 12-by-13-foot slab. Divided into two tiny rooms, it had no window screens or running water, and housed a family of five with another child on the way. The students enlarged the house, built a trench around it, and added new siding and a new roof.

"They were so grateful for every little thing we did and one night the people of each home came to the multicultural center to thank us," she said. "Our bus was very late. We apologized and all they could say was, 'We would have waited hours more for you.'"

Junior Mike Newman, 16, admitted that he hadn't been keen on going, but said he would go back in a heartbeat — to experience the warmth of the people and the beauty of sleeping in the mountains, and to be reminded of the importance of appreciation.

"I used to be picky about what car I drove but now I don't care and I realize how lucky I am," he said. "There is one thing I would have to have, though, if I lived there. ... I would have to have a toilet seat." ▼



CNS PHOTO FROM UCAN

120 martyrs of China

A painting by Li Chien-yi depicts the Chinese martyrs. Pope John Paul II Oct. 1 was to canonize the 120 martyrs of China who died between 1648 and 1930. Thirty-three were missionaries from Spain, France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 6, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 5

Inside

Bishop celebrates Rite of Candidacy for diaconate

...PAGE 3

Diocesan stewardship has new look

...PAGE 4

RU-486

Bishops dismayed over pill decision but resolve to fight

...PAGE 7

Local News

"Hermana" leads the Hispanic Family Ministry

...PAGE 5

Living the Faith

Lilies of the Field Food Panty testament to woman's faith

...PAGE 16

Every Week

Entertainment

...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns

...PAGES 12-13

> **"All through his childhood, Jesus called Mary his mother. When he later addressed her as 'woman,' he was emphasizing that she is not just his biological mother but also the mother of the people of the new covenant."**
> — *Pope John Paul II*

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Parish marks time with capsule

The St. Mark Church community in Huntersville gathered for a parish picnic Sept. 30, where they buried a time capsule chronicling the parish's first four years. Pictured clockwise, T.J. Rider, Tom Cotter, Brian Cotter, Ralph Wearsch and Msgr. Joseph Kerin tighten bolts on the capsule, which will be opened in 10 years.

Family Rosary Day

Rosary service tradition honors Mary

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent Church members and other local parishioners took their Sunday afternoon time on Oct. 1 to pray the rosary and to show their devotion to Mary. The 49th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day, the bi-annual service taking place in May and October, was held during this Marian month of devotion.

Since the first rosary day service held at Charlotte Catholic High School in 1976, people have gathered for a time to reflect on the power of the rosary, of which Pope John Paul II has often referred. In a statement in May at a service to commemorate 20th-century martyrs, he said, "When put to the test, every believer and every Christian community finds support and comfort in the Blessed Virgin." He has stated that his personal devotion to Mary saved his life after a 1981 assassination attempt.

During this rosary day service, which regularly consists of the rosary prayer, Gospel reading, homily, the presentation of flowers to Mary and the procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte, served as the homilist. He

SEE ROSARY DAY, PAGE 3

Palestinian state called only way to end Mideast violence

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — As Israeli-Palestinian violence increased and the death toll mounted, Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah said the only way to prevent such conflict is to create a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

"These sorrowful and painful events prove to all that there is no choice but to have justice for the Palestinian people, who must be given back their entire freedom and own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital," said Patriarch Sabbah in a statement.

"This will lead to real stability for both Israelis and Palestinians and the entire region," he said.

He urged Israel to implement international resolutions about the city's status to guarantee that freedom of religion for Christians, Muslims and Jews is respected within the city.

"The provocative visit of (Israeli opposition leader) Ariel Sharon to al-Harem al-Sharif which caused all this bloodshed shows that religious feelings must be respected and the holy places must be preserved," he said in the statement, translated from Arabic.

Sharon visited the Temple Mount, known to Muslims as al-Harem al-Sharif, Sept. 28. The following day, Sept. 29, violence erupted in Jerusalem and throughout the Palestinian Territories when Israeli troops stormed the Temple Mount, which includes the Western Wall, a Jewish holy site, and the al-Aksa Mosque, a Muslim holy site.

At the Vatican, Pope John Paul II asked for prayers for peace in Israel and the Palestinian Territories Oct. 2 as violent clashes moved into their fourth day.

The fighting "weighs heavily on my soul," the pope told pilgrims gathered at the Vatican.

"For several days the holy city of Jerusalem has been a theater of violent conflicts which have caused numerous deaths and injuries, including of several children," the pope said.

"Spiritually near to the families of

> **"What is happening is incredibly painful, especially when we were close to peace and now suddenly we are at war."**
> — *Mayor Gerias Khoury of Fassuta*

SEE MIDEAST, PAGE 14

Drop in number of uninsured prompts call for further action

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite a decrease in the number of Americans without health insurance, the head of the Catholic Health Association said efforts to continue lowering those numbers must not falter. Father Michael D. Place, president and CEO of the St. Louis-based association, commented in a Sept. 29 statement on the U.S. Census Bureau's report that 42.6 million Americans lacked health insurance in 1999, a drop of about 1.7 million over the previous year. The increase in those covered by health insurance "is countered, however, by the fact that there remains an estimated 42 and a half million persons without health insurance," Father Place said.

Rebels murder missionary in northern Uganda, MISNA says

ROME (CNS) — Rebels murdered an Italian missionary in northern Uganda, said MISNA, the Rome-based missionary news agency. Members of the Lord's Resistance Army shot and killed Comboni Father Raffaele Di Bari Oct. 1 as the priest was traveling by car from his mission in Pajule to the small village of Acholi bur, where he was to celebrate Mass and baptize several children, MISNA reported. The agency said that a nun and a catechist who were also in the car escaped unharmed. Father Di Bari, 71, had been working in Uganda since 1959 and had often spoken out against the Lord's Resistance Army, said MISNA.

Religious leaders urge use of FHA surplus to ease housing crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 400 U.S. religious leaders, nearly a third of them Catholic, urged President Clinton and other politicians to use a record $5-billion Federal Housing Administration surplus to build more affordable housing. In a letter dated Sept. 27, the interfaith coalition said, "We feel that using all available funds to end the housing crisis is a moral imperative, a sacred moment that cannot be shunned. ... Release the $5 billion in surplus funds to provide housing for low-income families and their children." The FHA is an agency of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that insures loans for first-time and low-to-moderate-income home buyers.

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CNS PHOTO FROM VATICAN

Vatican unveils newly restored cemetery under St. Peter's

After more than two years of restoration work, the Vatican unveiled a newly cleaned ancient cemetery below St. Peter's Basilica. Mausoleum F, at left, also known as the Mausoleum of Caetennius Antigonus, was one of the first discoveries during the 1940s excavations of the ancient cemetery located beneath St. Peter's Basilica.

Detroit newspaper cartoon called 'blatantly anti-Catholic'

DETROIT (CNS) — The head of the Michigan Catholic Conference and a Detroit archdiocesan spokesman have demanded an apology from the Detroit Free Press for its Sept. 26 editorial cartoon, which they described as anti-Catholic. The six-panel cartoon by Mike Thompson blasted a school voucher proposal on this fall's ballot in Michigan. The cartoon was drawn as an ad for "the amazing Vouch-O-Matic," a school vouchers machine that "slices, dices, chops and shreds cherished constitutional principles," sucks "millions (of dollars) out of public education" and "blows enough smoke to blind thousands of voters." Its final panel says, "To order, rush your tax dollars to: The Roman Catholic Church c/o Kids First! Yes! ORDER NOW!" "Kids First! Yes!" is the name of the coalition that led the petition campaign to get the voucher proposal on the ballot.

Pro-life groups make final pleas to parents of Siamese twins

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — British pro-lifers made a last-minute plea to the parents of Siamese twins not to consent to an operation that could save the life of one baby but would certainly kill the other. The parents announced Sept. 28 that they would not contest a ruling by the Appeal Court in London giving permission for doctors to operate. The twins — given the names Jodie and Mary in court to protect their identities — were born at St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, Aug. 8. Their bodies are fused together at the base of their spines, with their legs splaying out sideways. Their circulatory systems are joined together, and only Jodie's heart and lungs are functioning.

Archives of Father Henri Nouwen's work open in Toronto

TORONTO (CNS) — Research into the life and work of writer, teacher and retreat leader Father Henri Nouwen gained a big boost with the opening of the Henri J.M. Nouwen Archives and Research Collection at the Kelly Library of Toronto's St. Michael's College. The Dutch-born Father Nouwen, who died in 1996, enjoyed a wide following for his writing and teaching on Catholic spirituality, psychology and pastoral ministry. After an extensive teaching career that included posts at Notre Dame, Harvard and Yale universities, Father Nouwen spent the last 10 years of his life working with the mentally handicapped at L'Arche community in Richmond Hill, north of Toronto.

French priest organizes humanitarian aid flight to Iraq

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A French priest said he was helping to organize an unapproved humanitarian flight to Iraq because Western countries were "exterminating an entire population" through 10 years of economic embargo. Father Jean Marie Benjamin told Vatican Radio Sept. 27 that the current restrictions were killing an estimated 5,000-6,000 Iraqi children per month, according to UNICEF. He called it a "planned genocide," motivated largely by international economic interests. "The greatest enemy we need to fight is silence" about the fate of Iraqi civilians, said the priest, who heads a foundation that promotes religious art and cultural exchanges.

House passes bill to protect infants born alive

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House approved on a 380-15 vote Sept. 26 a bill that the head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life office had called necessary to counteract an "appalling trend" in the U.S. courts toward approval of killing babies outside the womb. Gail Quinn, executive director of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, had commented on the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act in a Sept. 21 letter to members of Congress. Senate passage was considered unlikely before the expected Oct. 6 adjournment of Congress.

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 9-13
Directing priests' retreat
Diocese of Palm Beach, Fla.

October 14 — 5 p.m.
Dedication and blessing of new
parish building and confirmation
St. Benedict, Greensboro

October 15 — 2 p.m.
25th and 50th Anniversary Mass
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

October 19 — 9 a.m.
Directing day of retreat for
senior parish members
St. Mark, Huntersville

Diocesan planner

October

9 CHARLOTTE — There is a new support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent taking place every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Tonight's and the Oct. 23rd meeting last from 7-8 p.m. in the St. Gabriel Church Family Room, 3016 Providence Rd. Call Ruth Posey at (704) 370-3238 for further details.

11 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is hosting a night for those who have lost a parent or those working in bereavement ministry. "Death of a Parent," facilitated by Hospice of Charlotte with Iris Prandi as the guest speaker, is taking place tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry center. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CONCORD — The St. James Church 46th annual fund-raising barbecue is happening today from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. with sit-down meals in the parish center and take-out meals in the church basement at 251 Union St. North. Sit-down dinners include barbecue, potatoes, Cole slaw, bread, dessert and a drink, and the take-out dinners consist of the same including a substitution of three barbecue sandwiches. For more information, call the church office at (704) 720-0600.

12 CHARLOTTE — Bereavement Ministry training for the fall season is taking place beginning tonight at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in rooms A and B of the ministry center on the 1st floor from 7-9:30 p.m. and continuing Oct. 19 and 26 and Nov. 2. This is a four-week basic training course for those who wish to support and assist the bereaved. Registration is required, so call the church office at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 201, for further explanation.

CHARLOTTE — The Fordham University Alumni Club of the Carolinas

Rosary Day,
from page 1

talked about the tireless and steadfast devotion to the Mother of God by many Catholics and how people should look at Mary's example as a guide for their spiritual lives.

"[Through Mary], we see her humility and what can be gained through God's grace. She teaches us what it means when God comes to a person, and that person makes a gift of self," said Father Kauth. "She is an example of what it means to be receptive to Christ."

The idea for the International Rosary Day originated in 1976 from Joseph Sherry, a California man, who wanted to pray for the social and spiritual welfare of people worldwide. So, on the first Sunday in May and October, participants say the rosary at the same time around the world in countries such as Ghana, Ireland, New Zealand and Canada at 7 p.m., Greenwich mean time, which means 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time and 10 a.m. in Alaska and Hawaii.

"Devotion to Mary is overwhelming and uplifting and reminds us all that Christ honored Mary, and we should do the same," said Dan Ohlhaut, a St. Patrick Cathedral parishioner, who brings his family to participate and said that it helps his four young children to see fellow Catholics praying and honoring Mary.

The rosary has its origins in the 12th century, reportedly deriving from the Dominicans. Because of a Christian military victory from a focused continent-wide prayer of the rosary in late 1500s Europe, Pope Gregory XIII later declared the first Sunday in October to be the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary to commemorate the battle and reflect on devotion to Mary.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Parishioners of all ages joined in prayer and reflection at the 49th Semi-Annual International Rosary Day Service at St. Vincent Church in Charlotte on Oct. 1.

Kathleen Hoefling from St. Vincent de Paul Church said, "I come from a really big family, and we have always come to the Rosary Day service. Praying the rosary has brought my family closer together in our faith. When I see my older brothers and sisters kneeling and praying the rosary, it makes me want to follow in their footsteps in how they worship God." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price at (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottedicese.org.

John Thavis of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

Faithful Citizenship

We hope the campaigns and elections of the year 2000 become turning points in our democracy, leading to more participation and less cynicism, more civil dialogue on fundamental issues and less partisan posturing and attack ads. Let us turn to a new century with renewed commitment to active citizenship and to full democratic participation.

"Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium,"
U.S. Catholic bishops' administrative board

Be men of faith and service, bishop tells diaconate candidates

"We offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to you, O Lord, dedicated to your service, to pleasing you." — from the Statement of Commitment in the Rite of Candidacy to the Permanent Diaconate

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Marking another step in their journey toward ordained ministry, eight men preparing for the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Charlotte were urged to be men of faith and service.

"You're going into this ministry to sanctify people," Bishop William G. Curlin told the candidates during a Mass Sept. 30 in the chapel of the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center in Charlotte. "Yours is a ministry that traces its roots to apostolic times, to men who were filled with the Spirit. That's what you're called to be — filled with the Spirit."

During the Mass, the bishop celebrated the rite of candidacy, the last of three major liturgical rituals in the current diaconate preparation program in this diocese.

The diaconate is one of three ordained ranks of ministry in the Catholic Church, and one whose beginnings date to the New Testament era. In today's Catholic Church, there are two types of deacons: the transitional deacon, who is preparing for the priesthood, and the permanent deacon, who remains a deacon for life.

Restored as a church ministry in 1967 by Pope Paul VI after centuries of near nonexistence, the permanent diaconate continues to thrive. In the Diocese of Charlotte, men have regularly been ordained to the permanent diaconate since Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley ordained the first class of deacons in 1973.

Considered a ministry of service, the permanent diaconate is composed of men who preach, baptize and officiate at weddings and funeral services. Permanent deacons are involved in a plethora of parish, pastoral and community ministry, focusing on works of charity and rooted in the scriptural call of Christian outreach.

The permanent diaconate's role is a unique one in the church, as it bridges both the lay and ordained vocation. Once ordained, permanent deacons continue to work in their occupations while balancing their diaconal duties throughout the week.

Men who are married are permitted to enter the permanent diaconate, and are expected to put their marriages first in their line of responsibilities. Single men are to remain as such once ordained.

The members of the permanent diaconate class of 2001, and their wives if married, are:

Scott and Kimberly Gilfillan, Pierre and Anna K'Briuh, David E. King, Gerard and Lorraine LaPointe, Alexander and Brenda Lyerly, James and Colleen Mazur, Mark and Heidi Nash, and Michael and Jan Zboyovski.

"You are entering holy orders," Bishop Curlin said in his homily Sept. 30. "The bishops, priests and deacons comprise what we call the holy orders of the church. You will no longer be laymen. You'll have the layman's privilege to be married, to have a family, to work in the world, but you are not going to be laymen any longer. You are going to be deacons of the church."

Bishop Curlin urged the candidates to seek the spiritual nourishment offered by the sacraments, Scripture and prayer. As well, he said, they should always focus on reaching out to others in Christian kindness.

"Holiness is living God's presence," Bishop Curlin said. "That's what it is all about. Make Christ the center of your lives."

SEE DIACONATE, PAGE 9

invites the alumni of all Jesuit colleges and universities to its 1st Jesuit Alumni Networking Night, held tonight at 6 p.m. in the upper room of the Tyber Creek Pub, 1933 South Blvd. The evening includes light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres, a guest speaker and a non-structured networking environment. For further information or directions, call Joe Robinson at (704) 366-3759. The Fordham Alumni Club was organized in 1997 and holds various social activities during the year.

HICKORY — A post-abortion retreat is being held at St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd St. NE, this evening at 7:30 p.m. for men and women affected by abortion, either their own or that of a family member or friend. Individual confession is available after the retreat session. For details, call Debbie or Martha at (336) 659-1342.

13 BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey College Homecoming 2000 weekend includes a salute to graduates from 1950 and 1975 and their 25th and 50th reunions, the dedication of the Student Commons to Abbot Walter Coggin, O.S.B., and the Fun Field Celebration held by the athletic fields with a climbing wall, putt-putt golf, food, games and music for all ages. Call the alumni office for a more complete schedule and further information at (704) 825-6889 or check the website at www.belmontabbeycollege.edu.

CHARLOTTE — In observance of Respect Life Month, Holy Trinity School, 3100 Park Rd., is having a Respect Life Mass and Student Life Chain this morning at 9 a.m. In addition to the Life Chain, Mary Beth Bonacci, an international speaker on topics of relationships, God's plan for sexuality and marriage, will be at the school on Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. for the public and on Oct. 19 at 9 a.m. for the students. For details on all of the events, call the school office at (704) 527-7822.

HOT SPRINGS — There is a retreat taking place for caregivers entitled "If I Only Had a Weekend for Myself" held through Oct. 15 at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70. The retreat is being led by Rev. Jane Curran, a Methodist minister and chaplain for Hospice in Asheville. For more details, call Mercy Sister Peg Verstege, director, at (828) 622-7366. The House of Prayer is open most of the year and offers private and Ignatian-directed retreats.

14 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is having their annual Ye Olde Village Shoppes Fall Craft Bazaar from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Features include Chinese and silent auctions, a raffle for a special Christmas quilt, kids' shopping, bake shop, a country store and autumn and holiday items. For further information, call the church at (336) 778-0600, Ext. 200.

RALEIGH, N.C. — The St. Francis Church Respect Life Ministry invites the Diocese of Charlotte to a seminar entitled "God's Plan for Our Family: A Spiritual Approach to Adoption" today from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the parish hall at 11401 Leesville Rd. Speakers include adoptive parents and social workers from both dioceses with representatives from the Catholic Social Services International Adoption Program. For more information, call Frances E. Moyer at (919) 846-0024.

18 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians are having their annual Pub Nite at the Tyber Creek Pub, 1933 South Blvd., on the corner of E. Tremont Ave., at 7 p.m. The night includes a buffet dinner and live entertainment from Billy Mulligan and his group and Irish singers and dancers. For reservations, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 or Helen Gassen at (704) 542-9406.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Pilot program to focus on leadership in ministry

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — A growing need for organizational management skills in parish and diocesan ministry has led to the development of a pilot leadership-training program, officials of the diocese's education vicariate said.

In a recent interview, Father James Hawker and Colleen McDermott outlined the education vicariate's plans to launch the program geared for lay ministers involved in educational outreach. The program will debut in Charlotte Nov. 3 and 4 at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center.

The education vicariate comprises the offices of Catholic schools, faith formation, youth ministry, lay ministry, campus ministry, young adult ministry, religious formation and the media library.

"In working with parish leaders and people involved with the education vicariate's offices, we were hearing common needs in terms of time management, conflict-resolution management and organizational topics," said McDermott, director of campus and young adult ministries. "In addition, they voiced needs for faith development issues as well as understanding relevant canon law and civil law."

After a year of discussions and assessing such needs, the education vicariate has developed a program led by local professionals in human resources and management, as well as diocesan personnel.

Necessary programs that teach theology and Scripture are already in place for ministers, said Father Hawker, education vicar. But to have "a more complete package" needed to be a good leader in a parish or diocesan setting, he said, one must also understand human behavior, growth and development, as well as be able to employ good organizational and interpersonal skills.

"We have begun to focus on what a leader needs from the perspective of necessary skills and approaches," he said. "The leader must enable human connectedness and human interrelations while dealing with human issues and problems. That's all part and parcel of leadership."

"One of the purposes of a diocesan agency," he added, "is to be of service to people on the local level, to assist these people in developing and nurturing their insights and skills so they can fulfill their role more effectively."

The program is based not only on the needs voiced by ministers in the diocese, but also on those competencies that should be exemplified by educational leaders, McDermott said.

One track of the program will focus on developing and nurturing a variety of skills: becoming a leader who cares and makes a difference; organizing for success; and developing an action plan for ministry.

A second track offers a potpourri of topics, including civil law and legal concerns; facilitating the faith experience; employment issues affecting lay ministers; inculturation issues; canon law; and development of advocacy skills.

A second part of the program is scheduled for March 2001. Organizers also hope the program can expand to other areas in the diocese in 2001-02.

Stressing the importance of volunteers in the ministry is also a com-

See TRAINING, page 5

Diocesan stewardship has new look

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — A silent time for reflection or song has replaced the once-familiar rustle of many of the second collections during Mass throughout the year. The number has been reduced from a total of 14 to six for the year, which serves not only as a benefit for diocesan parishes with gathering and computing monetary data, but it also provides an opportunity for individuals to learn more about the work done by those organizations benefiting from the collections.

Nearly three years ago, a committee of diocesan pastors and representatives formed to look at the second collections to see if they could be combined into a smaller number. Last year, using 10 parishes and one mission, a test was conducted yielding favorable results from contributions to the 10 organizations combined into two collections.

"By taking a random sampling of the parishes, a cross-section of the diocese, they found that the different organizations that benefit from the collections received as much as they did in the past," explained Barbara Gaddy Rohrman, associate director of development.

After compiling the results, the committee decided to involve all diocesan parishes, and this year, two combined collections were formed, one in May and on in October. During the weekend of Oct. 14 and 15, the second combined collection will benefit international and national organizations. During the week of Oct. 8, each diocesan household will receive a letter from Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, a brochure with explanations about the various organizations and a collection envelope.

The five combined organizations include: The Bishops' Overseas Appeal, which aids Catholic Relief Services, the Office of Migration and Refugee Services, the Holy Father's Relief Fund and the Department of Social Development and Peace; the Collection for the Holy Land; the Collection for the Works of the Holy Father, or Peter's Pence, which helps the poorest and neediest in the world in nations suffering through crises; the Catholic University of America collection, which benefits the only institution of higher learning in the country with a papal charter that can grant pontifical degrees in theology, philosophy and canon law; and the Catholic Communications Campaign, from which the diocese directly benefits.

Religious Retirement, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Seminarians and Priests' Continuing Education and the Priests' Retirement and Benefits are the collections being held separately.

"This month's collection provides an opportunity to look beyond our own parishes and diocese to embrace those in need throughout the world," said Rohrman. "In a sense, it takes our stewardship to a new level of awareness." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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"Hermana" leads Hispanic Family Ministry in Winston-Salem

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — "Hermana" means "sister" in Spanish, and it is the name by which Sister of St. Joseph Joan Pearson is known in the Hispanic Community. Her name has become synonymous with the St. Leo Church Hispanic Family Ministry Program, which is recognized by city officials and area organizations as an important connection to the Hispanic community.

Lining the walls of the Hispanic Ministry Office are leadership and volunteer awards which attest to much success. Yet, Sister Joan is quick to credit former St. Leo Pastor, Father James Solari, for having the vision of the ministry six years ago when the Hispanic population was just beginning to boom.

" ... He wanted to let people know that they had a Catholic Church and to welcome them as best as we could," she says of the priest. It was Father Solari's goal to establish an avenue through which he could respond to the pastoral needs of local Hispanics, many of whom are known to have a strong Catholic faith.

Sister Joan began the ministry by going into the Hispanic neighborhoods to see how she could be of help. Humbly, she claims it was her initiative and creativity that got her off the ground. She would often simply provide transportation to Mass, as many were without a way to get to church.

"The poorest of the poor in Winston-Salem right now are predominantly Hispanics," says Sister Joan. She has connected many newcomers to existing local social services and developed programs herself. The Hispanic Ministry Office, for example, has become a drop-off location for donations of clothing and household items. Sister Joan and Roselia Carias, a Hispanic volunteer, disperse these goods in the Hispanic neighborhoods weekly.

Many Hispanics have been helped with these donations and try to give Sister Joan what money they can spare in return. Carias came up with a unique way to handle the situation. She suggested directing the money into an account to help pay the cost of prescriptions for needy Hispanic children, resulting in a children's prescription fund.

Sister Joan's contact with the Hispanic community has become unique and valuable. Because of her weekly visits into the apartment complexes for Bible study classes with children, the Forsyth County Public Library asked her to help set up a mini-library grant project in the complexes. Coupled with the knowledge that many Hispanics could not easily get to libraries and that the program would have far-reaching positive effects for the children, Sister Joan agreed to help.

A huge success of the Hispanic Ministry has been "Camp Leo." The brainchild of Sister Joan, it was designed to get Hispanic children out of crowded apartment complexes during the summer. Sister Joan utilizes a portion of St. Leo School to hold the camp and recruits many parishioners to help run it. In completion of its fifth year, it has continued with no operating budget and has relied only on donations.

PHOTO BY SUSAN deGUZMAN

Sister Joan Pearson, always with megaphone and cooler, comes and goes as usual in the Hispanic Ministry van which was donated by an area business.

The camp will receive a donation of two 15-passenger vans this year from the sponsors of the Vantage Championship Golf Tournament, which is held annually in Winston-Salem.

The camp transports and feeds more than 130 children breakfast and lunch every day. A multitude of individuals and local organizations have made the camp possible. Among the donors are the local YMCA, St. Clement Episcopal Church, Krispy Kreme Donut Corporation, the 4H Club, WXII news and the Forsyth County Public Library.

In addition to activities for the young, there are also enrichment programs for the teen counselors, which Sister Joan feels is important. Offering quality youth programs is part of the diocesan Hispanic Pastoral Plan by which Sister Joan has been directed.

Another focus of the diocesan plan has been to increase lay leadership within the Hispanic community. Sister Joan has worked to involve more Hispanics in key roles of the church, particularly with the establishment of an Hispanic committee, which can be compared to a pastoral council. She also continues to encourage vocations among the Hispanics.

Sister Joan feels that her success with the Hispanic Ministry Program has partially been due to her duration in the position. For a group of people looking for security, many Hispanics need to identify with someone who is rooted in the system. The Hispanic community knows Sister Joan, and its members know that she is there for them.

It is perhaps that in this fashion, and because of the help of so many generous individuals and organizations, that "Hermana" has been able to help so many. ▼

Training, from page 4

ponent in the program.

"In our helping folks to be good ministers, these were the issues that were surfacing," said McDermott of the tracks' topics. "And what kept coming up in those discussions was how to recruit, train and retain volunteers."

"Communication, organization and action planning become very important when you are looking at recruitment, training and retention of volunteers," she added. "The diocese has really dedicated parish leaders who so clearly have articulated a desperate need for volunteers."

McDermott hopes the program will be a springboard for ministers who seek to enhance their capability in their areas of outreach. "There are many areas people feel competent in, but in order to have success in their leadership, they should feel competent and comfortable.

"My hope is that we have enlivened and enriched parish leaders who continue to feel excited about their ministry. With this program, we hope that these ministers will be nurtured and educated, and go back to their ministries with a plan of action." ▼

For registration information, see the advertisement on page 16 of this issue.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

Pastoral Care Training

This program is designed to train parish volunteers to provide pastoral care to the elderly in retirement facilities, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, memory-impaired facilities, and homebound. Through the four-week training, volunteers will be exposed to the following concepts:

Each two-hour session held from 7-9 pm.

Monday, Oct. 9th ***Parish Ministry***	*BJ Dengler* *Pastoral Coordinator*
Monday, Oct. 16th ***Eucharistic Ministry***	*Msgr. John McSweeney* *St. Matthew, pastor*
Monday, Oct. 23rd ***Senior Sensitivity***	*Bernadette Ford* *Gerontologist*
Monday, Oct. 30th ***Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency***	*Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M.* *Pastoral Associate*

All sessions will be held at:
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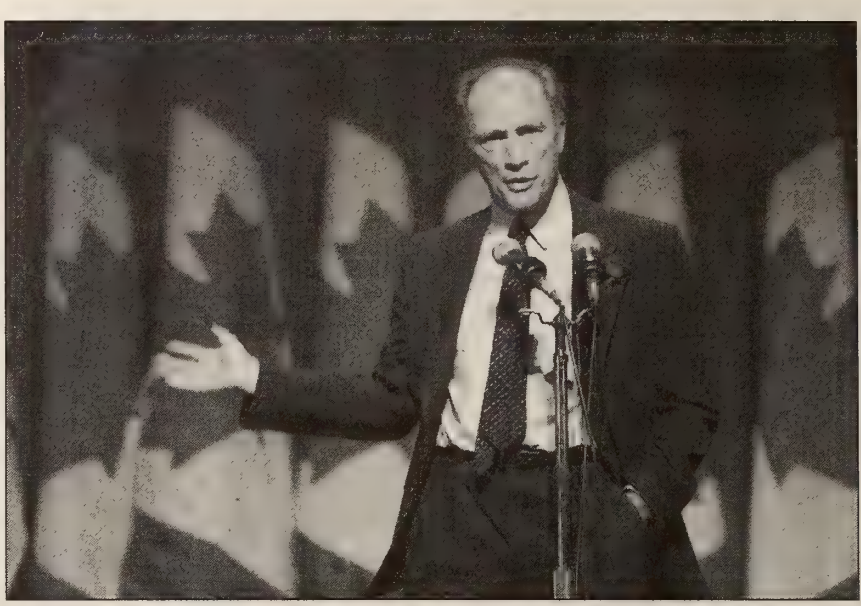
Knights of Columbus names Anderson 13th supreme knight

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — The board of directors of the Knights of Columbus has named Carl A. Anderson, 49, as the 13th supreme knight, or chief executive officer, of the 1.6 million-member international Catholic fraternal service organization. A knight since 1985, Anderson has been a member of the Knights' board and was named supreme secretary in 1999. The announcement of his promotion was made Sept. 26 at Knights' headquarters in New Haven. Anderson succeeds Virgil C. Dechant, 70, who is retiring after 24 years as supreme knight. Dechant will remain on the Knights' board.

Vietnamese priest faces re-evangelization in remote parish

PHU CUONG, Vietnam (CNS) — A young parish priest says the pastoral duty of re-evangelizing abandoned Catholics in his remote central Vietnam parish is overwhelming. Catholics of Loc Thien parish in Binh Phuoc province need to be re-evangelized because at one time they were left without a priest for more than 20 years, Father Paul Nguyen Quoc Khanh told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. "It is alarming because many of them say being Catholic or not is not important to them," the 36-year-old priest said, adding that many now practice ancestral worship. The parish presently has some 520 Catholics.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Former Canadian PM dies at 80

Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau is pictured in a 1983 file photo at a fund-raising dinner in Toronto. Trudeau, who served in the post from 1968 to 1979 and 1980 to 1984, died Sept. 28 in Montreal. He was 80.

French Cardinal Gouyon dies one month before 90th birthday

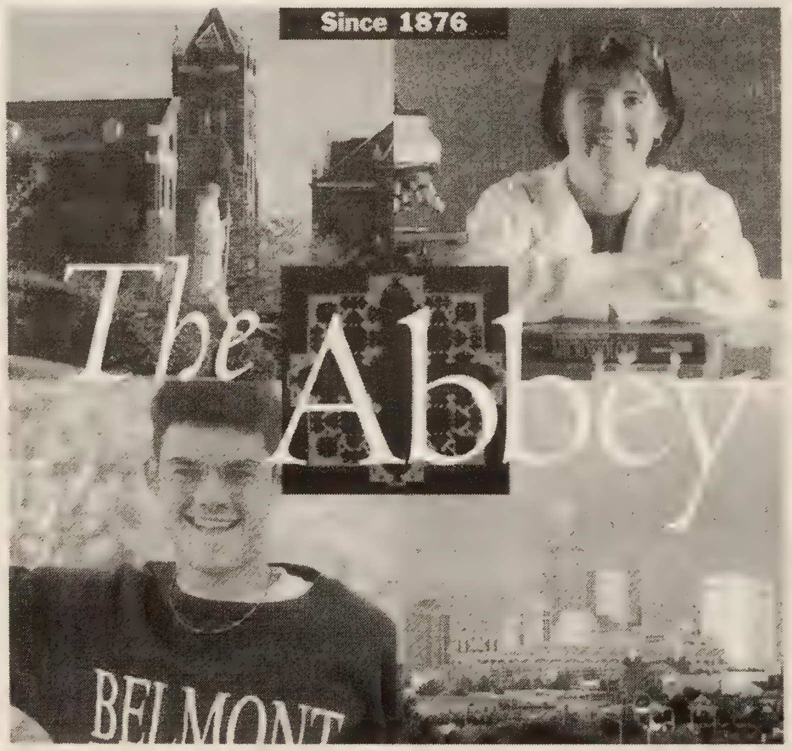
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — French Cardinal Paul Gouyon, former archbishop of Rennes, died Sept. 26, one month before his 90th birthday. Pope John Paul II, in a telegram of condolence, praised the cardinal for his "generous engagement in the service of Christian unity and of peace among men." The cardinal had been president of the French chapter of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace organization, and had led the French bishops' committee for Christian unity. He was named a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1969. At the time of Cardinal Gouyon's death, the only prelates who had been members of the College of Cardinals longer than he had were retired Cardinals Franz Konig of Vienna, Austria, and Corrado Ursi of Naples, Italy.

U.S. bishop to lead delegation to papal meeting on families

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family Life will lead a group of 36 people to represent the bishops at a special jubilee meeting on families with Pope John Paul II Oct. 14-15 in Rome. Bishop Anthony J. O'Connell of Palm Beach, Fla., will lead a delegation consisting of married couples who lead national family life associations, such as the Christian Family Movement, or who work in diocesan family life and pro-life offices. The group also will include those who work with young people, engaged couples and separated or divorced people.

Trappist known for centering prayer is new abbot in Georgia

CONYERS, Ga. (CNS) — Father M. Basil Pennington, the Trappist monk known worldwide for his books and ministry on centering prayer, has become the sixth abbot of the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers. Atlanta Archbishop John F. Donoghue presided at a Mass of blessing and installation at the monastery Sept. 8, the feast of the Nativity of Mary. Abbot Pennington was elected by Holy Spirit monks in August, following a period of discernment. He succeeds Abbot Bernard Johnson, who retired when he reached age 75.



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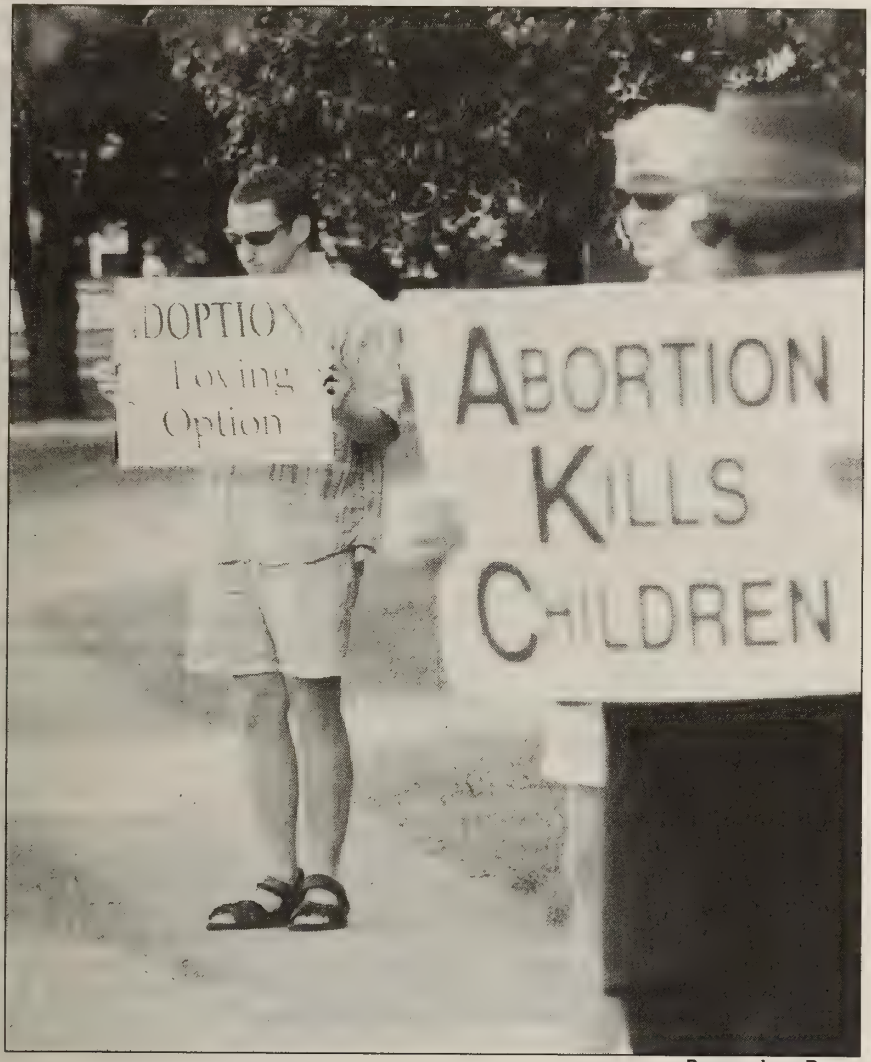

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Life Chain 2000

Christians across the nation gathered on sidewalks and church property lines to participate in the Life Chain, an opportunity to publicly give witness to life issues in a prayerful way. Pictured above are parishioners from St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

Bishops dismayed over RU-486 decision but resolve to fight

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops and other Catholic leaders responded to the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the use of RU-486 with dismay, bewilderment and a firm resolve to continue the fight against abortion in all forms.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said in an Oct. 2 statement that the FDA's decision was a setback for "the common good of our society."

The use of RU-486 "furthers the myth that abortion is a private matter without broader social implications," he said. "It advances the claims of abortion rights advocates who insist the main issue in this debate is one of individual choice, not the protection of human life."

The FDA Sept. 28 approved the use of mifepristone, the generic name for RU-486, which is used along with a prostaglandin drug to cause abortion in the first few weeks of pregnancy. It was expected to be marketed under the name Mifeprex and available in about a month.

"Never has this nation had a stronger reason to fear for the loss of its basic decency and honor," said Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York in an Oct. 1 statement. "It is time for all citizens to speak out for an abandonment of the culture of death and a recommitment to the culture of life."

Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., said he was "bewildered that the agency refused to accept much well-documented testimony about the complications that this drug can inflict on the women who may use it."

"Those of us who believe that God is the only Lord of life will continue in our quest to return our country to the values on which it was founded, despite decisions such as this which are so harmful to human life," he added.

Maggi Nadol, director of the Respect Life Office in the Diocese of Charlotte said, "Abortion ends the life of a child. Whether it is a surgical procedure or in the form of a pill, the end result is the same. A child dies and the mother is left to deal with this so-called 'simple procedure' for the rest of her life."

Virgil C. Dechant, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, said the FDA decision "marked a new low in public 'health' and medical policy" with approval of a drug "the very purpose and effect of which is lethal to human life."

"This action threatens to wither the moral sensibilities of our society still further by adding yet another dynamic to the list of abortion practices tolerated by our society even as they degrade it," Dechant said.

Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell of Lafayette, La., who was director of the first diocesan pro-life office in the United States in his native St. Louis, said he was appalled at the FDA's approval of RU-486.

"People interested in the financial well-being of the poor have often remarked on the fact that we build highways and reconstruct neighborhoods so that wealthy people traveling from the suburbs from the central city don't even have to see poverty," he said.

See RU-486, page 8

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RU-486 pill, from page 7

RU-486 "is much like that," the bishop added. "We don't have to see the grizzly aspect of abortion and so it is somehow less appalling to us. The fact is that in any abortion a human life is taken, and making the taking of human life even easier is not something to be proud of."

Among the first bishops to comment on the FDA action were Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, who said the decision represents "another assault ... on unborn babies and possibly the mothers," and Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, who said the approval signals the federal government's introduction of "another way to kill new human lives in their mothers' wombs."

"To some this may be scientific progress, but to the child destined by God for birth, it is a brutal and fatal chemical attack," Bishop Fiorenza said.

The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, public affairs agency of the state's Catholic bishops, said the FDA approval was "a sad commentary on the diminishing respect for human life in America."

"We simply can't 'make everything right' by taking a pill," the statement said. "No pill as yet can take away the emptiness that can follow an abortion or replace that unique child that never had an opportunity to take its first breath."

Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va., called the FDA action "irresponsible and morally wrong" and said the drug "is an advancement in the culture of death, not the advancement of women."

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of Indianapolis said it was "a sad irony" that the FDA decision was announced just days before Oct. 1, when Respect Life Sunday is celebrated in most U.S. dioceses.

"It is a disillusioning irony that the climate of the Clinton administration makes possible this further slide toward a culture of death while insistently claiming as priorities health care and the welfare of children," he said. "As Catholics, we continue to stand for the dignity of all human life and make it a constant preoccupation in our prayer."

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, said RU-486 is "further evidence of the total lack of regard for the health and well-being of women and their children on the part of those who promote abortion."

In a Sept. 29 statement issued in response to "many inquiries," Father Pavone said the penalty of excommunication associated with surgical abortion for Catholics would also apply to the use of RU-486.

"The Code of Canon Law specifies the various conditions necessary for excommunication to actually occur," he said. ▼

Canadian churches urge settlement of fishing rights dispute

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canadian churches and religious orders called for a negotiated settlement to the explosive aboriginal fishing rights dispute at Burnt Church, New Brunswick. The bishops of New Brunswick, several denominational church leaders, the Canadian Religious Conference and the church-sponsored Aboriginal Rights Coalition have all spoken out recently in support of the inherent rights of the native community of Burnt Church. The federal government is locked in a bitter and often violent dispute with native fishers who refuse to pull their lobster traps from Miramichi Bay as demanded by Ottawa. Nearly 1,400 native lobster traps were reportedly seized or destroyed by federal enforcement officers in recent raids.

U.S. Anglican-Catholic dialogue marks 50th session

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Marking their 50th national meeting, U.S. Anglican and Catholic scholars invited "a new generation of Anglicans and Roman Catholics ... to join in the ecumenical enterprise." The Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultation in the U.S.A. — ARC-USA — held its first meeting in June 1965, six months before the end of the Second Vatican Council. Thirty-five years later, meeting Sept 21-24 at the College of Preachers of the Washington National Cathedral, the group of bishops and theologians celebrated their long collaboration and the recent top-level proposal to form an international Joint Unity Commission to promote Anglican-Catholic reunion.

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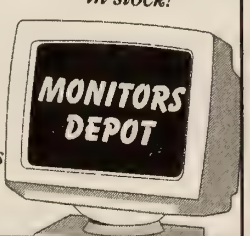

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Permanent Diaconate, from page 3

During the rite of candidacy, the candidates promised their commitment to lead, serve, teach, give witness, listen and encourage others to the best of their abilities.

"May our lives be a prayer of praise — a song of hope, so joyful, that it leads others to be renewed in you," they prayed together.

Bishop Curlin also called on the wives of those candidates who are married, reiterating that the permanent diaconate is a ministry that depends on the strength and support of the family.

In response to the bishop's question regarding their support, the wives answered in unison: "As we exchanged vows to each other on our wedding day, we also promise to support and share in our husband's commitment to the Lord. Together we begin a renewed life of service."

The candidates now enter a final stage of preparation, a time Bishop Curlin said should allow for deep thought on how to be Christ-like in their lives of service to others.

"Take this time to realize what it is to represent Jesus in this world," the bishop said. "What we need in this diocese is holy people of God. I pray that someday, someone will say about each of you, 'Thank God for that man, because through him, I found hope. Through him, I found peace.'" ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Pictured from left is the permanent diaconate class of 2001: Michael Zboyovski, Pierre K'Briuh, David E. King, Gerard LaPointe, Alexander Lyerly, James Mazur, Mark Nash, and Scott Gilfillan.

Asheville Catholic School to receive continuing accreditation

ASHEVILLE — The North Carolina Elementary and Middle School Committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools has announced that Asheville Catholic School will be recommended to receive continuing accreditation from the Commission on Elementary and Middle Schools of Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A peer review team from the North Carolina Committee of Southern Association visited Asheville Catholic Sept. 12 to interview the staff and other stakeholders, to review the school's documentation for improvements in all areas of the school program and to verify that the school continues to meet all standards, including student academic performance. The final accreditation decision will be determined by a vote of the Delegate Assembly at the Southern Association meeting in Atlanta on Dec. 4.

Dr. Veronica Bereen is the school's principal. The School Improvement Committee, which oversees the continuing improvement process of the school, includes Pam Budd, Pam Williams, Donna Gilson, Sue Banks and Mike Kerr.

Accreditation is a process of helping institutions improve through a systematic program of evaluation and external peer review. It assures that an institution meets minimum standards and demonstrates a commitment to providing quality education programs. Founded in 1895, the Southern Association has a membership including more than 12,000 accredited public and private schools in the South and in Latin America. ▼

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Book Review

New biography of Katharine Drexel marks canonization

The debutante who chose poverty over wealth, the oppressed over society,
and Christ over comfort
SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL
Apostle to the Oppressed
BY LOU BALDWIN

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Catholic journalist Lou Baldwin has written a new biography of Mother Katharine Drexel, the Philadelphia heiress and founder of a religious community to serve poor minorities who will be canonized Oct. 1 in Rome.

Titled "Saint Katharine Drexel: Apostle to the Oppressed," the 243-page book was published in September by The Catholic Standard and Times, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Baldwin, a staff writer at the Standard and Times, told Catholic News Service he was hired by the paper in 1986 to write a biography of Mother Katharine, who in 1891 founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Bensalem, Pa.

That earlier biography, "A Call to Sanctity," originally appeared as a supplement to the newspaper in 1988, he said, then was published in book form by the paper.

He said the new book does more than update the previous one. "It's twice as long and more in-depth," he said. "It carries (the story) through the canonization process."

The new biography also contains 12 pages of Drexel family photographs, as well as pictures from the archives of the Blessed Sacrament sisters.

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia investment banking family in 1858, Mother Katharine used her $20 million inheritance to found schools and missions for African-Americans and Native Americans. She died in 1955 at age 96 and was beatified in 1988.

Baldwin, 65, a parishioner at St. Leo in Philadelphia, said he has "a special fondness" for Mother Katharine.

In a news release on the new book, Baldwin said, "I was privileged to attend St. Francis Vocational School, Bensalem, founded by Katharine and her sisters, Elizabeth and Louise. This book is, I hope, a humble way of saying 'thank you.'" ▼

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 8 - 14, 2000

Sunday, Genesis 2:18-24, Hebrews 2:9-11, Mark 10:2-16; **Monday (St. Denis & Companions)**, Galatians 1:6-12, Luke 10:25-37; **Tuesday**, Galatians 1:13-24, Luke 10:38-42; **Wednesday**, Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14, Luke 11:1-4; **Thursday**, Galatians 3:1-5, Luke 11:5-13; **Friday**, Galatians 3:7-14, Luke 11:15-26; **Saturday (St. Callistus I)**, Galatians 3:22-29, Luke 11:27-28

Readings for the week of Oct. 15 - 21, 2000

Sunday, Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; **Monday (Sts. Hedwig and Margaret Mary Alacoque)**, Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch)**, Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Luke)**, 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Thursday (North American Martyrs)**, Ephesians 1:3-10, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Paul of the Cross)**, Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; **Saturday**, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 12:8-12

Word to Life

October 8, Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B Readings:

1) Genesis 2:18-24
   Psalm 128:1-6
2) Hebrews 2:9-11
3) Mark 10:2-16

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

This weekend's readings show us that God, in his kindness, gave us special human relationships so we could understand his love for us. But knowing that our nature will bring trials to those relationships, he warns us not to let our selfishness destroy them.

My own experience of marriage has shown me God's grace in relationship. Despite our best efforts to ignore God's bidding in all aspects of our lives back then, he somehow managed to join my husband and me together in marriage.

Today, 28 years later, we shake our heads in amazement and thanksgiving. We dated only three months before we got engaged. (I had never dated anyone longer than three months before.) Tommy was only a year past a discomfiting experience of Vietnam. We had not met each other's families. We had grown up in different Christian denominations but never talked about church or God.

I guess the reasons we decided to get married were these: physical attraction, common interests and we each figured it was about time.

Understand: We were very much "in love" and excited about the prospects of married life together. We just hadn't thought it through. Now, through the long lens of retrospect, we can see that God definitely chose us for each other. Even though in our early years we were not attuned to God's presence in our marriage, he placed in us a commitment to work through our difficulties together. For us there was no other option.

As we both grew in faith, we were strengthened in this because our marriage now was based on our trust that the Lord had indeed joined us together with good reason, which became obvious in the many blessings of our life together and the growth of our love for each other. We know that many marriages are not of God's choosing, and thankfully our church provides the marriage tribunal and the annulment process to reconcile those cases.

My husband and I are forever awed that God graciously brought us together when we weren't even paying attention. We just think, "Whew!" Nevertheless, all human relationships of God's choosing — including family, friendship and community — require care and commitment to love one another.

What a shame that we human beings would destroy what God has joined together. This life of relationship is difficult and arduous, but we are bolstered by remembering that God is present in the creation of a chosen relationship. If we trust, he will finally bring blessings and joy through it.

Questions:

Do you have some difficult relationship that you'd prefer to escape but know it was given to you by God? How can you help to heal it?

"Therefore let no man separate what God has joined"

— Mark 10:9

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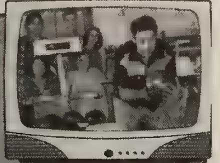

New Shows
VIEWER'S GUIDE

GOOD BETS		
Gideon's Crossing	ABC	Wed, 10-11
Gilmore Girls	WB	Thu, 8-9
The District	CBS	Sat, 10-11
HOLD PROMISE		
Ed	NBC	Sun, 8-9
Boston Public	Fox	Mon, 8-9
Yes, Dear	CBS	Mon, 8:30-9
Deadline	NBC	Mon, 9-10
Welcome to New York	CBS	Wed, 8:30-9
The Fugitive	CBS	Fri, 8-9
Grosse Pointe	WB	Fri, 8:30-9
Level 9	UPN	Fri, 9-10
Madigan Men	ABC	Fri, 9:30-10
SOME INTEREST		
The Michael Richards Show	NBC	Tue, 8-8:30
Dark Angel	Fox	Tue, 9-10
The Geena Davis Show	ABC	Tue, 9:30-10
DAG	NBC	Tue, 9:30-10
Bette	CBS	Wed, 8-8:30
The Trouble With Normal	ABC	Fri, 8:30-9
C.S.I.	CBS	Fri, 9-10
FreakyLinks	Fox	Fri, 9-10
That's Life	CBS	Sat, 8-9
DON'T BOTHER		
Hype	WB	Sun, 9-9:30
Nikki	WB	Sun, 9:30-10
Tucker	NBC	Mon, 8:30-9
Girlfriends	UPN	Mon, 9:30-10
Titans	NBC	Wed, 8-9
The $treet	Fox	Wed, 9-10
Cursed	NBC	Thu, 8:30-9

Source: USCC Office for Film and Broadcasting © 2000 CNS Graphics

The new fall TV season: PBS suggests viewers stay curious

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — With its new slogan, "Stay Curious," PBS is urging viewers to check out a wide array of stimulating programming during the new season.

Three new children's programs debut: "Caillou," "Clifford the Big Red Dog" and "PBS Kids Bookworm Bunch."

Combining animation, puppetry, live action and song-and-dance numbers, "Caillou" is about a lovable 4-year-old who explores the world around him with a child's sense of wonder.

The animated "Clifford" concerns a huge, gentle dog, who with his human family and doggy pals navigates daily life, exposing children to positive ideas such as being honest, respectful and generous.

Literacy comes to the forefront in "PBS Kids Bookworm Bunch" featuring a Saturday-morning block of segments based on popular children's books, using animation and live action to present knowledge and values. Books to be highlighted include "Corduroy," "Seven Little Monsters," "George Shrinks" and "Marvin the Tap Dancing Horse."

PBS prime time is literally off to a big start with author David Macaulay's "Building Big," an October five-hour miniseries about the construction of some of the world's more spectacular structures, including the Aswan Dam in Egypt, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and the English Channel Tunnel.

"Masterpiece Theatre's American Collection" debuts a new series of dramatic works by American authors in late October with Langston Hughes' "Cora Unashamed," about an African-American woman who risked everything to speak out about two children she loved in an all-white 1930s Iowa town.

"The American Experience" series looks promising with its October two-part examination of "The Rockefellers," dissecting their place in American history, from controversial patriarch John D. to the current generation.

Two evenings in November will look at "Napoleon," a four-hour account of Napoleon Bonaparte's remarkable life of ambition, triumph, loss and exile.

"Mystery!" opens its 21st season with an October two-part gothic thriller, "The Wyvern Mystery," while six new episodes of the popular "Hetty Wainthropp Investigates" are waiting in the wings.

"Nova" launches its new season in November with the unusual story of "Hitler's Lost Sub" while December finds filmmaker Deann Borshay Liem's tracing of her Korean roots in the "P.O.V." episode "First Person Plural."

Viewers can also look forward to such continuing series as "Live From Lincoln Center," "Great Performances, "Nature" and the "National Geographic Specials," "Frontline" and "Scientific American Frontiers."

Not to be overlooked is the excellent "Religion and Ethics Newsweekly," airing Fridays 5-5:30 p.m. EDT (check local listings), which continues to attract thoughtful viewers as it explores the issues and spiritual concerns of these complex times.

Finally, the check-your-local-listings advisory is especially pertinent for viewers in Atlanta, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Salt Lake City, San Diego and Orlando, Fla., as PBS has chosen those cities for a pilot schedule which differs significantly from the national PBS' prime-time lineup.

Numerous cable channels have sprung up specializing in animals, celebrity profiles, science or history. But for reliable quality programming none is as diverse and comprehensive as PBS, which counts on viewer support for its continued existence. ▾

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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Disaster Relief	(704) 370-3250	Programa Esperanza	(704) 370-6928
Elder Ministry	(704) 370-3220	Respect Life	(704) 370-3229
Family Life	(704) 370-3250	Voices for Justice Legislative Network	(704) 370-3225
Hand to Hand	(336) 725-HAND		
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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope offers prayers for Italian missionaries killed in Africa

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed for victims of violence in Africa, including two Italian missionaries killed in armed attacks.

Speaking at a general audience Oct. 4, the pope offered special prayers for Comboni Father Raffaele Di Bari, killed in Uganda by rebels Oct. 1, and for Brother Antonio Bargiggia, a missionary shot to death in Burundi Oct. 3. Brother Bargiggia was a member of the Friends of the Poor, a recently formed congregation from the Archdiocese of Milan.

"May the Lord welcome in his peace these faithful servants, who died while carrying out the greatest commandment, that of love," the pope said.

Brother Bargiggia, 43, was stopped by four men at a roadblock in central Burundi Oct. 3. One of the assailants approached the car, put a shotgun to the missionary's head and shot him.

The men then stole the vehicle, but two of the attackers were reportedly apprehended later by police. A young man traveling with Brother Bargiggia escaped from the car unharmed.

Brother Bargiggia had lived in Burundi for 20 years, learning the local language and living with the poorest of the poor, according to the charism of his congregation.

According to Jesuit Relief Services in Rome, for the last three years Brother Bargiggia was project director in Buterere for Jesuit Relief Services Burundi. The project was designed to help the most vulnerable, AIDS sufferers and displaced people.

A Jesuit Relief Services statement quoted aid workers in Burundi as saying the situation was growing worse by the day, in the wake of failed peace negotiations in Nairobi in September.

Father Di Bari was slain by members of the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, in a shooting attack on the car in which he was traveling, according to the Rome-based missionary news agency, MISNA.

The 71-year-old priest had been working in Uganda since 1959 and had often spoken out against the Lord's Resistance Army, a religious sect accused of killing and kidnapping hundreds of people over the past decade in the north of the country.

The pope said he was also concerned about reports of new attacks in Guinea against local civilians and against refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"In God's name, I ask for an end to such violence and for the respect for the rights of everyone, in particular those of refugees, who are living in precarious conditions," the pope said.

The pope also appealed for the release of two Xaverian priests, Fathers Franco Manganello and Victor Mosele, who were kidnapped in western Guinea Sept. 6.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Priest teaches the soul's mysterious ways

One of the most popular words thrown around in everything from song lyrics to everyday conversations is "soul." It comes up in conversation, but while we often hear various definitions of the term, serious talk about this mysterious, essential element of our existence can get quite fuzzy — unless you're talking with Father Paul Keenan.

I am fortunate to count this down-to-earth, wise priest among my dear friends. He tells one directly that the soul doesn't lend itself to any exact definition. Yet, while "we throw the term around," he knows the soul has a very precise meaning. It "is the source of our encounter with God, through which we experience true mystery and love."

In his work, Father Keenan has met many people whose lives have been shaken by hard times, people who say life crushed them and broke their hearts.

What they had in common was feeling lost, as if they no longer connected with their soul. His message to them was always definite and sincere: "We're soulful from the moment of conception. The soul is always there. It is the path to all things that are eternal."

He felt they needed to be shown that they had not lost their soul. What they needed was a new map of how to recognize their soulfulness and develop a renewed vision of their soul.

From his own pain and his work with hurting people, Father Keenan has come to see how feeling lost makes us look again at many things in our life that didn't seem important, but were. These are, he says, "wake-up calls from our soul." They make us yearn, whether we know it or not, to find "the natural path the soul takes in leading us from being lost to being fully re-enchanted with life. Lost souls are really on the verge of adventure."

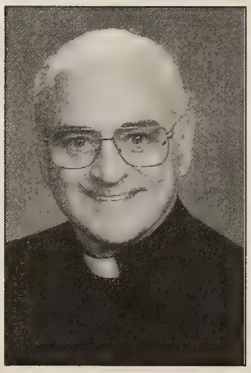
From his own search, Father Keenan recorded the stages he, and we, go through as we try to listen to the things the soul is trying to tell us, even in those times when "life seems to be falling apart."

Reading his book, "Stages of the Soul, The Path of the Soulful Life" (Contemporary Books), is akin to climbing a ladder where we grow stronger in hope, wisdom and wonder each step up. You believe this priest when he writes:

"In all things, the soul works strongly and sweetly, calling us to realize the sacredness that lies within us and our call to express that sacredness in our everyday decisions.... Once you have crossed the threshold into living a soulful life, your focus becomes the process of touching hearts and making the world a better place, and nothing else."

Many of the real-life stories he tells are drawn from his interviews with people who, from their pain and loss, found joy in rediscovering the soulful life. He is director of radio ministry for the Archdiocese of New York and co-host of WABC radio's "Religion on the Line," a popular religious news and talk program in the New York area.

Father Keenan believes that "wonder is the soul finding the eternal in a moment of time."



Spirituality for Today

FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

What is the highest virtue?

Most of us have been taught to believe that unselfishness is the highest virtue. But unselfishness is a negative term that has more to do with giving up things than with love itself.

Unselfishness is not the highest virtue. Love is the highest virtue.

C.S. Lewis explains the difference: "You see what has happened? A negative term (unselfishness) carries with it the suggestion not primarily of securing good things for others, but of going without them ourselves, as if our abstinence and not their happiness was the important point. I do not think this is the Christian virtue of love. The New Testament has much to say about self-denial, but not about self-denial as an end in itself" ("The Weight of Glory," Macmillan, 1975, p.1).

Have you ever met someone who lives ascetically but loves neither God nor man? I have, and some of them were members of the clergy.

Lewis is saying that when we are told to deny ourselves and take up the cross in order to be a better follower of Christ, we should understand this as a call to be a more loving person. He continues, "I submit that this (negative) notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics, and is no part of the Christian faith."

There seems to be a common belief that God does not really want us to desire our own good or to be too happy. But, in fact, we must earnestly hope for the enjoyment of our precious lives. The Gospels are full of the promise of rewards.

We were created for an eternity of happiness, and St. Catherine of Siena understood this when she wrote, "All the way to heaven is heaven."

Jesus assured us that we are called to be a joyful, happy people: "I have told you all these things that your joy may be full."

Julian of Norwich adds this insight, "The greatest honor you can give to almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love."

Can there be any doubt that God wants us to love others and thereby increase their chance for happiness and, in the process, our own? Being happy doesn't mean that we are to indulge our baser appetites with drink, drugs, sex and raw ambition leading to the acquisition of wealth and power. The Lord calls us higher.

C.S. Lewis put it this way: "When infinite joy is offered us, we are like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea."

God made us for happiness here and in the hereafter. We are called to the highest virtue of love. It is important to keep in mind that no one can take responsibility for the happiness of another. Happiness is the byproduct of our own decisions to lead or not lead a meaningful life. Each person is responsible for his or her own happiness.

However, we can try to minimize the misery of others. In doing so we might have to make enormous sacrifices. However, self-denial done in the name of love, and not as an end in itself, is the highest virtue.

We are called to be happy and to render others happy. Rejoice always in the miraculous gift of your precious life.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Home improvement — brick by brick

If you happen by Christopher headquarters these days, you will notice a steel and wood shed of sorts has been put in place around the entrance to allow repair work to the roof and windows.

In fact, you can hardly walk down a block these days without passing under such safety scaffolding. They are required by local laws, largely to keep debris from hitting unsuspecting pedestrians on the head during the renovation of old buildings.

This is not a pleasant prospect for anyone walking the sidewalks of any large city. So I am happy to have as much protection as possible for our fragile human bones as we make our way around through the stone and cement corridors.

I seem to be seeing quite a lot of refurbishing and renovation in my travels around the U.S. And new construction, as well. Aging structures plus a decent economy are probably behind all the work. That — and the never-ending yearning so many people have to keep improving and expanding things.

There's also no doubt that we all have very different ideas of just what improvement means.

After you get past fixing something that is about to fall apart (anyone want to have a boiler die in the middle of winter?), the choices about upkeep and property value and, yes, beauty, vary a great deal. How do you want to spend your time and money? A window box or a deck? New gutters or a new roof? Repaving a driveway would be a major project for some folks. Others feel the need to double the size of their garage and add a new tool shed, to boot.

If we have such diverse opinions about improving the places where we live and work, is it any wonder we would have very different definitions for self-improvement, too?

Whether you think it's time to go to the gym, take an adult ed class, or make plans for a job change, you are probably like your many neighbors who seem to like the idea of making themselves into a new and improved version. Yet the most personal life and soul-altering changes start from within. And we can never make them by ourselves.

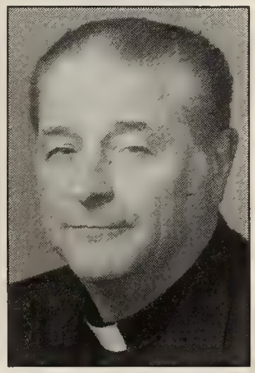
In his book Mere Christianity, renowned religious writer C.S. Lewis presents an image that I have never forgotten: "Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. ... But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that ... does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of. ...You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself."

It's natural to want to be in charge of our own lives, to make our own decisions. But some time we have to realize that life's most essential choice is whether or not we want to be the whole loved and loving person God created us to be.

If we are willing to make that choice, we can rely on His blueprint and trust His security net for body and soul.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Who is the Anointing of the Sick for?

Q. Because my mother is seriously ill, I've been attending parish ceremonies of what we used to call extreme unction. Several people receive this sacrament who don't look sick at all.

The liturgy of the anointing of the sick is beautiful and comforting for our family. But isn't it required anymore to be in danger of death to receive it?

A. The sacrament for the sick is one that has undergone significant development during the past 60 years or so. The Vatican Council II document on the sacred liturgy recognized this when it said, "The anointing of the sick (the official name today) is a sacrament not only for those who are in danger of death."

Thus, while it is for the sick, it is by no means exclusively for the dying. In the Scripture passage that forms one of the main bases for this sacrament, St. James says: "Is anyone sick among you? Let him ask for the elders of the church. They will pray over him and anoint him in the name of the Lord" (Jas 5:14).

To receive the sacrament of anointing, therefore, an individual need not be in danger of death, but "dangerously ill" either from sickness or advanced age. Older people are considered eligible simply because of the general infirmities of advanced age, even if they at present suffer no specific illness.

In their guidelines for this sacrament, the American bishops observe that "sickness is more than a medical phenomenon. Sickness is a crisis situation in the life of a Christian as regards his salvation, his life with Christ in the community of the church."

Anointing of the sick, then, may be ministered to people suffering from various kinds of physical, spiritual or emotional crises.

The ritual for anointing mentions several specific circumstances in which people should be anointed, such as old age, before serious surgery and sick children who have sufficient use of reason to be comforted by this sacrament.

Masses of intention

Q. We like to have Masses offered for our family and our deceased relatives. We understand that in some parishes more than one Mass stipend is accepted for the same Mass. Can Masses be offered for more than one intention now?

A. As I'm sure you are aware, every Mass is offered for many intentions, including all the living and all the dead. The Eucharistic Prayers, in addition to other parts of the liturgy, make that clear.

Regarding Mass stipends, however, Canon 948 says, "Separate Masses are to be applied for the intention for which an individual offering, even if small, has been made and accepted."

In other words, only one stipend or offering may be accepted by a priest for any one Mass. To do otherwise is, according to church law, outside the hands of individual priests. One obvious reason is to avoid abuse in offering and accepting Mass stipends.

When additional priests concelebrate the same Mass, which is common today in many circumstances, since all the priests are actually celebrants of that Eucharist, each one may individually accept a stipend for the Mass.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Race relations

Race relations have evolved steadily over the years. Yet, when the evidence of persistent racism is apparent, whether it is in our places of work, shopping centers, the neighborhood, or the Church, we sometimes feel as though things haven't changed all that much. For example, Andrew was recently a target of racial profiling by police—an almost daily occurrence for him thirty years ago as a young, urban, black male with an automobile. This kind of racial discrimination happens to him rarely today.

However, the recent incident prompted feelings of frustration, despair, and the sense that, despite the years of great struggle, our children are not living in a better situation. Though it may still be the case that the police are to serve and protect some and monitor and detain others, there is also evidence that our children, though they live in a sick world, are better prepared to bring about a cure.

When we compare our adolescence with theirs we find a striking dissimilarity in interracial and intercultural relationships. In the 1960s and early 1970s — our adolescent years — we didn't have many choices. Terri's homogeneous community and school setting didn't present opportunities for relationships that crossed racial lines. However, Andrew's experiences at the archdiocesan primary seminary were characterized by the tumultuousness of the times. There were daily insults and an almost constant insecurity in that seemingly hostile environment. It was necessary for the small minority of black students to band together. The common bond of blackness was enough to establish friendships, and the clearly defined racial line was broad enough that it was easy to avoid crossing it. And those who dared to were considered to be consorting with the enemy.

Though our situations were different, neither of us had many options or real opportunities to develop meaningful relationships with others of different races when we were teens.

Our children have been raised in a multiracial, multi-ethnic environment. Because of the obvious contrasts, they are more aware and appreciative of their African-ness than we were growing up. This awareness has grounded them with a sense of self that frees them to be in relationship with people of different races without defensiveness.

We have modeled for them, by our choices of close friends, that race is neither a characteristic, nor a criterion for those we love. And because of the multiracial village that has raised them, they are freer. For us, that's progress!

There is still much more to be done to heal our sick society of the sin of racism. Despite the persisting ugly head of racism that dogs us even today, we are hopeful. Our hope is largely because of our children and their generation who are freer than we are and who live with the social construct of race with a healthier perspective. They know how to love beyond racial lines. It's time our generation learned from them.

Andrew & Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Mideast, from page 1

those who lost their lives, I make a heartfelt appeal to all the leaders so that the weapons would be silenced, provocations would be avoided and the way of dialogue would be undertaken again," the pope said.

"The Holy Land must be the land of peace and fraternity," Pope John Paul said. "That is what God wants."

At an East Jerusalem hospital, accompanied by several priests, Patriarch Sabbah visited a wounded Palestinian and "expressed his support to the people and to the entire Palestinian people and leadership." During the visit he expressed his sorrow for the events and condemned the "brutal attitudes" used by the Israelis.

In a separate statement Sept. 30 that seemed intent on reaffirming Christian solidarity with the Palestinian cause, the heads of the Christian communities in Jerusalem condemned Sharon's visit, denouncing it as an "aggression on the sanctuary of a holy place in Jerusalem."

"Such a violation is tantamount to a violation on any and all Christian and Muslim holy sites, and we affirm (our) solidarity with the Palestinian people, Muslims and Christians alike, in defending their fundamental rights of worship and prayer in Jerusalem," said the Christian leaders' statement.

They reaffirm, they said, the need to "ensure the freedom of movement, access, worship and prayer, as much as the need to put an end to all violations against our Christian and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem."

The Palestinian death toll after the bloodshed approached 30, including a 12-year-old boy who was caught in the crossfire between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Gaza. The injured numbered in the hundreds.

In the Melkite village of Fassuta in Galilee, Mayor Gerias Khoury said: "All day I am using my voice to shout at both sides to keep calm and to say that more dead will not solve the situation. I am sorry for what has happened and all the blood spilt at a time we are seeking peace and justice. I am also very angry at what is happening ... and I identify with my people."

"What is happening is incredibly painful, especially when we were close to peace and now suddenly we are at war," said Khoury. ▼

Contributing to this story was Cindy Wooden at the Vatican.

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Jubilee for Families to stress children as springtime of society

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Rome and the rest of the Northern Hemisphere moved into autumn, the Vatican prepared to celebrate a new spring with the Jubilee for Families.

With the theme "Children: Springtime of the Family and Society," Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, head of the Pontifical Council for the Family, said the Oct. 14-15 jubilee event would usher in a new season of hope.

Even amid phenomena that might point to a "winter" of attacks against life and the family, such as abortion, divorce and child exploitation, the cardinal said Oct. 3 at a news conference, "it is possible to speak of a spring that God offers us and in which he invites us to take part, through the church.

"Springtime (is) when the church, the heart of the world, brings and proclaims with strength the sacred dignity of every child and the duties and rights of the family," he said.

Organizers expect at least 150,000 people for the Jubilee for Families, which includes an Oct. 14 afternoon encounter with Pope John Paul II and culminates in an Oct. 15 papal Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Participants will all don official Jubilee for Families scarves depicting the Holy Family in a nativity scene. Cardinal Lopez said the scarves would represent a "memento, or better yet, a message that (families) can keep in their home hearths afterward as a flag of hope."

The springtime of change, he said, "does not belong to rhetoric."

New strength against inhuman, anti-family policies worldwide can be drawn from the church's pastoral care, local dioceses and the pro-life movement, said the cardinal.

But he said real change can happen only when "political leaders (and) lawmakers decide to believe in the truth of mankind, to defend it, to respect it, and unjust and murderous laws are replaced by laws in the service of families and children, because they are the most precious resource."

Before the key events Oct. 14-15, some 6,000 participants will take part in an Oct. 11-13 international theological and pastoral congress focusing on the same theme as the Jubilee for Families.

Scheduled speakers include U.S. Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Neb.; Michael Warsaw, president of the Birmingham, Ala.,-based Eternal Word Television Network; and Sister Mary Rose McGeady, a Daughter of Charity and director of Covenant House.

The Jubilee for Families marks the Third World Meeting of Families. Previous celebrations were held in 1994 in Rome and in 1997 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. ▼

Pope names former auxiliary to be archbishop of Delhi, India

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Archbishop Vincent Michael Concessao of Agra, India, to be the new archbishop of Delhi. The Vatican announced the appointment Sept. 28, Archbishop Concessao's 64th birthday. He succeeds Archbishop Alan Basil de Lastic, who died June 20 in a car accident in Poland. Archbishop Concessao had served for more than three years as Archbishop de Lastic's auxiliary bishop in Delhi before being named to head the Archdiocese of Agra in 1998. As an auxiliary bishop, he was one of the conveners of a 1995 protest in front of the Delhi cathedral on behalf of low-caste Christians who were denied government benefits given to other low-caste Indians.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Music: Full-time position as Director of Music for growing parish of 650 families who love to sing! Responsibilities include: Liturgy preparation and planning; playing for 5 weekend masses, holy days, funerals. Weddings negotiated; directing and developing adult mixed choir; organizing and directing children's choir; attend conferences and workshops for continued education and renewal; and attend weekly parish staff meetings. Competitive salary and benefits. Experience a plus, but musical accompaniment skills (piano & organ) a must. Send resume to Search Committee, Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, NC 28144, or fax to 704-647-0126.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Marketing Assistant: Funeral Director in High Point seeking a part-time individual to work 12-20 hours per week speaking with clients on the telephone. Work hours are flexible, but need to consider evenings and some Saturday mornings a top priority. Experience is not required, but a willingness to learn, pleasant telephone voice and positive attitude are a must. Hourly wages plus bonus. Contact Tom at the Harold C. Davis Funeral Home (336) 887-1715.

Music Minister: Part-time. To coordinate and direct liturgical music program of parish 30 miles east of Charlotte. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy. Organist preferred. Choral experience. For more info or send resume to Rev. Lawrence W. Heiney, Annunciation Catholic Church, 416 N. Second St., Albemarle, NC 28001-3911. (704)982-2910 or Fax (704)982-0881. e-mail: annalbnc@vnet.net

Nanny: Experienced Nanny needed M-F, 40 hours per week for month-old triplets; off Carmel Road near Highway 51 in Charlotte. Duties include baby care, light housekeeping, and working one weeknight. Must have references and be ok with pets. Please call and leave a message at (704)560-5390.

Production Associate: The Catholic News and Herald has an opening for a part-time production associate (30 hours per week). Good benefit package. Candidate will be proficient with PageMaker 6.5, Photoshop 5.5, and Corel 7.0 (a PC environment preferred). Position involves layout and prepress of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience preferred. Please forward layout/design samples and resume to: Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267, Charlotte, NC, or e-mail jskeane@aol.com

Religion Teacher: Asheville Catholic School is seeking middle school religion teacher for 12 hours per week. Must be practicing Catholic and have sound knowledge of Roman Catholic doctrine and adolescent psychology. EOE. Please send resume to: Dr. Veronica Berreen, Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804.

Teaching Assistants: St. Patrick's School in Charlotte is accepting applications for part-time teaching assistants. Available immediately. Please contact school principal, Mrs. Angela Montague, (704) 333-3174 for interview.

Youth Ministry Director: Full time. Master's or undergraduate degree in Catechesis or a youth related field. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick Cathedral, Attn: Joanna Catabui, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thanks to St. Jude for prayers answered. -SB

Ask and you shall receive

Lilies of the Field Food Pantry testament to woman's faith

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Say what you will about the land of plenty that we live in. But not everyone is so fortunate. It took one woman's personal struggle to blossom into a reality and a pathway to provide food for those in need.

Against all odds, Diana Riddle, founder of Lilies of the Field Food Pantry, knows firsthand what it means to be poor. Disabled in 1995, she was forced to ask for help. Faced with mountains of bills and chronic pain, Riddle developed ideas about how the system could be improved.

As it turned out, she was just the woman to do it.

"When you have to ask for food, that's difficult enough," she says. "When you finally get it and it's not enough, you learn how to go without."

She recalls how she ate tuna for two weeks in a row because the price was right — two cans for $1.

"Because of poverty ... you budget everything just to make it last," she says.

Spurred by a nagging thought that God was calling her to do more, she prayed for spiritual guidance. She kept asking God, "How am I supposed to do this when I don't have enough money for myself?"

Strangely, Riddle had encounters with hungry people and found herself dipping into her own meager supplies to feed them. At that point, she remembered the feisty old nun in the movie "Lilies of the Field." She, too, had a vision of something greater than herself — a chapel in the desert. Visualizing the nun's unwavering belief that all will be provided, it became the inspiration for Riddle.

"Everyone told me it was impossible," she says. When she put an ad in the paper looking for a free freezer, a Waynesville man responded, and she was in business. "It was like a test for me," she says. "If I was supposed to do this, it would happen."

Even though her freezer sat in a rundown, six-by-six-foot building, word spread and people began giving her food donations. Volunteering as a community services coordinator for a local St. Vincent de Paul ministry reinforced her belief that out there in the community was an unmet need. She responded to 50 calls a week, many requesting groceries.

When Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity Sister Marie Frechette, director of the Western Region Office of Catholic Social Services in Asheville, agreed to house the pantry in CSS' offices, Riddle used her own disability settlement money to buy food for the pantry.

When she got registered and certified with the North Carolina Department of Revenue, she was able to begin shopping at Manna Food Bank.

Photo by Wendy Murray

Sister Marie Frechette, Diana Riddle and Bishop William G. Curlin were among those gathered recently to dedicate the new location of Catholic Social Services' Western Region Office in Asheville, where Lilies of the Field Food Pantry now resides. Bishop Curlin presided at the event.

Today, through tithing from St. Barnabas Church in Arden and St. Eugene Church in Asheville, Riddle is able to have a real budget. The Diocese of Charlotte donates free rental space for the pantry, and Catholic Social Services pays for its utilities and phone.

The Good Neighbor Program for homebound clients, a collection of ethnic foods and the Needy Meds Program providing resources for medication have become spin-offs from Riddle's original goal. "I believe it's not a handout we provide," she says. "It's a hand-up."

Along with the growing number of church-affiliated food cupboards in Buncombe County, Lilies of the Field feeds an average of between 100 to 150 families each month. "We're always looking for new volunteers to shop, stock shelves and deliver boxes of food," Riddle says. ▼

For information on how to be involved with Lilies of the Field, call Diana Riddle at (828) 255-0146, ext. 37.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING
REGISTRATION FORM

Please use (1) form per person. Please print.

Deadline: Friday, October 20, 2000

Name ______________________

Parish ______________________

City ______________________

State ____________ Zip ____________

Tel: ______________________

☐ Amount Enclosed ($20/person, includes lunch)
$ ____________

Make Checks Payable to:
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1123 South Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003
Attn: Fr. James Hawker

Please indicate your choices:
☐ Leadership Skills A, B & C [Fri/Sat]
☐ Civil Law Affecting Lay Ministers [Fri]
☐ Facilitating Faith Experience [Fri]
☐ Employment Issues Affecting Lay Ministers [Sat AM]
☐ Issues of Inculturation [Sat AM]
☐ Canon Law Affecting Lay Ministers [Sat PM]
☐ Developing Advocacy Skills [Sat PM]

Bishop William G. Curlin announces

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

FOR PRESENT & FUTURE LAY MINISTERS

PART I*: Fri., Nov. 3 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 4 9:00-4:00 p.m.

** The Leadership Track 1 includes all three workshops. Parts A, B & C must be taken in succession.*

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Charlotte, NC 28078
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TRACK I

Part A: *The Leadership Challenge.*

Become a leader who cares and makes a difference.

- Workshop sessions will assist participants in defining key behaviors of effective leaders.
- Discussions will focus on servant leadership requirements.

Presenters: Leadership Team

Part B: *Organizing for Success.*

- As leaders, participants will be called upon not only to inspire and provide vision but to motivate others to accomplish their tasks.
- Participants will learn the skills needed to organize the tasks in their ministries.

Presenters: Leadership Team

Part C: *Developing an Action Plan.*

- Participants will have the opportunity to apply their leadership and organization learning (Parts A & B) to their ministry.
- Each participant will develop a personal action plan addressing specific issues of his/her ministry.
- Various forms of assistance will be available through resources and mentors.

Presenters: Leadership Team

TRACK II

Civil Law and Legal Concerns

Presenter: Richard Lucey, Diocesan Attorney

Facilitating Faith Experience

- Skills for Spiritual Growth and Companioning

*Presenter: Joanna Case,
Catechetical Initiation Ministry*

Employment Issues

*Presenter: Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd,
Vice Chancellor*

Issues of Inculturation

- Skills for Multi-Cultural Sensitivities

*Presenter: Terry Aiken, Juvenile Court Counselor,
Consultant for Diversity and
Sensitivity Group*

Canon Law

Presenter: Rev. Peter Jugis, Judicial Vicar

Developing Advocacy Skills

- For the marginalized, needy, poor, elderly, disabled, & oppressed

*Presenter: Barney Offerman, PhD
Diocesan Director,
Catholic Campaign for
Human Development*

***Note:** PART II Workshops (March 23-24, 2001) include Listening Skills, Conflict Management, Volunteer Recruitment and Management.*

The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 13, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 6

Inside

Appalachia group gives award ...PAGE 3

From the Cover
Diocesan pilgrims find way to canonization ...PAGE 7

Local News

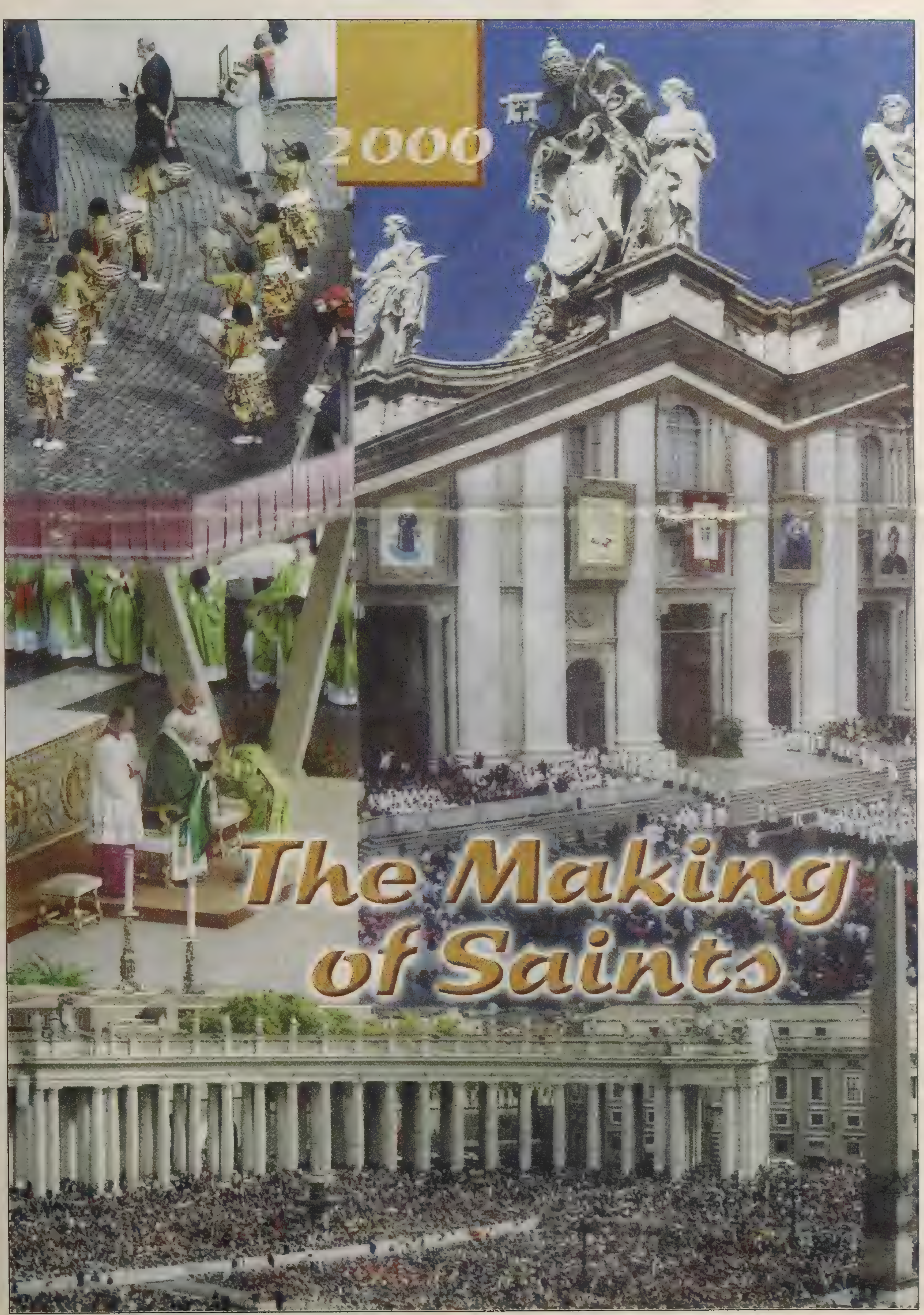
Permanent deacons gather for retreat ...PAGE 4

Woman professes first vows as Mercy Sister ...PAGE 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13



Cover Art:

On October 1st, Pope John Paul II canonized 123 in St. Peter's Square.

Photos by Joann S. Keane
Illustration by Julie Radcliffe

Focolare expects 10,000 at interfaith conference

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and Muslim co-sponsors are anticipating as many as 10,000 people at an intercultural, interreligious conference Nov. 12 in Washington. The event's theme is "Towards the Harmonious Living of the Human Family: Faith Communities Together." It is to be held at the Washington Convention Center, with a friendship dinner and interfaith concert for youths the previous evening. Chief speakers are Chiara Lubich, founder of the worldwide Focolare movement, and Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, leader of the Muslim American Society. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore is to deliver opening remarks.

More federal money urged for state child abuse prevention efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic Charities USA official said more federal support is needed for state programs to protect children from abuse and neglect when their families face a crisis involving substance abuse. Sharon Daly, vice president for social policy for Catholic Charities USA, also said Congress should encourage states to develop integrated treatment programs to help families deal with addictions and other related problems, such as depression. "In a time of unprecedented economic prosperity, we believe Congress should do more to heal families and protect our nation's children," said Daly, who testified Oct. 3 at a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee's Subcommittee on Human Resources.

Caritas Yugoslavia official hopes new government helps poor

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (CNS) — The head of Caritas Yugoslavia, the country's largest Catholic charity, expressed hope that the new government will support efforts for humanitarian aid to ease the "very poor conditions" faced by most of the population. The Caritas director, Jesuit Father Antun Pecar, said, "Everything is desperately needed here, from food to medicines. We count on the new government to offer positive humane cooperation and help us in our efforts to meet the most basic needs."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A Colombian woman holds up an image of Mary and a rosary during a prayer service in Bogota, Colombia, Oct. 7. Hundreds of faithful took part in the service marking the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. In a ceremony in Rome Oct. 8, Pope John Paul II entrusted the world and its future to the protection of Mary.

Vocations, immigration top concerns at Hispanic priests' meet

NEW YORK (CNS) — Vocations and immigration were principal concerns at the annual convention of the National Association of Hispanic Priests, leaders reported. Members of the association emphasized their desire to work in solidarity, the leaders said. The association president, Father J. Fernando Gil, said members saw themselves as a "cohesive body," despite the cultural differences of being priests born in various countries of Latin America, in Spain or in the United States to Hispanic parentage. More than 100 association members attended the convention Oct. 2-5 at a retreat house in New York.

Pope says church shares Africa's 'heavy history of suffering'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Africa shares "the heavy history of suffering" endured by the continent's people and must find new ways to promote reconciliation, Pope John Paul II said. The armed conflicts that continue to plague Africa are a sign of "contempt for the human person," the pope said in a written message to members of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar. The message was released Oct. 6 as the African bishops concluded their annual meeting at a retreat center outside Rome.

East Timorese bishop says refugee situation at 'crisis point'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo of Dili, East Timor, said the situation of East Timorese refugees in West Timor has reached a crisis point. The United States and other world governments must demand that Indonesia expel militias from West Timor, where they are terrorizing East Timorese in refugee camps, and from East Timor, where they have been penetrating with Indonesian military support, he said. The bishop made his remarks in an Oct. 4 op-ed piece in The Washington Post.

Sri Lankan bishops urge leaders to halt 30-year civil war

LONDON (CNS) — Sri Lanka's bishops urged political leaders to call for an end to their country's 30-year-old war that has cost tens of thousands of lives. The church leaders issued their plea Oct. 2 through the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, based in London. The agency, the official development arm of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales, said the people of Sri Lanka were longing for a lasting peace and hoped for an end to the country's war. CAFOD's partners, Caritas Sri Lanka and the local church in Sri Lanka, said the war could be stopped if political leaders faced the situation with courage.

Catholic statements urge care of environment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In separate statements the bishops of northern New England and Indiana have called care of the environment a moral responsibility. "The earth is not being well cared for," said the Indiana statement. It focused especially on agriculture, saying that "there is clearly, indubitably and increasingly a crisis of the family farm in Indiana." The bishops of the Boston ecclesiastical province — which includes all of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine — quoted Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople: "To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin." They said there are "two primary (environmental) concerns in our region: agriculture and fisheries."

As Nigeria marks independence, bishops urge end to disunity

LAGOS, Nigeria (CNS) — Bishops in Nigeria urged the government and citizens to overcome disunity and instability as the nation marked its 40th anniversary of independence. Archbishop Anthony Olubunmi Okogie of Lagos, marking the anniversary Oct. 1, said lack of unity had led to the instability of political and economic structures and programs, which had resulted in obvious underdevelopment of the country. "Ethnic selfishness, nepotism and lack of sincere love have also contributed to the country's woes," he said.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 15 — 2 p.m.
25th and 50th Anniversary Mass
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte
October 19 — 9 a.m.
Directing day of retreat for seniors, St. Mark, Huntersville
October 21 — 9:30 a.m.
Fire in the Mountains Lake Junaluska 6 p.m. Confirmation St. William, Murphy
October 22 — 12:15 p.m.
Confirmation St. Ann, Charlotte
5 p.m. Dedication of church building St. Francis of Assisi, Lenoir
October 24 — 7 p.m.
Hosting dinner for Friends of Seminarians, Charlotte
October 30 — 7 p.m.
Installation of Father J. T. Putnam as pastor Sacred Heart, Salisbury

Diocesan planner

October

14 GASTONIA — The St. Michael School 41st Annual Fun Fair is happening today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 704 St. Michael's Lane. Join the students and parishioners for food, drinks, rides, games, crafts, a silent auction and more. For details, call the school at (704) 865-4382.

15 CHARLOTTE — "Tapping into the Spirit" is the theme for Theology on Tap, a series of programs geared for young adults in their late teens to their late thirties and early forties to reacquaint them with the church and is designed for them to enjoy fellowship with other young adult Catholics in the area. The series of programs continues tonight from 7-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with Father Matthew Kauth as the guest speaker. The programs will continue as follows: Oct. 24 with Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams at Southend Brewery, 2100 South Blvd., and Oct. 29 with Capuchin Father Martin Schratz at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. For more information, call Jennifer Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

18 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians are having their annual "Pub Nite" at the Tyber Creek Pub, 1933 South Blvd., on the corner of E. Tremont Ave., at 7 p.m. The night includes a buffet dinner and live entertainment from Billy Mulligan and his group and Irish singers and dancers. For reservations, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 or Helen Gassen at (704) 542-9406.

19 ASHEVILLE — There is a women's cursillo weekend taking place through Oct. 22 at St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 339-2076 or the church office at (828) 252-3151.

20 CLEMMONS — A post-abortion

Appalachia committee marks 30th year, establishes award

By THOMAS R. PAPEIKA
Catholic News Service

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (CNS) — The Catholic Committee of Appalachia has established the Bishop Walter F. Sullivan Peace and Justice Award as part of its 30th anniversary observance.

Its namesake, the bishop of Richmond, Va., since 1974, became the award's first recipient.

"I'm a much better person for being in Appalachia," Bishop Sullivan said at an awards ceremony held during the committee's Sept. 29-Oct. 1 gathering in Charleston. "Over the years, I learned a lot from the people in this region, and I'd like to thank them all."

Todd Garland, executive director of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, said Bishop Sullivan "has been an inspiring leader and steadfast friend and supporter of the organization."

Bishop Sullivan, a native of Washington, D.C., was ordained a priest of the Richmond Diocese in 1953. He was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Richmond on Oct. 15, 1970 and was appointed its bishop on May 28, 1974, and installed that July.

He was among the bishops of Appalachia who issued "This Land is Home to Me," a 1975 pastoral letter which focused on the economic and political plight of the people of Appalachia amid America's flourishing industrial economy.

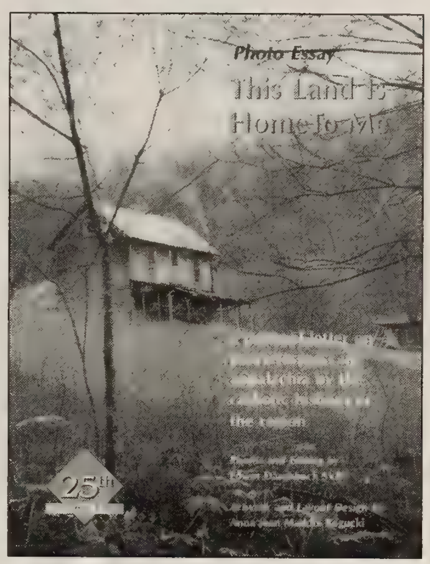
It was the first pastoral letter issued by the bishops of a particular region.

Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley, founding bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, was a key leader in the drafting and issuing of that pastoral.

The letter was written during Bishop Begley's term as chairperson of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia.

Bishop Sullivan also was a signer of the 1995 follow-up document, "At Home in the Web of Life."

In it the Appalachian bishops discussed the need for "sustainable communities" that would have a permanent social and economic base in the region and be an alternative to outsiders coming in and seeing the area only as a source of cheap resources and labor.



They also decried the abandonment of Appalachian people in the post-industrial age and the pervasive attacks on the region's environment.

Garland said that for 30 years the Catholic Committee of Appalachia has remained loyal to Appalachia's people, especially the poor.

"We strive to walk with the poor who struggle to live a life of dignity," he said. "And we promote a sustainable lifestyle which respects and defends God's entire web of creation."

Appalachia is a vast region stretching from New York to northern Alabama, an area of rugged beauty, of geographic isolation and, as many point out, of ongoing economic injustice.

Garland said some of the Catholic committee's accomplishments of the past year included being invited to the United Nations' millennium forum, where more than 2,300 representatives were accredited by the United Nations to give input on reforms.

"I attended the working group sessions on sustainable development and the environment," Garland told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

He said the group called on world governments to reduce global warming, shift to local and sustainable economies, endorse the Earth Charter in the U.N. General Assembly, and recognize the rights of self-determination for indigenous peoples.

Garland also noted the continuing development of the committee's Web site — www.cathcomappalachia.org — where people can see the pastorals on Appalachia and receive updates on activities.

Nearly 100 people attended the committee's two-day anniversary celebration in Charleston, which included workshops on Catholic social teaching, racism in Appalachia, welfare reform, global climate change, land stewardship, and conditions in Cuba and Nicaragua.

One workshop, offered by Appalachian Science in the Public Interest, focused on growing "virtually wild" ginseng. Mature, "virtually wild" grown ginseng has the same market value as wild ginseng and can provide woodland owners a source of income that does not destroy the natural forest canopy, said Garland.

An effort to cultivate the ginseng is seen as one of the sustainable developments called for in the Appalachian pastorals.

A bishop's message

"This Land is Home to Me," the Appalachian pastoral issued by the 24 Catholic bishops of the Appalachian region, now celebrates over 20 years since its initial publication in 1975. The pastoral retains the same freshness and inspiration that was there at its initial writing. The pastoral is about a beautiful people and their undaunted pursuit of freedom and justice. The pastoral's poetic images dramatically depict the rape of the land and the defacing of the mountains that brutally impoverish an entire people. Against the backdrop of that land and those mountains of Appalachia, where coal is king, the pastoral recounts the story of the Appalachian people determined to end the violence that surrounds them and steadfast in their resolve to be free of the oppression that enslaves them.

The pastoral letter gives them a message of hope at a time when hopelessness has become a way of life. The message manifests the enduring beauty of this people even as their lives are marred by high unemployment and underemployment. The Spirit still reigns throughout the Appalachian region. The Spirit is the great voice of God which still cries out for new life. The Spirit makes the impossible possible, turns nightmares into dreams and darkness into visions.

This booklet retells the Appalachian story in picture form. Once again, the pastoral letter, the finest ever written, comes alive and touches the hearts and imagination of all. Coal is no longer king in Appalachia. God now reigns throughout the Appalachian region and stands beside a valiant people as they dream their dreams, compose songs for their hope and write down their visions in the language of beauty, poetry and imagination."

— message from Bishop Walter F. Sullivan in the silver anniversary edition of "This Land is Home to Me"

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healing retreat is being held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. for men and women who have been affected by abortion, either personally or through a family member or friend. Individual confession is available after the retreat. For more information, call Debbie or Martha at (336) 659-1342.

21 CHARLOTTE — A Harvest Dance is taking place at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., in the parish hall tonight from 8 p.m.-midnight. Music by the Atlanta Polka Band, snacks and set-ups are being provided. For reservations, call Frank or Marie Czelusniak at (704) 846-3205.

HENDERSONVILLE — First Baptist Church invites the Diocese of Charlotte to their Interdenominational Women's Conference today from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Speaker Jennifer Rothschild, songwriter, singer and Dove Award nominee, and One Body, a new interdenominational praise and worship team, are the conference guests. For Oct. 10 ticket reservations, which include lunch, and for other information, call the church at (828) 693-3493.

22 CHARLOTTE — Paul Hurst, an internationally acclaimed harpist, is performing a concert of popular show tunes at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., today at 2 p.m. For details, call Drennan Thompson at (704) 554-7088.

23 CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the meeting or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

MAGGIE VALLEY — To get in touch with the "abundant life" that surrounds everyone and to enjoy a deep conversation with God, all are invited to the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. "Nature Retreat: Abundant Life" will consist of reflection time outdoors and daily liturgy celebrated on the trail with Augustinian Father Terry Hyland and Charity Sister Fran Grady. For more information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

24 GREENSBORO — Pastor Conrad Pridgen of Bethel A.M.E. Church and a member of the N.C. Council of Churches and Pulpit Forum is speaking about "Justice and Righteousness" at today's luncheon gathering at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., from 12:10-1 p.m. A love offering is being taken right before the meal, and for more information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

25 CHARLOTTE — All families are invited to a memorial Mass for those who have died throughout the month at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they can be remembered at Mass.

27 COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Catholic Charismatic Service Committee invites the Diocese of Charlotte to their annual conference beginning today through Oct. 29 at John Neumann School on Polo Rd. The guest speakers are Rev. Tom Forrest and Jim Murphy. For a brochure and more details, write to Ross Gamble, 7817 Loch Lane, Columbia, S.C. 29223 or e-mail rbgam@juno.com.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Permanent deacons and their wives gather for annual retreat

***re•treat**: n. 1. A place affording peace, quiet, privacy, or security.*

2. A period of seclusion, retirement, or solitude.

3. A period of group withdrawal for prayer, meditation, and study.

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

HICKORY — During an autumn weekend in the western Piedmont, the Diocese of Charlotte's permanent deacons spent some time with one another to focus on commitment to their ministry.

The annual permanent diaconate retreat Oct. 6-8 at the Catholic Conference Center gave the diocese's more than 60 deacons and their spouses opportunities for renewal, prayer and fellowship.

Father Cecil Tice, pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem, directed this year's retreat. Throughout the weekend, he focused on the theme of finding silence in life to allow God to speak — and to hear his message.

"Those of us who are ordained ministers of the church, as well as those who are not ordained, must find some way of seeking solitude and silence in our lives to be able to legitimately and truly pray," he said. "When we do that, we don't lose sight of our calling to be what God wants us to be.

"When we seriously look at it, we find that there are all kinds of places in our lives already where we can find that silence to hear God speaking. That makes our ministry richer and helps us to more ably tend to those we serve."

The retreat included daily Mass, eucharistic adoration, conferences and time for solitude and socializing.

Permanent deacons are one of two types of deacons currently in ministry in the Catholic Church. Men who are in their final stages of preparation for the priesthood are called transitional deacons.

The role of the deacon is to be a minister of charity to all he encounters. Ordained to proclaim the Gospel message in word and deed, he is appointed to baptize, preach, assist at the altar during Mass, and officiate at weddings and funerals. In the community, his ministry extends from the parish he serves to wherever his pastoral outreach is needed.

The diaconate is traced to the early church, an era whose story is told in Luke's Acts of the Apostles. In his work, St. Luke describes a time the 12 apostles led the spread of Christianity. It also tells of the need for people of faith to help bring the Scriptures alive to the greater community through acts of charity and the Word:

"At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly...." (Acts 6: 1-6)

Finding time

As the permanent deacon at St. James Church in Concord, Rev. Mr. J. Daniel Carl spends many hours a week in ministry at the church and in locales throughout the geography the parish covers. He is a husband, father and director of the homeless shelter operated by Cooperative Christian Ministries.

He said the retreat offered a special time for both him and his wife, Donna, to focus on the power of silence and solitude while thinking of God's presence.

> **"It was spiritually joyful and uplifting to just close one's eyes and allow one's heart to listen."**
>
> *— Rev. Mr. J. Daniel Carl, regional vicar in the permanent diaconate*

"It was spiritually joyful and uplifting to just close one's eyes and allow one's heart to listen," said Rev. Mr. Carl.

He added that the direction of the weekend was beneficial for those assembled.

"Father Tice, our retreat master, gave outstanding presentations pointing to the importance of spending time in solitude with the Holy Spirit," he said. "The retreat offered many opportunities to spend in solitude in the chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament was on the altar all day and all night during the retreat."

Ongoing formation

The retreat is one of the largest gatherings of permanent deacons in the diocese each year. The deacons also meet several times as a group for continuing education and to formally recommit themselves in ministry to the bishop and the church in western North Carolina.

In large groups as well as individually, the deacons are encouraged to grow spiritually in their mission to serve as faithful family members and ministers of the church.

The retreat allowed time for the deacons to think about their calling to ministry in profound ways, said Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning, diocesan administrator of the permanent diaconate program in the diocese.

"Father Tice developed the theme of finding silence in your life by reintroducing us to our own ordination through reading several of the prayers used by the bishop at ordination and the laying of hands," he said. "It caused us to really listen to those words. He helped us to examine and to reflect on those times in our lives, during the course of a given day, when we can find that silence to let the Lord speak to us."

Correction: An article in the Oct. 6 issue incorrectly stated the year of the first ordination of permanent deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte. The correct year was 1983.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Lenoir parish reflects passing of St. Francis

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

LENOIR — St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church parishioners completed their transition from old church to new by celebrating Mass for the first time in their new church building on Sunday, Oct. 1.

That same week, Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott and members of the local Brother Francis Secular Order Fraternity commemorated the anniversary of another transition — the passing of St. Francis from earthly life to eternal life — with a "Transitus" service on Tuesday evening, Oct. 3, in the new church.

"The ceremony goes through some of the same things he did (on the night of his death)," said Sister Andrea, coordinator of Hispanic ministry in the Hickory Vicariate.

At the Transitus service, members of the order and others in attendance sang hymns and heard readings from "The Testament of St. Francis," the "Rule of the Secular Franciscan Order" and the writings of Thomas of Celano on the death of St. Francis. They sat in darkness lit only by candles on the altar for a moment of reflection.

They also heard the blessing that St. Francis gave to his brothers on his death bed, and recited his "Canticle of Brother Sun," the song that his brothers were singing when he died. The members of the fraternity renewed their commitment to observe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ after the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

During the service, Dr. John Martin, a member of the local fraternity and a veterinarian in the area, spoke about the influence of St. Francis in his life. It began in 1973 during his first year of veterinary school, when a teacher mentioned St. Francis in one of his classes.

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Members of the Secular Franciscan Order and Order of St. Francis based out of Hickory include, seated from left, Maria Rudisill and Mary Adele Frogge; standing, Sister Andrea Inkrott, Dr. John Martin, Frank Cogger, Bill Brockhoff, Linda Robinson, Herman Thoni and Ruth Thoni.

Martin called his spiritual journey during those years a roller coaster. Later, when he had Italian veterinary students working in his office, he said that he "learned that St. Francis loved all of God's creatures."

In 1995, Martin read the book "God's Fool: The Life and Times of Francis of Assisi" by Julien Green.

He visited Italy and Assisi in 1998, and attended his first Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Newton, in 1999.

> "I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and knew that the Catholic Church ... was where I wanted to be."
>
> — *Dr. John Martin, whose devotion to St. Francis of Assisi led him to the Catholic Church*

"I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and knew that the Catholic Church, and this (parish) church in particular, was where I wanted to be."

Ruth Thoni, another member of the local fraternity, said St. Francis lived "a life devoted to leading souls to Christ" during her introduction at the service.

St. Francis was born in Assisi, Italy, in 1182. In 1205 he began performing charities among the lepers and working on the restoration of old churches. A few years later he was called to go out into the world, and, as in the text of Matthew 10: 5-14, to possess nothing, but to do good everywhere he went.

He began preaching and gathered 12 disciples who became the original brothers of his order. He traveled as much as his health would allow him, spreading the Gospel.

In September 1224, after 40 days of fasting, St. Francis was praying when he felt pain and joy, and he discovered that the stigmata, the marks of the crucifixion of Christ, had appeared on his body.

He returned to Assisi and died in 1226, surrounded by the brothers of his order, and without possessions. He was canonized in 1228.

The local members of the Secular Franciscan Order are planning to do a re-enactment of Jesus' birth at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

The group meets on the second Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. at the conference center or in members' homes.

The dedication of the new St. Francis of Assisi church building will be held on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 5 p.m.

The Transitus ceremony took place in a church that used many things from the old St. Francis church.

The stained-glass windows, the large wooden crucifix, wooden statues of Mary and Joseph, the Stations of the Cross, the back altar and the tabernacle were taken from the old church and were cleaned and given new life by talented parishioners or outside professionals.

"They did a beautiful job of blending things from the old St. Francis to the new," said Sister Andrea.

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CNS PHOTO BY JOHN THAVIS

Nicolas Segoviano and Lidia Chavez are to be married before Pope John Paul II during an Oct. 15 Mass in St. Peter's Square. The couple from San Jose, Calif., are among eight pairs to have the pope presiding at their wedding during Mass for the Jubilee for Families.

Cardinal George calls abortion 'a defining issue'

CHICAGO (CNS) — Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said that "abortion is a defining issue" both morally and politically. In his weekly column in the Oct. 1-7 issue of The Catholic New World, his archdiocesan newspaper, Cardinal George also called for the abolition of capital punishment. He also explained church teaching and practice concerning demons and exorcism following recent media coverage of the fact that the archdiocese has an official exorcist. On abortion he said, "Many people wish the issue would disappear as a subject of public discussion. It can't disappear for believing Catholics and many others because it is a matter of life and death, a defining issue not only personally but socially. Poverty can be addressed incrementally, but the death of a child is quite final."

Eileen Egan, longtime CRS executive, peace activist, dies at 88

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Eileen Egan, whose decades of work with Catholic Relief Services, Pax Christi USA and the Catholic Worker movement reflected a lifelong commitment to peace and nonviolence, died of pneumonia Oct. 7 at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York at the age of 88. According to a statement from her family, Egan "died peacefully," with her brother, Jerome, and Kate Hennessy, granddaughter of Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day, at her bedside. The first woman and first layperson to join the staff of CRS, Egan was an executive with the U.S. church's overseas aid agency for nearly four decades. She co-founded the forerunner of Pax Christi USA in the 1960s, and was active in New York City's Catholic Worker hospitality houses throughout her adult life.

Washington cardinal marks milestones during jubilee year

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For Cardinal James A. Hickey, life has come full circle in his 20 years as archbishop of Washington. At his installation Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in August 1980, he said a key goal would be "as a community of faith to prepare for a third millennium — the year 2000, a milestone for civilization and Christianity." Having reached the year 2000, Cardinal Hickey presided over the archdiocese's first eucharistic congress, held Oct. 5-8, then he was to lead an archdiocesan jubilee year pilgrimage to Rome beginning Oct. 9. While there — on Oct. 11 — he was to celebrate his 80th birthday.

Food for Poor CEO removed after admitting misconduct, say officials

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — The Sept. 25 resignation of Food for the Poor founder and CEO Ferdinand Mahfood came after he admitted using donations to benefit two female members of his staff and their families, say the group's new chairman and a Catholic bishop on the agency's board. Speaking with The Florida Catholic newspaper Oct. 2, Bishop Paul Boyle of Mandeville, Jamaica, and Robin Mahfood, now CEO and president of the south Florida-based organization, confirmed that Ferdinand Mahfood also admitted to allegations of sexual misconduct with the two women prior to his resignation.

Trudeau remembered as man of faith devoted to family, country

MONTREAL (CNS) — Former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's faith was "rigorous, radical and fundamental," long-time family friend Father Jean-Guy Dubuc said in the homily at Trudeau's funeral Mass. Almost 3,000 mourners packed Notre-Dame Basilica in Montreal to stand before a casket draped in the Canadian flag and adorned with Trudeau's lapel trademark — red roses — to pay their last respects. Among their ranks were Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard, Canada's Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson, Cuban President Fidel Castro, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Britain's Prince Andrew and Canadian musician and poet Leonard Cohen.

Jubilee missionary meeting to study proclamation of Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hundreds of church evangelization experts are meeting in Rome in mid-October to discuss revitalizing Catholic missionary activity on every continent. The gathering comes on the heels of a controversial Vatican document that emphasized the need to announce Christ as the only true savior, even in places where Christians are a minority. The pope will celebrate Mass for participants Oct. 22, World Mission Sunday, presenting them with crosses to signify their commitment to spread the Gospel. In his message for World Mission Sunday, the pope said he was convinced that a new missionary impetus is needed in today's church.

Pope tells bishops to communicate Gospel with their lives

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Personal holiness is the best way to communicate the Gospel, and the Catholic faithful have a right to see it in their bishops, Pope John Paul II told bishops from around the world: "A living word has been entrusted to us; we must therefore announce it with our lives before we do so with our mouths," the pope said Oct. 8 as he presided over the Mass concluding the Jubilee for Bishops. The jubilee celebration included the recitation of the rosary Oct. 7 and a formal "act of entrustment" Oct. 8 in which the pope and more than 1,500 bishops placed the world and the third millennium under the protection of Mary.

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Lead me, guide me

Diocesan pilgrims find way to St. Peter's Square for canonization ceremony

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

VATICAN CITY — Tears of joy mingled with the falling rain. Intermittent cloudbursts kept umbrellas popping up and down, creating temporary seas of color. And a worldwide gathering rejoiced in unison as Pope John Paul II marked another milestone in this millennial year, with the introduction of 123 new saints.

It was a jubilee celebration in St. Peter's Square. A *missa cantata* of epic proportion, especially poignant as an American woman's name was raised in honor alongside two other saintly women, a former Sudanese slave, and the first Spanish Basque woman to be canonized. These three were elevated, as were 120 Chinese martyrs.

A pilgrimage of 30 — sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte — joined the jubilee Mass Oct. 1 in St. Peter Square, counting themselves among the 50,000-plus gathered in homage to the newest round of saints named by Pope John Paul II. The pilgrimage, led by Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte and vicar of African American Affairs, included Diocesan Judicial Vicar Father Peter Jugis, sacramental minister to the diocesan pilgrims.

"As if it weren't raining enough, I added salt to the water," said Pearline Thompson, recalling her tears of joy. "It was just so moving," said the member of St. Mary parish in Greensboro. But even a deluge of rain couldn't dampen the spirits of pilgrims enthralled with the rare opportunity to witness a canonization.

As the faithful waited en masse for the impending papal arrival, a biographical sketch was read in the native tongue of each of the new saints. A choir — comprised of the *young and not so young* — sang out in joyous praise. The U.S.A. contingency was particularly vocal with the introduction of the second American-born saint, Katherine Drexel.

Photo By Joann S. Keane

Ruby Letterlough, of Greensboro's St. Mary parish, has a special affinity for Mother Katherine Drexel. In the 1950s, Letterlough taught in a school established by Mother Katherine Drexel in southwest Louisiana.

Though Letterlough taught at rural St. Leo for one year, it was during that year that Mother Drexel visited the country school. "She encouraged us to do the very best we could for the children ... to put our heart into teaching and give the children the best for them, religious and education-wise," recalls Lettterlough. "She was a gracious, saintly lady. Quiet and lovely. So kind."

"Her apostolate helped bring about a growing awareness of the need to combat all forms of racism through education and social services," said Pope John Paul II.

"The candidates for canonization do indeed come from East and West, from North and South; they lived in different times and cultures and represent different social and ecclesiastical categories," said the Holy Father. The Oct. 1 canonization brings the total of saints named by this pope to nearly 300.

"To all of you, dear Brothers and Sisters, who have gathered here in such numbers to express your devotion towards those shining witnesses of the Gospel," said Pope John Paul II. "Is not the Holy Year the most opportune time to let their heroic witness shine forth?"

The 123 blessed — almost all of whom belonged to the missionary world — are accompanied by the veneration of the people of God who look with gratitude at their heroic example of sainthood and ask for their protection, said the pope.

"...God, in all times, chooses persons to show His love to men and women and raises up institutes that are called to be the privileged tools of His action," said Pope John Paul II.

"The pope recognized the ethnic differences, and gave credit and honor to those people," said Thompson, "And I thought, 'God. *At last, at last.*' There's a sameness, but there's a difference. And it is good."

See related story, page 9.

Contact Editor Joann S. Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.

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Atlanta Archdiocese relocates refugees; director resigns

By GRETCHEN KEISER
Catholic News Service

ATLANTA (CNS) — The 21-year veteran director of the refugee resettlement program of the Atlanta Archdiocese has resigned after church officials were informed his wife is a co-owner of property where the agency has placed refugees.

In addition, reports on shabby living conditions at another facility where refugees were being housed has prompted the archdiocese to relocate some refugee families and review the resettlement program's policies and procedures.

Bui Van Tam, director of Catholic Social Services refugee resettlement programs since 1979, resigned Oct. 2 after the archdiocese learned his wife, Anh Le, is a co-owner of property where refugees have been placed by his office.

"That is a conflict of interest for the director to be placing refugees in property owned by his spouse," said Matthew Coles, general counsel for the archdiocese.

Coles said Tam's wife has been a co-owner of the property since about 1994. A preliminary audit by the archdiocese Oct. 3 shows $19,635 was paid by Catholic Social Services since 1994 for the use of that property for the refugees, but nothing was paid directly to Tam's wife.

"He was very sorry that he had put the archbishop in this potentially embarrassing situation," Coles said. Tam and his family were among the first Vietnamese families to come to Atlanta in 1975.

Tam's resignation came after an Oct. 2 press conference at which Archbishop John F. Donoghue apologized for living conditions at another facility, the Crescent Hills Apartments in south Atlanta, where refugees were being placed by Catholic Social Services.

The resettled families, who number about 60 people, were moved temporarily into a motel about a mile away. Archdiocesan employees went door-to-door offering the refugee families the chance to move, the archbishop said.

In the Crescent Hills complex some apartment units have broken or cardboard-patched windows or plumbing and appliances, such as stoves, that do not work. Some units were dirty and infested with roaches.

The archbishop described the conditions, the subject of articles in the Atlanta Journal Constitution daily newspaper, as "deplorable." He said the situation had prompted a review of the resettlement policies and procedures.

The Journal Constitution reported on a city inspection in July of the Crescent Hills Apartments, which was cited for housing code violations including holes in walls, defective toilets, defective electrical outlets, decaying flooring and trash and debris on the premises.

At the press conference, Archbishop Donoghue apologized for the shabby conditions and apologized to the refugee families and to Catholics of the archdiocese "who have placed their trust in Catholic Social Services."

He said that while the revelations are embarrassing, "we are glad that this was brought to our attention because it gives us the opportunity to correct a problem that truthfully should never have occurred.

"In a sense, through our actions as well as our omissions and oversights, we have not been 'church' to these people," he said. "There is no excuse for this so we will make none. However, the evidence compels the archdiocese to look at the infrastructure of CSS and their resettlement program and challenges us to develop new and effective policies and procedures."

The archbishop also said he had asked a group of parishes to provide immediate assistance to the refugee families.

The Atlanta archdiocesan refugee resettlement program serves approximately 400 to 500 refugees each year. It is part of a network of local agencies that resettle refugees under agreements between the U.S. Catholic Conference and the State Department, using a combination of government and private funding.

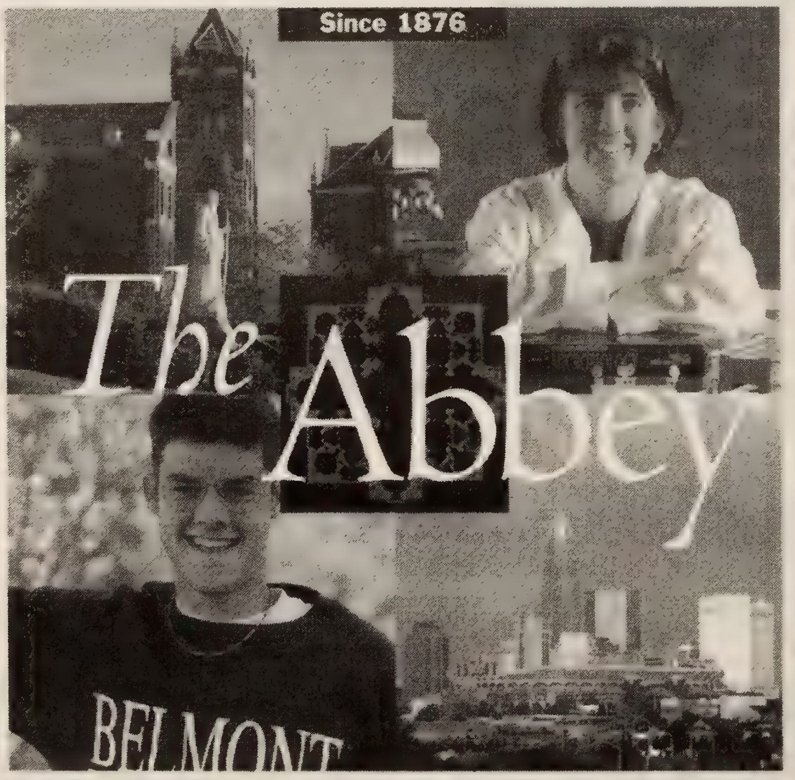
Local agencies take responsibility for refugees for a 90-day period, helping them get settled in housing, jobs and schools.

The USCC receives $740 in federal funds for each refugee, according to Mark Franken, executive director of the Migration and Refugee Services of the USCC.

About $270 per refugee goes to assistance like food, clothing and shelter; the balance is divided between the local and national refugee programs for administrative costs, according to Franken.

"It is understood that this in no way covers the true cost of resettling a refugee," he told The Georgia Bulletin, newspaper of the Atlanta Archdiocese.

The church also provides support from parishes, volunteers and local Catholic Social Services agencies, he said. Additional funding for refugee assistance is available through federal agencies such as Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement.



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The Making of Saints

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Following are excerpts from Pope John Paul II's sermon on the occasion of the Oct. 1 canonizations in St. Peter Square:

— "Two thousand years from the beginning of the redemption, today we make those words our own, while we have before us such models of sanctity: Augustine Zhao and 119 companions, Martyrs in China, Mary Joseph of the Heart of Jesus Sancho di Guerra, Katherine Drexel and Josephine Bakhita."

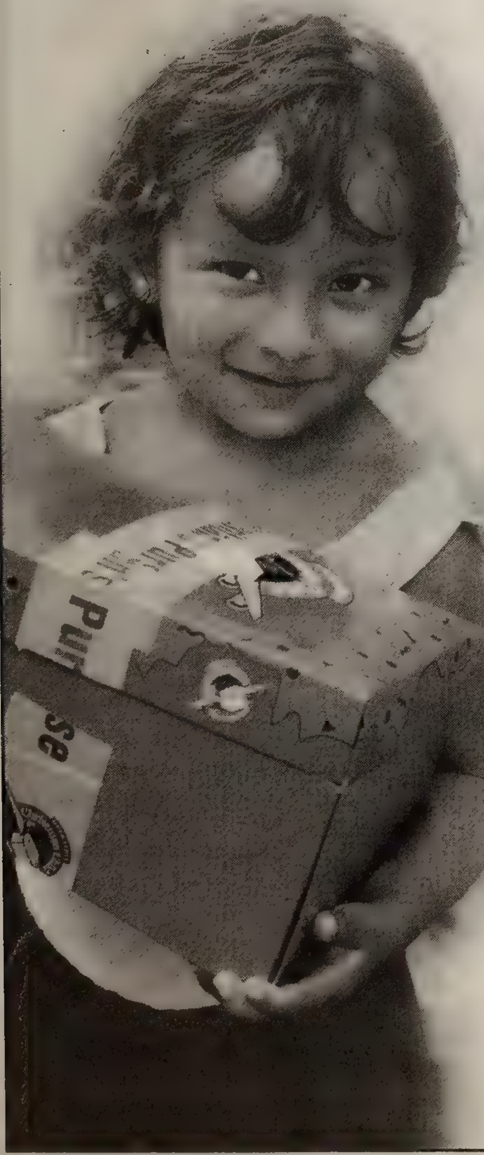
— "The Church is grateful today to her Lord, who blesses her and fills her with the brilliant light of holiness of these sons and daughters of China." These Chinese "men and women of every age and situation, priests religious an laity, gave witness to the same conviction and joy, and sealed their own unwavering faithfulness to Christ and to the Church with the gift of their lives. This took place over a span of several centuries in complex and difficult periods in the history of China."

— "In the life of the new Saint, the first Basque to be canonized, the action of the Holy Spirit is shown in a special way. He guided her to the service of the sick and prepared her to be the mother of a new religious family. Sister Mary Joseph lived her vocation as a true apostle in the field of health care, where her way of helping combined giving attention to the material as well as the spiritual, bringing about through every means the salvation of souls. In spite of illness during the last twelve years of her life, she did not avoid effort or suffering and gave herself without limits to the charitable service of the infirm in an atmosphere of spiritual contemplation. May the example and the intercession of Saint Mary Joseph help the Basque people to leave aside violence forever, and that Euskadi [the Basque Country] may be a blessed land of a place of peace and brotherly living together, where the rights of all people may be respected and where never again may innocent blood be shed."

— Mother Katherine Drexel was born into wealth in Philadelphia in the United States. But from her parents she learned that her family's possessions were not for them alone but were meant to be shared with the less fortunate. As a young woman, she was deeply distressed by the poverty and hopeless conditions endured by many Native Americans and Afro-Americans. She began to devote her fortune to missionary and educational work among the poorest members of society. Later, she understood that more was needed. With great courage and confidence in God's grace, she chose to give not just her fortune but her whole life totally to the Lord. To her Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, she taught a spirituality based on prayerful union with the Eucharistic Lord and zealous service to the poor and the victims of racial discrimination. Her apostolate helped to bring about a growing awareness of the need to combat all forms of racism through education and social services. Katherine Drexel is an excellent example of that practical charity and generous solidarity with the less fortunate that has long been the distinguishing mark of American Catholics."

— Sister Josephine Bakhita was abducted and sold into slavery at the tender age of seven. "She suffered much at the hands of cruel master. But she came to understand the profound truth that God, and not man, is the true Master of every human being, of every human life. This experience became a source of great wisdom for this humble daughter of Africa. In today's world, countless women continue to be victimized, even in developed modern societies. In Saint Josephine Bakhita, we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return them to their dignity in the full exercise of their rights. My thoughts turn to the new Saint's country, which has been torn by cruel war for the past seventeen years, with little sign of a solution in sight. In the name of suffering humanity, I appeal once more to those with responsibility: open your hearts to the cries of millions of innocent victims and embrace the path of negotiation. I plead with the international community: Do not continue to ignore this immense human tragedy. I invite the whole Church to invoke the intercession of Saint Bakhita upon all our persecuted and enslaved brothers and sisters, especially in Africa and in her native Sudan, that they may know reconciliation and peace."

Contact Editor Joann S. Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org.



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Franklin Graham, Chairman of Samaritan's Purse

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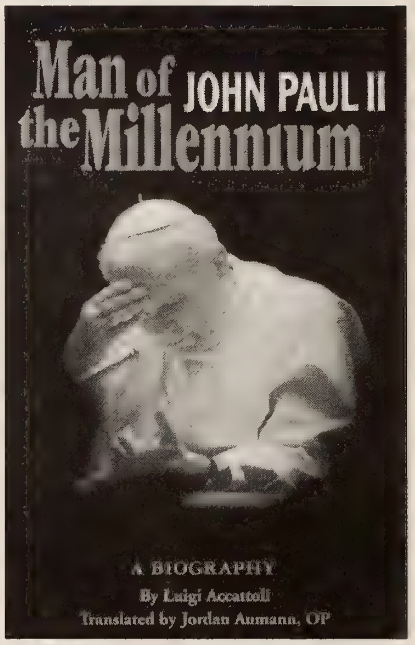
Book Review

Book covers high points of John Paul II's papacy, life

Reviewed by JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

Reading a papal biography can be an arm-spraining experience these days. Several recent works on the life of Pope John Paul II have weighed in at close to 1,000 pages, and read more like research tools than coherent stories.

"Man of the Millennium: John Paul II,"
by Luigi Accattoli.
Pauline Books & Media (Boston, 2000). 276 pp. $19.95



Luigi Accattoli, probably the best of the Italian journalists who cover the pope regularly, has done everyone a favor by writing tightly and making this pope's story more accessible to nonexperts. His 276-page "Man of the Millennium: John Paul II" covers the high points of the pope's life and his papacy to date, without getting lost in minutiae or analysis.

Accattoli's book has another advantage: It's based largely on the journalist's own notes during more than 20 years of reporting, which gives his account an eyewitness quality that others have lacked.

The author clearly has a great respect for the pope, but also an objectivity that allows him to step aside and make some tough judgments. For example, he gives the pope high marks as a "missionary" but says that his Vatican management style has left structural problems that will need to be faced by his successor.

Another strength of this volume is its careful tracking of the pope's efforts to lead a churchwide "examination of conscience," which began well before the jubilee year 2000. Accattoli distinguished himself as the only journalist who saw the "mea culpa" pattern early, identifying this new papal approach as bold but fraught with pitfalls.

The book is arranged in 40 chapters that move somewhat chronologically, but focusing on such themes as "Bonding with the Media," "Reopening the Galileo Case" and "Lefebvre's Break with Rome."

Accattoli is at home explaining the pope's "theology of the body" and human sexuality, a topic which has befuddled many others. His conclusions are the distillation of long reflection on papal talks, encyclicals and actions.

The author often quotes papal asides that are not part of the official record — comments to journalists on his airplanes, or ripostes to children during a visit to a Rome parish. What emerges is a more human pope than many people are familiar with.

This is a book that rarely challenges Vatican policy, and its pages reflect the author's genuine sympathy for Pope John Paul. First published in Italian in 1998, its big drawback is that it is already somewhat dated on some subjects, such as the church's relations with Jews, in view of the pope's Holy Land pilgrimage this year, or the pope's personal devotion to Mary, in view of the publication of the Fatima secret.

Word to Life

October 15, Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B Readings
1) Wisdom 7:7-11
Psalm 90:12-17
2) Hebrews 4:12-13
3) Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

In the Gospel this week, Jesus' demands and his promised rewards seem pretty extravagant. He tells the rich young man who comes to him seeking the path to everlasting life that he must sell all he has and give it to the poor.

The young man, already observing all the commandments required of him, went away "sad, for he had many possessions." This all puzzles the disciples, who want to know both who can be saved and what is in store for them (and all those who give up all to follow him).

Jesus promises them "a hundred times as many homes, brothers and sisters, mothers, children and property — and persecution besides (in this age) — and in the age to come everlasting life.

Having had an adult conversion experience that changed my life dramatically, I can attest to the trustworthiness at least of the rewards this side of mortality. For the rest, it's going to be God's grace all the way.

In my college years I walked away from God after having been brought up in a Christian home where daily devotionals at the breakfast table were part of the routine for many years. But even with a good grounding, when I hit the teen years, the "God is Dead" movement was very much au courant, and almost without exception my college friends allowed their social activism, self-centered natures and the pseudo-intellectualism of the '60s and '70s to drive a sharp dividing wedge between us and whatever spiritual heritage we had received from our parents.

The path back to God was slow, but it was much less painful than what I had experienced because of my separation from God and failure to live by his standards. Scripture, the church and the example of others were very important in following the graced steps that God allowed me to take back to him.

In Scripture's wisdom and in God's shaping of my life, I found peace and purpose and, in time, as we gave more and more of who we were to God, my wife and I found the fulfillment of the promises Jesus gives in the Mark passage, including, from time to time that little twist at the end: "and persecution besides."

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 15 - 21, 2000

Sunday, Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30; **Monday (Sts. Hedwig and Margaret Mary Alacoque),** Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1, Luke 11:29-32; **Tuesday (St. Ignatius of Antioch),** Galatians 5:1-6, Luke 11:37-41; **Wednesday (St. Luke),** 2 Timothy 4:9-17, Luke 10:1-9; **Thursday (North American Martyrs),** Ephesians 1:3-10, Luke 11:47-54; **Friday (St. Paul of the Cross),** Ephesians 1:11-14, Luke 12:1-7; Saturday, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 12:8-12

Readings for the week of Oct. 22 - 28, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday (St. John of Capistrano),** Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. Anthony Claret),** Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday,** Ephesians 3:2-12, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday,** Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday,** Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday (Sts. Simon and Jude),** Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16

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Catholics have no voice in either major U.S. party, says Flynn

By **JOHN THAVIS**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an interview with Vatican Radio, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican Raymond Flynn criticized Democrats and Republicans and said there was "no voice in either party for the Catholic point of view."

Flynn said he thought the coming presidential election would be an "eye-opener" for Catholics in the United States.

He predicted that after the vote, Catholics would look back and realize they had become "second-class citizens" as far as political influence was concerned.

Flynn, a one-time Democratic mayor of Boston who now heads the nonpartisan Catholic Alliance, made the comments Oct. 4 on Vatican Radio's "Jubilaeum" program, which uses a talk-show format with brief translations in several languages.

The former ambassador, who served as U.S. representative to the Holy See from 1993-97, said he believed both major political parties in the United States had become more "elitist" and less responsive to the church's traditional pro-life, pro-poor agenda. One reason is that many Catholics seem to have abandoned political activism or divorced it from their faith, he said.

"It seems that the better the economy is, the less people care about the poor, and the less they care about government," he said. Catholics have "made it" in the United States and have retired to the political sidelines, he said.

He suggested that Catholic politicians who are reluctant to mix religion and politics should take a lesson from the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn.

"Joseph Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew and — more power to him — when he speaks out on behalf of his religion, he's praised in The New York Times and The Washington Post and other media," Flynn said.

"But if you have a Catholic politician who gets up and says, 'I'm pro-life because I believe this,' he'll get criticized by all the media in the United States," he said.

"Maybe Joe Lieberman has taught us something in this campaign. Catholic politicians ought to express their point of view, including their religious values and beliefs, just as Sen. Lieberman did," he said.

Flynn said that because the Catholic vote in the United States is split fairly evenly between Democrats and Republicans, both parties tend to write off the church's interests.

"I think a week after the election Catholics are going to wake up and say: We have lost our political strength. This is no longer 1960, when Catholics finally made it with John Kennedy, this is 2000, when Catholics took a major step back in political influence in the United States," he said.

Flynn was in Rome for the Oct. 1 canonization of St. Katharine Drexel and 120 Chinese martyrs.

He said Mother Drexel, who used her inheritance to help poor Native Americans and African-Americans, was "a great witness to our Catholic faith and also a great representative of the United States of America."

He said the canonization of the Chinese martyrs underscored the church's commitment to religious freedom.

He contrasted that with recent U.S. trade overtures to China.

"Many of us believe that the U.S. government should not have a special trade relationships with communist China" until the country allows people to practice their religion in freedom and ends other human rights abuses, he said.

The former ambassador, who served as U.S. representative to the Holy See from 1993-97, said he believed both major political parties in the United States had become more "elitist" and less responsive to the church's traditional pro-life, pro-poor agenda. One reason is that many Catholics seem to have abandoned political activism or divorced it from their faith, he said.

Faithful Citizenship

As bishops, we do not seek the formation of a religious voting bloc, nor do we wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates. We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy, and performance. We are convinced that a consistent ethic of life should be the moral framework from which to address all issues in the political arena. We urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not simply party affiliation or mere self interest.

— from "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," U.S. Catholic bishops' administrative board

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope marks Cardinal Hickey's 80th birthday at audience

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Eucharist is "the supreme celebration" of God's love, Pope John Paul II said at his weekly general audience, which included special birthday greetings for an American cardinal.

"The Eucharist is thanksgiving," the pope said Oct. 11 at his weekly general audience. "In it, the Son of God unites redeemed humanity to himself in a song of giving thanks and praise."

During the audience, Pope John Paul greeted a 100-member pilgrimage from the Archdiocese of Washington led by Cardinal James A. Hickey, as well as several other U.S. bishops leading diocesan pilgrimages.

Speaking of the cardinal before an estimated 38,000 people at the audience, the pope said, "I offer my cordial good wishes for his 80th birthday which he is celebrating today."

Cardinal Hickey, walking very slowly and looking frail, was the first of dozens of bishops from around the world to shake hands and speak with the pope at the end of the audience.

As the cardinal approached, Pope John Paul stood up to greet him and say a few words to him. The pope then sat again as all the other bishops came up to him.

In his main audience talk, Pope John Paul continued his teaching on the Eucharist, in which "Jesus is really present under the species of bread and wine as he himself assures us."

While the Old Testament sacrifices united God and human beings in a bond of solidarity, the pope said, in the sacrifice of Christ in the Eucharist "the intimacy becomes total, the embrace between God and man reaches its summit."

"Uniting itself to the sacrifice of Christ, the church in the Eucharist gives voice to the praises of all creation," which is renewed by Christ's death and resurrection, he said.

Offering God thanksgiving and praise through the celebration of the Eucharist, the faithful increase their participation when they offer God their entire lives, he said.

"In this way, one life unites God and man, the Christ crucified and risen for all, with the disciple called to give himself totally entirely to Christ," the pope said.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

School Prayer of the Best Kind

If you pay attention to the news, you've been hearing a lot about that pesky thing called school prayer lately.

Back and forth the conflict goes, from courts to classrooms to football fields, of all places. A court declares that prayer before a public school football game violates the separation of church and state. In response angry parents and students (we assume), upon reading the ruling carefully, decide that what is forbidden is officially sanctioned prayer.

So what's to stop one member of the crowd from just starting to pray and everyone else from joining in? How can that be a violation of the Constitution? Wouldn't it be, rather, a violation of the First Amendment (you know, freedom of speech and all that) to shut them up?

It's a sticky question, and one that's not easily answered by that most simplistic of modern Christian solutions: What would Jesus do?

I don't know. What do you think? Do you think Jesus would get riled up about the question of praying or not praying before an athletic event?

I may not know the answer to that particular question, but I do know this, and so do you I bet: Jesus tells us to put God first. Paul tells us to "pray unceasingly."

Somehow, I think that goes beyond asking the Creator's blessing on a football game, soccer match or gymnastics meet. Not that God doesn't care about those things. Of course, God cares about every tiny thing we do, no matter how trivial or ultimately unimportant.

But if you're serious about your relationship with God, you know that the kind of prayer life Jesus calls us to goes way beyond that particular kind of public prayer and doesn't need it at all in order to thrive.

And I'm not talking about a whispered plea for help before a chemistry test either. I'm talking about getting up in the morning, thanking God for another day of life and offering the day and all your work to him.

I'm talking about developing a spirit that sees every single person you meet — from the teacher everyone despises to the pest who has the locker next to you to that girl you know dissed you behind your back — seeing them all as God's children, as deeply loved by him as you are. Imagine that.

I'm talking about seeing your whole day prayerfully — that means, as much as you can, seeing it as God sees it.

Why did he put you here, in this family, in this school, on this day? What situations need his love, peace and healing? Who that you might meet need to know, in some way, that they're important, that they're valuable, that they're cared for?

What gifts did God give you, and how can you use them today? What challenges are you going to meet? Are you going to run away from those challenges and take the easy way out, or are you going to dig deep, turn to God for strength and meet them head-on?

For all of that, you see, is prayer in school. It's the kind that's not used for political purposes or to prove a point to the outside world. It's the kind that no court or school system can take away from you.

It's the best kind of school prayer, too.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Service that touches the heart

We have witnessed transformation in individuals and families when they roll up their sleeves and serve others. Whether one is involved in an alternative spring break, confirmation service hours or mission work in another country, investing time and energy in service to others shapes identities and concretizes the radical egalitarianism of the Gospel into personal experience. Ultimately, service informs the religious experience with application of gospel principles, i.e., to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, shelter the homeless. Service touches the heart and is an important part of being a Christian. It is something that should be expected of all in the Christian community, particularly those preparing for marriage.

The Church, in its pastoral outreach to those preparing for marriage, has expectations of engaged couples. A standard expectation is that they seek pastoral guidance from a priest or deacon during the preparation period. Marriage education programs, such as PreCana and Engaged Encounter, and premarital inventories, such as FOCCUS, may also be part of what's expected. These programs offer the engaged opportunities to see themselves living as sacrament and begin developing marital skills to help them maintain a sense of well-being in their married life.

Why not include service among the expectations? While service informs personal religious experiences, it also has the potential of showing an engaged couple their shared spiritual center — that "something else" that is part of their synergy. It is that "something else" that they must tap into to live as sacrament.

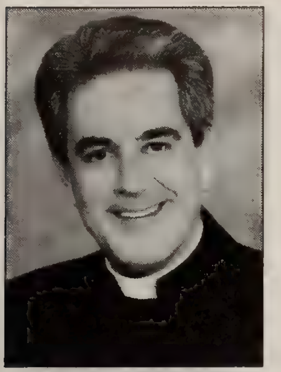
It's important that the service be something they do together. As they experience their individual transformation, they witness the other's as well. The relationship is affected by the shared experience; it takes on a gospel character.

However, the service itself offers little without prayerful reflection. Those who assist the engaged in their marriage preparation should assist them in such reflection so that the experience applies meaning in other areas of their lives. Service without reflection is just work. With prayerful reflection, transformation is possible. Questions such as the following may be helpful in the guided reflection:

* What did you do?
* Who were the beneficiaries of your service?
* Why was this worth your time and energy?
* What did you learn about the people you served?
* What did you learn about yourself?
* How did you see your fiancé(e) differently?
* How did you experience your relationship differently?

Particularly for today's young adults, a more pragmatic generation, service opportunities with guided reflection are effective ways to evangelize. The time of engagement is a wonderful opportunity for the church to reach out to the soon-to-be married and engage them in the work of the church.

So, we call on all who minister to the engaged to encourage doing service together as part of their marriage preparation. What better way to begin a marriage than toiling in the Lord's vineyard and serving the people of God.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Healing body and soul

A wise doctor friend of mine recently shared a couple of stories with me that helped me see his vocation in an entirely new light.

We were discussing the marvelous advances in medicine made possible by new technologies and research. But when I began to rave about the many innovations, he smiled good-naturedly and raised his hand in gentle protest. "I hate to admit it, Father, but the healing arts are getting dangerously close to losing the one thing that all these scientific breakthroughs cannot provide — the human touch." He offered these two examples.

During the first two decades of this century, a great number of babies wasted away in hospitals and died from unknown causes. In some institutions it was customary to enter the condition of all seriously sick infants as "hopeless" on admissions cards. Among those who confronted infant mortality daily was Doctor Fritz Talbot of the Children's Clinic in Düsseldorf, Germany. He had such uncommon success in dealing with sick children that other doctors began to inquire what kind of wonder drug he was using.

Talbot explained that his secret was "Old Anna," a grandmotherly woman who would cuddle a baby on her lap while seated in a large rocker. Whenever there was a baby for whom everything had failed, he turned the child over to Old Anna. Talbot explained, "She has more success than all the doctors and nurses in this institution combined."

My friend moved on to his second illustration. The late Doctor Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, internationally-known psychiatrist and authority on death and dying, liked to tell the true story of an old woman who worked for many years in a Chicago hospital, mopping floors.

Whenever the scrubwoman left the room of a dying patient, that patient, without exception, was happier and more at peace than before. Having observed this phenomenon over a period of time, Doctor Kubler-Ross determined to find out why it was happening.

She invited the old woman to her office for a conference. There she learned that this poor, uneducated cleaning woman had faced a great deal of suffering and tragedy in her life. The woman told the doctor about the time when she had waited in a public health clinic for her three-year-old son to be treated for pneumonia. Before the little boy's turn for treatment came, he died in her arms.

"You see, doctor," the old woman said, "dying patients are just like old acquaintances to me, and I'm not afraid to touch them, to talk with them, or to offer them hope."

Deeply touched by her words, Kubler-Ross notified hospital authorities. In turn they offered the old scrubwoman a newly created position of "Counselor to the Dying" and she worked in that capacity for several years before her own death.

My friend's point is this: At this moment in your life there are people who need you, need your help, need your support, need your love. Do not be afraid to touch them, to talk with them, to listen with understanding, to give them hope. Do not be afraid to give them love! Their healing begins with you.

Father Thomas J. McSweeney is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Prayers Years Later for a Deceased Person

Q. *A dear member of our family died recently, and a question arose about our prayers for the dead.*

I think I read once that we should never stop praying for our dead relatives because the person receives the benefit of our prayers at the time of death, even if the prayers are said 30 years later. Did I understand that correctly? (New York)

A. Yes you did. As far as we can know, there is nothing like time in our sense of that reality — hours, days, years — in eternity. Supposedly, we will be out of a dimension where such measures of time make sense.

Thus, any answer to your question cannot be based on a parallel between events here and the duration of events after we die. In its prayers and liturgies (the Eucharistic Prayers at every Mass are good examples), the church basically just walks around that question and continues to pray always for all who have died.

Excellent reasons exist for this Christian tradition. Perhaps the most fundamental is that our prayers for the dead, as all our prayers, go to a God who is eternal, who has no beginning or end, for whom there is no past or future.

Everything, from the beginning of time to the end of the world, is one eternally present moment for God. We cannot imagine God saying, for example, "If you had just said that prayer a week ago I could have done something about it, but now it's too late."

As St. Thomas Aquinas explained, God is present in the whole of reality, the whole span of time and place, in one infinite act of divine knowledge.

When we pray for someone, therefore, considering that universal reach of God's presence and being, our prayers are not limited by time. They extend back — and forward — to the beginning of an individual's life, through to the end, and into eternity.

For the same reason we pray constantly (again, the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass are excellent examples) for a good and holy death for ourselves and others. The fact that death may be years away doesn't matter.

It is worth remembering, finally, that prayers for our loved ones are also always prayers of thanks, praising God for his goodness to that person and for all the good done for others in and through that individual's life on earth.

Your memory, and your instincts, are good. Keep up the prayers.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

Part II: Respect for Human Life

Principled behavior is human action based on an internalized conviction.

Deep in the heart of Catholic social doctrine is the principle of respect for human life. This principle rests on the conviction that human life from the moment of conception through death is sacred.

This conviction drives all social action aimed at protecting the unborn and defending each unique human being's right to life through all stages of life.

Honest people in society do differ on whether a human person is present from the moment of conception. That is a biological and philosophical question that can never be settled by political argument.

Catholic doctrine is clear, however, that a human life, worthy of respect, is present from the moment of conception. A human embryo is a human being.

And Catholic practice regarding embryonic human life is guided by the same respect the tradition accords a fully formed human person.

It seems to me that "pro-life" and "pro-choice" are political labels of diminishing utility. The Catholic tradition is pro life and pro moral choice in every area of human decision making.

The abortion debate, particularly in the political arena, requires the light of solid moral arguments before choices are made. Emotions can understandably run high when issues of human life and death are under discussion, but heated debate has to be cooled by moral reasoning if personal and policy decisions that respect human dignity and human life are to emerge.

Catholic social thought weaves what is called a "consistent life ethic." It embraces the unborn, the weak and poor, the elderly and infirm; it speaks to life-and-death issues associated with war and weaponry, death and dying, incarceration and capital punishment.

Catholic social thought calls for conviction and consistency across the board on life issues. Moreover, Catholic social thought looks to issues such as violence, denial of health care, carelessness regarding automobile speed and safety, toleration of hunger and neglect of either personal or public health as respect-for-life issues.

A respect-life perspective looks to life's beginning and end stages; it stretches from the abortion issue to euthanasia. Rarely, if ever, will public policies reflect 100 percent agreement with Catholic values. To expect the end result of a political process to match perfectly with the moral convictions Catholic social thought embodies is unrealistic.

It would be quite realistic, however, for Catholics to adopt a social-action strategy that devotes intellectual energy to the development of moral arguments that can be used by moral leaders in their task of moral persuasion aimed at building a consensus broad enough to support public policies that demonstrate a genuine respect for life.

SEE RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE, PAGE 15

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Bishop William G. Curlin
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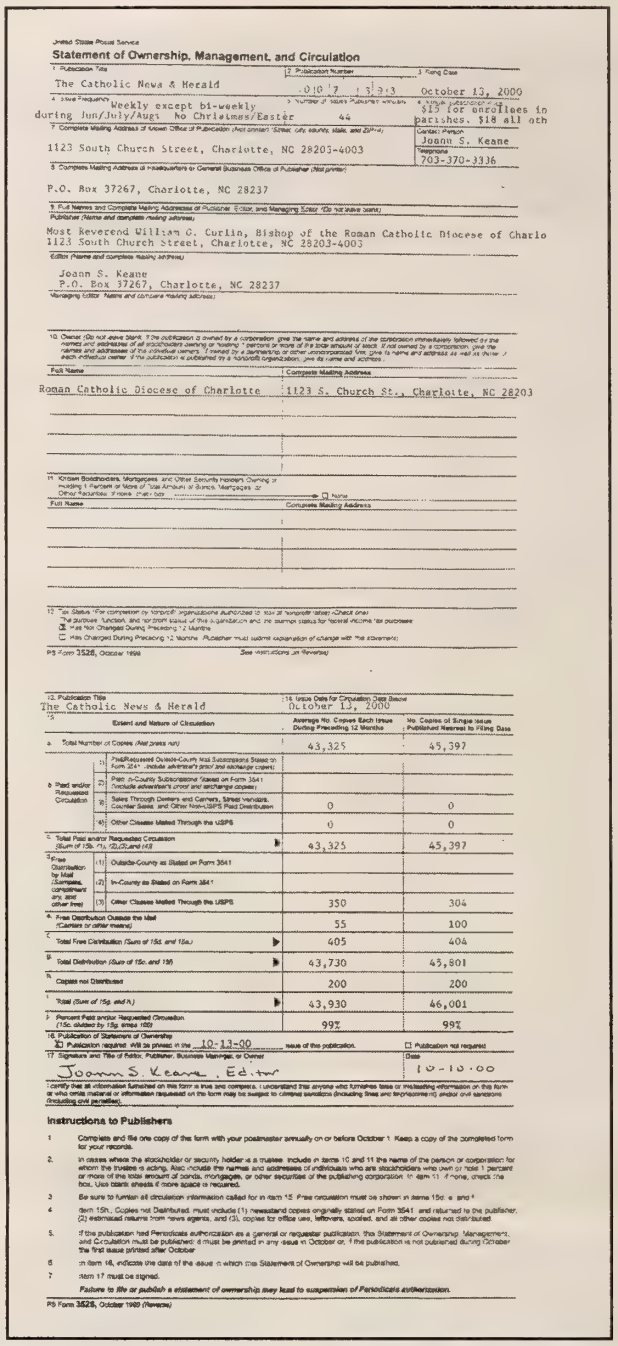

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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)

Repect for Human Life, from page 13

Catholic social teaching holds that it is morally impermissible directly to attack, with intent to destroy, innocent human life. Moving from that moral principle to a political (art-of-the possible, community standard-setting) position requires careful moral reasoning and powerful moral persuasion.

Action without thought and thought without action will be equally ineffective in this regard.

In a participative and representative democracy, the law often permits anti-life policies that go against a national consensus on respect for life. The challenge facing Catholic social action is to influence that consensus in the direction of respect for life and to participate in democratic processes aimed at reducing the range of permissibility of anti-life behavior.

Meanwhile, individual Catholics and the broader Catholic community have to meet the challenge of providing good respect-for-life example.

Catholic acceptance and advocacy of abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment and the unjustifiable use of force only serve to contradict Catholic social doctrine and delay the removal of these obstacles to the coming of God's promised kingdom of justice and peace.

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Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multi-cultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Music Minister: Part-time. To coordinate and direct liturgical music program of parish 30 miles east of Charlotte. Knowledge of Catholic liturgy. Organist preferred. Choral experience. For more info or send resume to Rev. Lawrence W. Heiney, Annunciation Catholic Church, 416 N. Second St., Albemarle, NC 28001-3911. (704)982-2910 or Fax (704)982-0881. e-mail: annalbnc@vnet.net

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Religion Teacher: Asheville Catholic School is seeking middle school religion teacher for 12 hours per week. Must be practicing Catholic and have sound knowledge of Roman Catholic doctrine and adolescent psychology. EOE. Please send resume to: Dr. Veronica Berreen, Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern Street, Asheville, NC 28804.

Religious Education Director: Full-time position is available at Saint Brigid Catholic Church, Alpharetta, Georgia (www.saintbrigid.org). Degreed applicant must be a practicing Catholic. The Religious Education Director will administer (design, develop, direct, and evaluate) the total parish catechetical program and provide leadership to assist the parish community in building a solid foundation for Christian living. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Benefits package included. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. Joe Corbett, Saint Brigid Catholic Church, 3400 Old Alabama, Alpharetta, GA 30022, or fax to (678)393-0071, or e-mail to fr.joe@saintbrigid.org.

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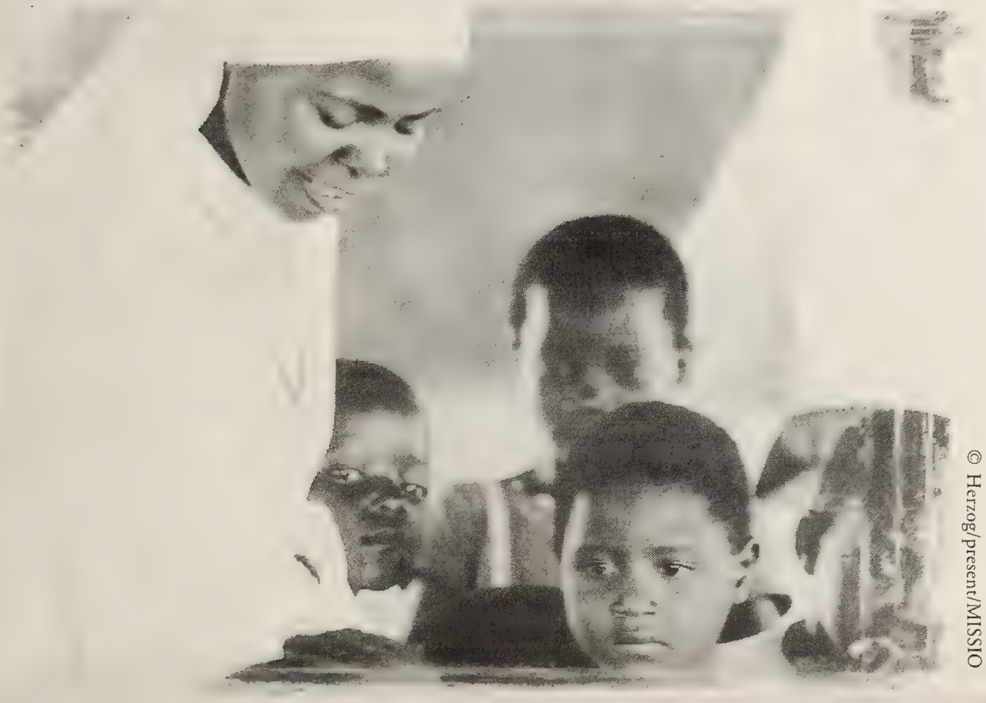
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE • OCTOBER 22, 2000

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

SISTER TEACHING IN TANZANIA

This local sister is teaching a kindergarten class in her native Tanzania in Africa. Each day she helps these young people learn not only about math and reading, but also about how very much the Lord loves each of them.



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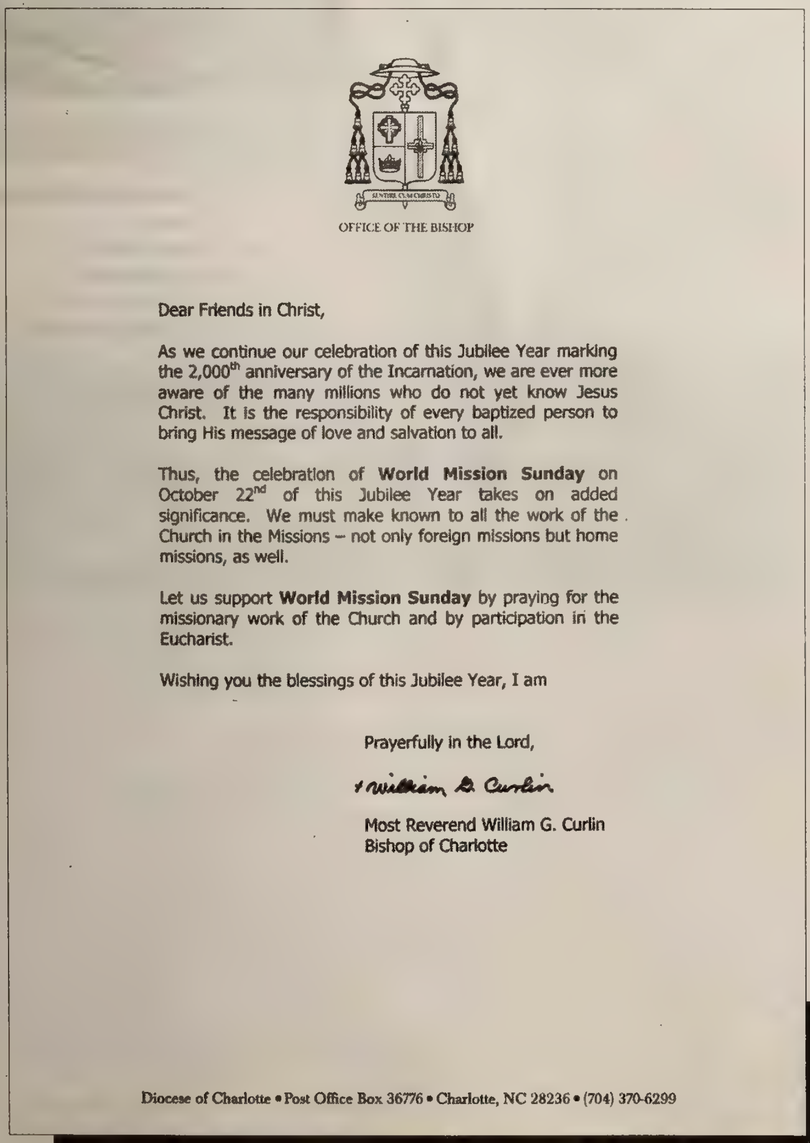

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue our celebration of this Jubilee Year marking the 2,000th anniversary of the Incarnation, we are ever more aware of the many millions who do not yet know Jesus Christ. It is the responsibility of every baptized person to bring His message of love and salvation to all.

Thus, the celebration of **World Mission Sunday** on October 22nd of this Jubilee Year takes on added significance. We must make known to all the work of the Church in the Missions – not only foreign missions but home missions, as well.

Let us support **World Mission Sunday** by praying for the missionary work of the Church and by participation in the Eucharist.

Wishing you the blessings of this Jubilee Year, I am

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

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SISTER JOSEPHINE TELLS THE STORY OF A MOTHER WHO BROUGHT TWO SEVERLY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN TO the clinic. One child died; the other was treated, but remained very weak. In Rwanda, it is a tradition that the dead are carried home for burial by a family member. The mother took the little sick child home and said she would send her husband back for her other son.

Sister Josephine remembers a man coming to them the next day: "No shoes, hardly any clothing, and nothing in which to carry home his son." The Sisters gave him a cardboard box in which to place the child, and the man struggled off through the camp, no one coming to his aid.

Sister Josephine turned to a Rwandese man who was there with her, and asked him why. He answered, "Sister, who will help the poor unless you do?"

On World Mission Sunday, Catholics in the Pacific Islands, across Asia, Africa and Europe, throughout the American continent — in the parishes of our diocese — are called to offer special prayers for the Church's missionary work.

Do we hear a question coming to us from those missions,

"WHO WILL BRING THE GOOD NEWS, THE GOSPEL OF JESUS, TO THE POOR ... UNLESS YOU DO?"

First Vows: Making steps in the path to the Lord

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

BELMONT — Entering the religious life fleetingly crossed Mercy Sister Joann Ury's mind on a couple of occasions, but she did not pay much attention to the thoughts. However, soul-searching and careful consideration prompted her to make a change later in her life.

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina gathered to welcome Sister Joann into their arms as she professed her first, or temporary, vows during a ceremony and liturgy at the Cardinal Gibbons Chapel at the Sacred Heart Convent on Oct. 7.

"The profession of vows by an individual sister is a celebration of the whole religious community in which we gather to praise God who loves us, and by this profession, witness to God's presence in all creation and particularly in the church," said Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picot, president of the Regional Community of North Carolina.

The ceremony involves formal and traditional questioning of the sister by the president about her intentions to become a Mercy Sister and the proclamation of the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service in the presence of two witnesses for a three-year period of ministerial work, after which, one professes final vows.

Some of Sister Joann's first steps on her life path, one much like other women's, were in the direction of sharing that life with another person.

Her husband John worked as a radio newscaster, and she worked in bookkeeping and accounting. Because they wanted to live in a warmer climate, the couple moved to Charlotte from Ohio. Tragically, a year after their move, her husband died suddenly. Through the support of local friends, she continued her life in Charlotte and later started her own accounting and bookkeeping business.

At her parish, St. John Neumann in Charlotte, Sister Joann worked with Laotian and Vietnamese refugees, church bookkeeping, nursing home visits and other ministries. There, she met several Sisters of Mercy who were working with adult education at the church.

"They always seemed joyful in everything they did; they were out there among the people," said Sister Joann.

Several years after her husband's death, the idea to serve God as a woman religious came up again, and after the concept seemed to linger in her deepest thoughts for many years, it was something that she had to investigate for her own peace of mind.

"I never pursued it [the call to religious life] back then because I felt that I didn't have the relationship with God that I have now," said Sister Joann. "Eventually, I had to pursue it to see if it was what God was calling me to do."

She talked with the vocation director at the convent, and in 1996, she entered as a candidate. During this two-year period, she lived in the community and was exposed to the daily life of a Mercy Sister while she still worked with her business. In 1998 she moved on to the novitiate level, with a year of traveling across the state exploring the various ministries and a second year of study in St. Louis, Mo.

Courtesy Photo

Mercy Sister Joann Ury

"She is a very prayerful person and has a good sense of serving other people in a gentle, unassuming way," said Mercy Sister Pauline Mary Clifford, Sister Joann's mentor for four years and vice-president of the Regional Community of North Carolina. "Through our weekly meetings, my role was to walk with her and to help her in any way I could."

The profession of first vows falls fourth in line of a series of stages, or the incorporation process, through which a woman must go in order to reach the profession of final vows: pre-candidacy involving further and continued personal introspection and analysis of the call to religious life; candidacy, a two-year period; novitiate, also a two-year period of theological study and a time to learn more about deep and committed involvement in the order; and temporary profession.

"Each stage has a ritual that welcomes her to the next stage of process which builds up to final vows," explained Mercy Sister Carolyn McWatters, director of incorporation for the North Carolina Regional Community. Membership in the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy does not begin until one has professed first vows, she said.

Sister Joann will be working primarily with the elderly at the Sisters of Mercy Marian Center, a residential care facility in Belmont, and at St. Michael Church in Gastonia. "I want to be able to serve the people and help in whatever way I can and be compassionate and caring like the sisters I met before I entered," said Sister Joann.

Mother Catherine McAuley founded the Sisters of Mercy in 1831 in Dublin, Ireland, and the order spread to all parts of the world. In 1869, a group of sisters settled in Wilmington, N.C., and were invited by the Benedictine monks to begin a school for women, which later became Sacred Heart College, in Belmont in 1892.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 20, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 7

Inside

Pickle debate
Gathering in Raleigh explores Union issues
...Page 5

Faithful Citizenship:
Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium
...Pages 7-10

Local News

St. Benedict Church dedicates parish center
...Page 3

Former justice and peace director takes concerns to national level
...Page 4

Every Week

Readings
...Page 11

Editorials & Columns
...Pages 12-13

"In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation."

— from "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium"

'You are proof that marriage works'

Bishop celebrates Mass for jubilee couples

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Be loving, honest and holy in the vocation of marriage, and God will deny no grace to have a happy life together, Bishop William G. Curlin told a group of silver and golden wedding jubilarians during a weekend the Catholic Church celebrated as the Jubilee for Families.

"We come to celebrate your love, your devotion, your dedication to each other all these many years," Bishop Curlin told some 200 couples at the diocese's annual Mass honoring couples who are celebrating their 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries. "We ask God to bless you for all that you have witnessed in your life, and to bless you for all the years yet to come in his love."

Bishop Curlin presided at the Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte on Oct. 15, day two of the Catholic Church's celebration of family life in the Jubilee Year. The bishop commended the couples for the sacrifice, understanding and sensitivity they have brought to each other in their years together.

"You have something to tell our world about," he said. "You are proof that marriage works. You are proof that marriage is something beautiful, that it is something sacred in God's eyes."

For JoAnn Last of McLeansville, who celebrates 25 years of married life with husband Raymond this year,

See ANNIVERSARY, page 15

" I will Espouse you to myself forever...."
— Hosea 2:21

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

25th and 50th Anniversary Mass
Some 200 couples celebrated their silver and golden anniversaries at a special Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church Oct. 15. The annual Mass is sponsored by the diocese's Family Life program.

Pope defends family, human life at Jubilee

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the sound of rain pattering behind him and thousands of umbrellas shielding mothers, fathers and infants before him, Pope John Paul II urged families to place children first and respect the traditional family.

More than 150,000 people thronged St. Peter's Square despite heavy rain Oct. 15 for an outdoor Mass marking the culmination of the Jubilee for Families.

An encounter with the pope the previous afternoon gathered some 250,000 pilgrims under drier skies.

Rain or shine, the theme was the same: Surrounded by the "winter" of societal attacks on the institution of the family, children mark a "springtime" of hope.

"They represent the flowering of conjugal love," said the pope, stressing children's "message of life" and, with their newborn neediness and dependence on their parents, an "appeal to solidarity." Deploring a growing modern attitude that views children "more as a threat than a gift," he said children were not merely an "accessory in the project of a conjugal life."

"They are not optional," he said, "but a very precious gift, inscribed in the structure itself of conjugal union."

Calling on the faithful to "reverse this trend" of regarding children as a burden, the pope called the contemporary situation of children a "challenge to all of society."

See FAMILY, page 15

Catholic school teachers' salaries too low, union leader says

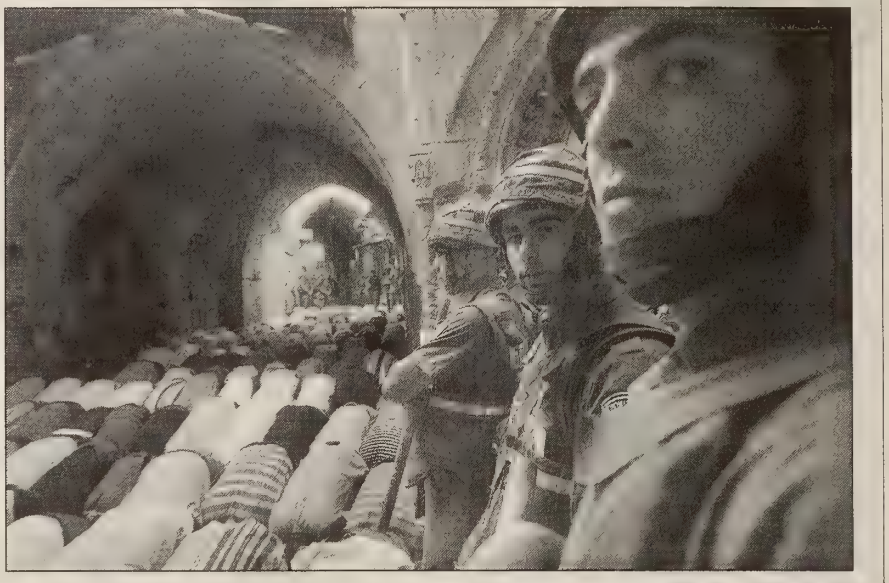
PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The president of the National Association of Catholic School Teachers called on church leaders to close what she called the "faith gap" between Catholic school teachers' salaries and the salaries of their public school counterparts. "Catholic schoolteachers have demonstrated a high level of achievement for decades. It's time that level of achievement is recognized and rewarded," said Rita Schwartz on the eve of the association's 22nd annual convention Oct. 6-8 in Philadelphia. Schwartz said Catholic school teachers "provide top-level work for bottom-rung salaries."

Doctors perform healing mission of church, says prelate

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Being a Catholic medical doctor is a ministry that springs from a vocation within the church, the president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers told the 69th annual meeting of the Catholic Medical Association. Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragan gave the keynote address on the opening day of the Oct. 5-8 conference in Pittsburgh. The conference theme was "Catholic Medical Education and Practice in a Pluralistic Society: Entering the Third Millennium." "It is the mission of healing," the archbishop said in his talk, titled "The Medical Doctor and His Vocation in Relation to the Mission of the Church."

Congress passes bill to fight trafficking, domestic violence

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Following passage by the Senate Oct. 11, legislation that includes Catholic-backed provisions against trafficking in humans and domestic violence against women awaits President Clinton's signature. "This critical legislation has been a long time in the making, and as law, it will effectively combat the injustices of international and domestic abuse against women," said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., of the Trafficking and Violence Victims Protection Act of 2000. Smith, who chairs the International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, told Catholic News Service that the legislation took almost two years to shepherd through four different House committees.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Israeli police stand watch during prayers

Israeli Border Police stand watch over thousands of Palestinians kneeling in prayer in Jerusalem Oct. 13. Israeli security forces prevented Palestinian men from attending prayers at a mosque following increased violence in the West Bank.

20,000 attend Eucharistic congress in Washington

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 20,000 Catholics from the Washington area took part in a four-day Eucharistic congress in downtown Washington Oct. 5-8, including 14,000 for a closing Mass celebrated by Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington at the MCI Center. Catholics from all walks of life — including senior citizens, families with small children, groups of women religious, young adults and teen-agers — came together for the Mass. It was the largest attendance for a Mass in the District of Columbia since a Mass on the National Mall celebrated by Pope John Paul II during his 1979 visit to Washington.

After Rome trip, two priests die of Legionnaire's disease

ROME (CNS) — Two English priests died of Legionnaire's disease after arriving home from a jubilee pilgrimage to Rome, where they stayed at the English seminary and at a villa owned by the seminary. Father Nicholas Hudson, vice rector of the English College in Rome, said Oct. 13 the college was still awaiting the result of tests to determine if the priests caught the disease at the college. A layman traveling with the priests also contracted the disease. While awaiting the test results, the English College advised students not to use the hot water in the college showers.

Oregon archdiocese settles sex abuse lawsuits

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The Portland Archdiocese has issued a public apology and reached confidential financial settlements with 23 men who said they were sexually molested as children by a priest. Two other suits involving the same priest, Father Maurice Grammond, were not settled. The claims date from 1950, when he was ordained, through the 1970s. "These painful experiences remind us that there are times when we must act rather than remain silent and passive, be caring instead of indifferent, and follow our conscience rather than be controlled by fear," Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland said. "Otherwise, we may fail again to protect God's precious gift of our children."

Bishop says pilgrimages to China halted over sainthood dispute

HONG KONG (CNS) — A Hong Kong bishop said the canonization dispute between the Vatican and China has led to suspension of pilgrimage tours from Hong Kong to mainland China. Coadjutor Bishop Joseph Zen Ze-kiun of Hong Kong told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, Oct. 10 that several pilgrimage tours to Guangdong province, bordering Hong Kong, were suspended right before the Oct. 1 canonization of 120 Catholics who were martyred in China. Another tour that had already set out in late September was monitored throughout, he added. Instead of visiting churches, that Catholic group toured sightseeing spots but was followed anyway, he said.

Ecumenism needs canon law, canonists told

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Ecumenism needs canon law," veteran ecumenist Father John F. Hotchkin told North American canon lawyers Oct. 5. He suggested that the need for canon lawyers to be part of the ecumenical project will grow as churches begin to move from doctrinal agreement to further stages on the path of unity. On that path, he said, "the ministry of canonists is ever so necessary, necessary to steady and assure the community, ... casting the new canons which shall be needed to secure and safeguard our advances as we go, strengthening us against the mounting pressures to go back, to retreat."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

October 22 — 12:15 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Ann, Charlotte

5 p.m.
Dedication of new church
St. Francis of Assisi, Lenoir

October 24 — 7 p.m.
Hosting dinner for Friends of Seminarians
Charlotte

October 30 — 7 p.m.
Installation of Father J. T. Putnam as pastor
Sacred Heart, Salisbury

Diocesan planner

October

22 LEWISVILLE — Our Lady of Mercy Church, Our Lady of Fatima Chapel and Shallowford Presbyterian Church are co-sponsoring a Taize' Service tonight at 7:30 p.m. at 1200 Lewisville-Clemmons Rd. with an introduction to Taize' at 7:15 p.m. The purpose is to offer sung and chanted prayers for peace and reconciliation of the world through the community of Taize'. For more information, call OLM at (336) 722-7001 or Shallowford Presbyterian at (336) 766-3178.

LENOIR — With the theme "Faith Moves Mountains," the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church invite everyone to join them and Bishop William G. Curlin for the dedication of their new church this afternoon at 5 p.m. at the new location off Hwy 321 at 328-B Woodsway Lane NW. A reception immediately follows the dedication. For directions and more information, call the church office at (828) 754-5281.

SWANNANOA — St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, is presenting Olivia Woodford in "Hearing the Call," a one-woman play tonight at 7 p.m. Attendance is free, and for more information, call the church office at (828) 686-3243.

23 CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the meeting or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

MAGGIE VALLEY — To get in touch with the "abundant life" that

Out with the old, in with the new

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Monsignor Joseph S. Showfety has seen many changes and much growth occur at St. Benedict Church and in Greensboro throughout the years. The first chancellor of the diocese has been pastor at St. Benedict since 1993, a stroke of divine providence, as some might say, for one who received his sacraments at the church and grew up in the parish. After his ordination in 1955, Msgr. Showfety also celebrated his first low Mass in May of that year in his home parish.

Msgr. Showfety and his parishioners were all present to witness more changes at the church with the dedication and blessing of the new parish center and the confirmation of three of St. Benedict's faithful on Oct. 14.

A plaque bearing the names of Msgr. Showfety's parents, Abdou J. and Edna S. Showfety, has been placed on a wall near the double doors of the new church building in honor of the couple who contributed their gifts and spirit to the church where they were married in 1920. Along with Edna Showfety, who donated $100,000 to her church, monthly building fund collections, an altar appeal and parishioners' donations helped to get the new hall on its feet.

Photo By Alesha M. Price

Bishop William G. Curlin says the Prayer of Blessing flanked by Monsignor Joseph S. Showfety, pastor of St. Benedict Church in Greensboro, and Pat Guffey at the dedication and blessing of the new parish center on Oct. 14.

Nearly all of the church's 150 families attended the Mass and ceremony, officially marking the start of a new era in the church's long history. Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated the Mass, where he conferred the sacrament of confirmation and blessed the new building after Mass. After the blessing, the parishioners gathered for their first parish dinner in their new center, the first of many to come.

"The center is important to the church because it will serve as a place to enjoy parish life, especially for the new and young families that have joined," said Pat Guffey, a member for nine years. "We now have four new faith formation classrooms and a large hall that the young people can enjoy; they are the life of the parish to come."

The new hall with its glass doors and white walls and floors is a great contrast to the building that stood in its place for over 90 years. The old wooden structure, windows and all, had been bricked over and struggled to accommodate the needs of the ever-expanding parish.

"The new center is great because even though St. Benedict's is a relatively small parish, it is constantly growing," said Deborah Sawyer, whose daughter Dorothy, 15, was one of the three who was confirmed. "There are a lot of older people here because of the downtown location, but there are more kids here than when we first joined the parish 18 years ago."

Richard E. Miller, who has belonged to the church for 38 years, remembers the days when all of the faith formation classes had to be taught in the one-room building, separated by partitions. "The city wanted us to tear it down because it was so old, but we were able to hold onto it for as long as we could," said Miller.

"I have watched people come and go over the years. This is a nice, little parish, and it's home to me. I expect to be buried as a member of this parish," said the 85-year-old choir singer with a twinkle in his eye and a spryness in his step.

The church, originally known as St. Agnes Church, is the oldest in Greensboro and was renamed St. Benedict after the Benedictine monks who staffed the parish. The congregation outgrew the original structure, built in the 1870s, and it was sold to the city and became the first high school. The newly canonized St. Katherine Drexel also had a hand in forming the history of the church. She gave $1,500 toward the building of the new church on the condition that one of the pews would be designated for African-Americans, said Msgr. Showfety.

The second church building, where it stands now, is over 100 years old. Time and weather have worn down some parts of the structure, which has been strengthened by brick and the dedication of the parishioners and pastors, past and present.

"There are a few old- timers who have been here for years who have witnessed the unbelievable growth and changes that have taken place," said Msgr. Showfety. "It is a very active and busy parish, and St. Benedict's has a special place in people's hearts."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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surrounds everyone and to enjoy a deep conversation with God, all are invited to the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. "Nature Retreat: Abundant Life" will consist of reflection time outdoors and daily liturgy celebrated on the trail with Augustinian Father Terry Hyland and Charity Sister Fran Grady. For more information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

24 GREENSBORO — Pastor Conrad Pridgen of Bethel A.M.E. Church and a member of the N.C. Council of Churches and Pulpit Forum is speaking about "Justice and Righteousness" at today's luncheon gathering at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., from 12:10-1 p.m. A love offering is being taken right before the meal, and for more information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

MOORESVILLE — In observance of Respect Life Month and the Marian month of October, members of St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., and other area churches are taking part in a living candlelight and Scripture rosary tonight at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 664-3992.

25 CHARLOTTE — All families are invited to a memorial Mass for those who have died throughout the month at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they can be remembered at Mass.

27 COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Catholic Charismatic Service Committee invites the Diocese of Charlotte to their annual conference beginning today through Oct. 29 at John Neumann School on Polo Rd. The guest speakers are Rev. Tom Forrest and Jim Murphy. For a brochure and more details, write to Ross Gamble, 7817 Loch Lane, Columbia, S.C. 29223 or e-mail rbgam@juno.com.

KERNERSVILLE — The Holy Cross Columbiettes are hosting a fall/winter children's consignment sale in the church commons at 616 S. Cherry St. today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 4-7 p.m. and Oct. 28 from 8 a.m.-noon. All are invited to sell gently used children and pre-teen clothing, shoes, car seats, beds, walkers, toys and other items. All participants are offered a 70-30 percent split with 30 percent going to the Columbiettes. For details, call Evelyn Lawrence at (336) 788-4998 or Melanie Feeney-Lewis at (336) 869-5151.

28 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel School Harvest Crafts and Funfaire is taking place today from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the corner of Providence and Sharon Rd at 3028 Providence Rd. Over 50 crafters are being featured with Kids Kraft Kreations where children can make a craft gift, the Spirit of St. Gabe's Booth and tricks and treats for the young and old. For more information, call the school office at (704) 366-2409.

CHARLOTTE — There is an Alzheimer's Information Day taking place today from 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Providence United Methodist Church, 2810 Providence Rd. Eileen Correll, St. Gabriel Church parish nurse, is speaking about memory loss and finding the right doctor, and representatives from Senior Health Connection and the Alzheimer's Association are talking about long-term care insurance and gerontology. For more information, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte are hosting their annual Halloween party with food, music and plenty of entertainment tonight at 7 p.m. Contact Laurel Peters at (704) 554-0188 for directions and details.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Former justice and peace director takes concerns to national level with new positions

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Taking her zeal for teaching people about social justice issues to a national level, the Diocese of Charlotte's director of the Office of Justice and Peace has accepted two positions with national social justice organizations.

Joanne Frazer has accepted two newly created positions: education consultant for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, and diocesan coordinator for Public Discipleship, a program of the New York-based Roundtable, the association of diocesan social action directors.

Joanne Frazer

She will head programs that assist diocesan social justice leaders in putting social justice education efforts in place in their dioceses nationwide.

"Both of these positions are consulting positions," said Frazer, who headed the Charlotte Diocese's Justice and Peace Office from 1996 until last month. "Transformative education around social justice has been a vocational pull for me for a long time."

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the U.S. bishop's anti-poverty campaign, aimed at transforming communities and empowering people by getting at the root causes of poverty.

Striving to broaden its educational efforts, CCHD created the position and a new program called "Education for Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life."

"It's a one-day training around economic justice, and then there is follow up to that," said Frazer of the program. "I will assist diocesan teams in determining what kind of follow up is needed to be internalized and worked out in their dioceses."

The Diocese of Charlotte will host the workshop in March 2001.

With the Public Discipleship project, Frazer will consult with diocesan social action leaders to help empower people with the support and the tools necessary to put their faith and concern for social justice into action in the public arena.

Frazer expects to work with about a half-dozen dioceses each year on the Public Discipleship project, and she plans on bringing "Education for Solidarity" to about 10 dioceses annually.

Especially in the post-Vatican II church, Catholics have been urged by popes and bishops to take a more active role in the public arena, and social and economic justice initiatives continue to make headlines. Parishes throughout North Carolina are still engaged in efforts to implement the suggestions in "Of One Heart and One Mind," an economic justice pastoral letter issued at Thanksgiving 1997 by Bishops William G. Curlin of Charlotte and F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh.

The pastoral is one of various social justice concerns championed by diocesan personnel and the faithful in the Tar Heel State.

"Any time I was with folks in western North Carolina, I knew they really do care about the poor," Frazer said. "They want to understand ways that they can help. There is such a new hunger to engage in action for social and economic justice. It's quite exciting."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Parishes honored for CCHD participation

A dozen parishes in the Diocese of Charlotte were honored recently with awards for outstanding participation in the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

Father Robert Vitillo, executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, was on hand in the diocese to help bestow the awards.

Founded in 1970 by the nation's Catholic bishops, the campaign focuses on ending poverty and injustice by effecting societal chance and empowering the poor to develop an economic and political voice.

The dozen parishes with noteworthy participation in the campaign are: Queen of the Apostles, Belmont; Our Lady of Consolation, Charlotte; St. Joseph Church, Asheboro; Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe; St. Therese, Mooresville; St. Peter Church, Charlotte; St. Lucien, Spruce Pine; Basilica of St. Lawrence, Asheville; St. Mary, Sylva; St. Elizabeth, Boone; St. Aloysius, Hickory; and Our Lady of Mercy, Winston-Salem.

"Through their association with CCHD, Catholics in the United States could rejoice in the fact that their celebration of the jubilee year takes on new and more profound meaning," said Father Vitillo to an audience gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte Sept. 23. "Jesus taught by his own example that we cannot turn our backs to brothers and sisters in need."

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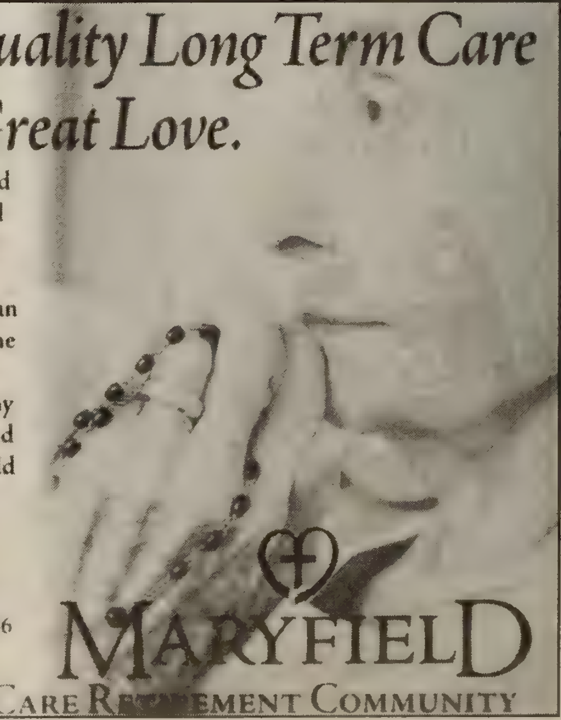

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Mt. Olive pickle debate in Raleigh explores union issues

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — The presidents of Mt. Olive Pickle Company and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, locked in a national boycott over unionization, could find little common ground in an Oct. 15 debate held at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church.

Bill Bryan said he will not and cannot "force" the farmers who supply cucumbers to his company to agree to a union contract, while FLOC's Baldemar Velasquez told Bryan he needed to pay "a little bit more" money so that farmers and farmworkers are better compensated. FLOC is seeking a three-way contract between the company, cucumber growers and farmworkers.

It was a mostly civil debate, strictly moderated by State Rep. Paul Luebke. Each was allowed a five-minute opening statement; then each answered an alternating volley of questions from Luebke, and later from the audience. Each debater was allowed three minutes to answer the questions; the opponent was allowed one minute to rebut.

As many as 300 filled the church's sanctuary to watch and listen. The congregation was obviously split: The front right corner was filled with farmworkers, outfitted with headphones to listen to the Spanish translation of the discussion. Velasquez gestured at them often to make points with Bryan.

In his opening statement, Velasquez said that FLOC is all about reconciliation. "We're not about trying to aggravate people unnecessarily," he said. "Our job is to reconcile the conditions of the farmworkers and the experiences they have to suffer from, to reconcile the people from the bottom to the people from the top."

The problem, said Velasquez, is that "you got double standards in this state. You got one law for everybody else, and a different law for farmworkers. Whether it has to do with housing, sanitation standards, or pesticides." Laws that affect farms and farmworkers are much weaker, he said, because "powerful people have influence in the Legislature.

> **"Our job is to reconcile the conditions of the farmworkers and the experiences they have to suffer from...."**
>
> ***— Baldemar Velasquez, FLOC***

"The fact is that Mt. Olive is caught up in an intricate organizational web that controls the very lives of people who do this very unappreciated work. The fact is that Mt. Olive relies on a low-wage, exploitable workforce to gather their cucumbers all over the globe." Velasquez said the issue comes down to money. Mt. Olive Pickles sets the price they pay for each unit of cucumbers, leaving the farmers to decide how much of their compensation they must keep to run their businesses, and how much to pay their workers.

"It's like throwing a bone to two dogs and letting them fight over how much they get. The truth is the growers need more money, and the workers need more money. You have to spread it out a little bit more."

Bryan used the beginning of his opening statement to define his company. Mt. Olive Pickle Company has been operating in Mount Olive since 1926, it is the fourth-largest pickle company in the country, and has more than 500 employees, all area residents.

"We have no farming operations, and buy from independent farmers and suppliers in more than 10 states and three countries," he said. "Our company does not claim to be perfect, but we have achieved a very good reputation as an employer, and community participant.

"We are known for our willingness to go the extra mile to address issues of opportunity, concern or disagreement with these parties." Bryan said the boycott was put in place because the company "refused to assist FLOC in collecting union dues from the workers of other employers.... "We believe FLOC's demand on our company first and foremost is unfair. We believe it is wrong to tell another employer that he and his workers must sign a union contract as a requirement to do business with us. Employers and their employees should consider these decisions, not Mt. Olive Pickle or other customers."

However, Bryan said, the company's policy is to seek "reliable suppliers" that work within the law and that "treat their workers fairly."

"We will address problems with suppliers when we have knowledge of those problems, and we are more than willing to be a part of a broad-based effort to address industry-wide concerns. But we resist this boycott effort that would have us force independent growers into a process where their only choice appears to be a union contract."

The 90-minute debate was sponsored by Pullen Memorial Baptist, Immaculate Conception Church of Durham, and the Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship sponsored the debate. Several Catholic organizations, including the dioceses of Raleigh, Toledo and Cincinnati, have supported the boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle products.

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Jewish architect calls chance to design Catholic church an honor

NEW YORK (CNS) — A Jewish architect in New York who designed a Catholic church now under construction in Rome described the experience as educational and exciting and called the chance to do it an honor. "We've never done anything like this before," said Richard Meier, speaking for his firm, Richard Meier & Partners. "I've learned an enormous amount." He said that he had learned a lot about Catholicism, but also about the way things move in Rome or are delayed. When ground was broken for the church in 1998, it was scheduled for completion at the beginning of 2000, the jubilee year. Now the projected date is October of next year.

Co-founder of Missionary Brothers of Charity dies

PERTH, Australia (CNS) — Brother Andrew, an Australian who with Mother Teresa of Calcutta founded the Missionary Brothers of Charity, died of cancer in Melbourne, Australia. Brother Andrew, the religious name of Ian Travers-Ball, died Oct. 4 at the house run by the Missionaries of Charity sisters. He was 72. In accordance with his wishes, news of his death was not published until after his funeral Oct. 6. The day he died was also the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, for whom he had great devotion, and was the 50th anniversary of the founding of Missionaries of Charity, the women's religious order established by Mother Teresa.

CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

House chaplain sits in on congressional hearing

Father Daniel P. Coughlin listens to testimony from victims of Sierra Leone's civil war at a congressional hearing on Capitol Hill in September. Father Coughlin is the first Catholic to hold the post of chaplain in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Archbishop Ryan dies; headed Anchorage, military archdioceses

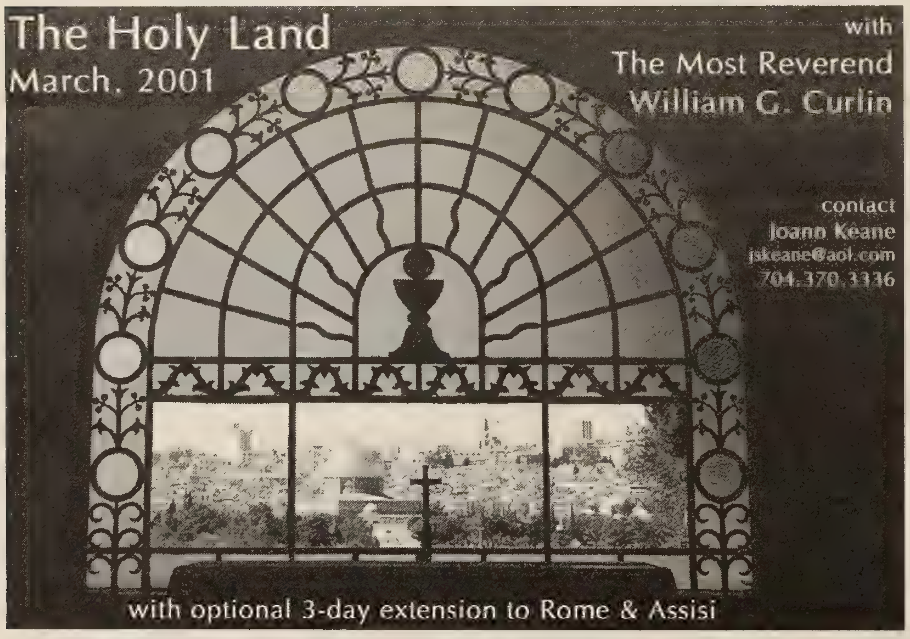
ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Archbishop Joseph T. Ryan, whose priestly life took him from Albany to the farthest reaches of the United States and around the world, died Oct. 9 at age 86. His funeral Mass was to be celebrated at 11 a.m. Oct. 14 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany. Archbishop Ryan was the first archbishop of Anchorage, Alaska, serving from 1966-75, and first head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services after it was removed from the jurisdiction of the archbishop of New York in 1985. He also served for eight years with the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a U.S. church agency established by papal request to aid the churches and the people of the Middle East.

Pope marks 22nd anniversary as pontiff by meeting with Poles

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II marked his 22nd anniversary as the first Polish pontiff by meeting with thousands of Poles. In the Paul VI audience hall Oct. 16 the pope received some 6,000 Polish pilgrims who participated in the Oct. 14-15 Jubilee for Families. "What great value every human life, every human being, even those not yet born but already alive in a mother's womb, must have in the eyes of the creator," he said.

Catholic school welcomes home Olympic gold-medal winner

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, Minn. (CNS) — Tom Novitzki is not a schoolteacher, but he knows a good history lesson when he sees it. The St. Peter of Mendota parishioner and his sons Michael, 10, and Matthew, 7, were among the crowd who filled the St. Thomas Academy gymnasium in Mendota Heights Oct. 8 to honor an Olympic gold medalist, swimmer Tom Malchow. Being a part of the celebration was a day Novitzki and his family will remember for years to come.



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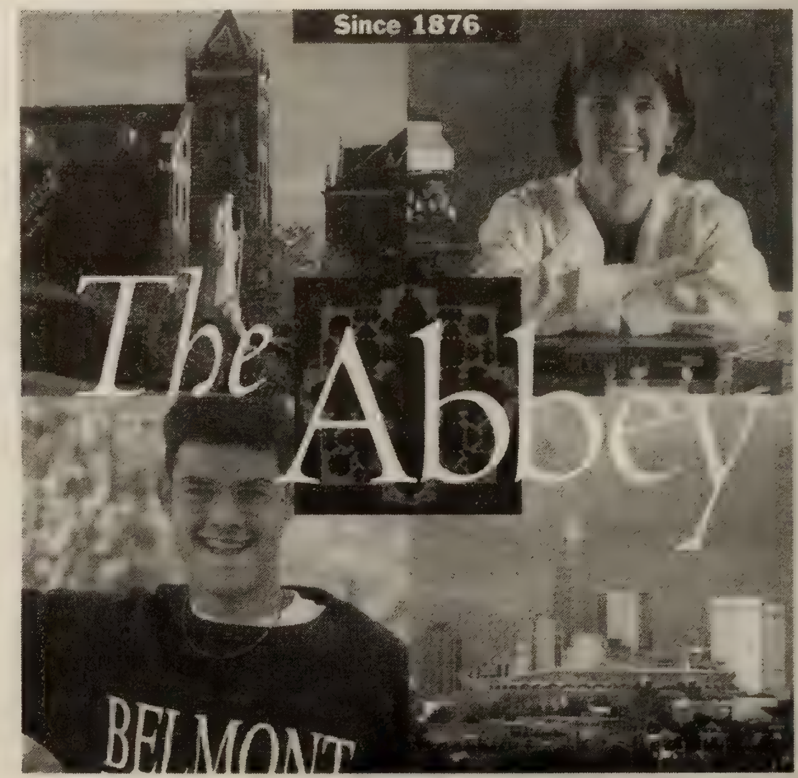

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Faithful Citizenship:

Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium

From the United States Catholic Conference

WASHINGTON (CNS) — *Here is the the text of "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," approved last September by the U.S. Catholic Conference Administrative Board and released Oct. 20, 1999.*

Introduction

The year 2000 marks a great spiritual milestone and offers an important civic challenge. For Christians, this year represents the coming of the great jubilee, marking the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ. For U.S. citizens, this year brings the election of those who will lead our government into a new century and a new millennium.

For U.S. Catholics, these two events bring special responsibilities and opportunities. This is a time to bring together the guidance of the Gospel and the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace.(1)

Challenges for Believers

Our nation has been blessed with great freedom, vibrant democratic traditions, unprecedented economic strengths, abundant natural resources, and a generous and religious people. Yet not all is right with our nation. Our prosperity does not reach far enough. Our culture does not lift us up; instead it may bring us down in moral terms. This new world we lead is still too dangerous, giving rise to ethnic cleansing and an inability to confront hunger and genocide. We are still falling short of the American pledge of "liberty and justice for all," our declaration to defend the inalienable rights of the human person — "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Signs of the challenges surround us:

— 1.4 million children are destroyed before birth every year. In many cities, a majority of our children never see the day of their birth.

— The younger you are, the more likely you are to be poor. A quarter of our preschool children are growing up poor.

— We watch with horror as some schools become almost war zones. Too many of our young people have lost their moral direction, their sense of belonging and even their will to live. More and more they are finding community in gangs and cliques instead of family and faith.

— Hate and intolerance haunt our nation and turn the diversity we should celebrate into a source of division, bigotry, racism and conflict.

— A powerful economy pushes our nation forward, but it widens the gaps between rich and poor in our nation and around the world. Some Americans are moving far ahead, but too many are being left behind.

— Families are facing serious challenges. Millions do not have basic health care, many cannot afford housing and in rural areas many family farmers are losing their way of life.

— Scandal, sensationalism and intense partisan combat diminish public life. Too many of our leaders seem to focus more on seeking campaign contributions than the common good.

— Violence surrounds us. War, ethnic cleansing, religious persecution, the denial of other human rights, poverty, debt and hunger destroy the lives and dignity of tens of thousands each year.

The next millennium requires a new kind of politics, focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests. As Catholics and as voters, this is not an easy time for faithful citizenship. By this we mean more than people who consistently participate in public life, but disciples who view these responsibilities through the eyes of faith and bring their moral convictions to their civic tasks and choices. Sometimes it seems few candidates and no party fully reflect our values. But now is not a time for retreat. The new millennium should be an opportunity for renewed participation. We must challenge all parties and every candidate to defend human life and dignity, to pursue greater justice and peace, to uphold family life, and to advance the common good.

We hope the campaigns and elections of the year 2000 become turning points in our democracy, leading to more participation and less cynicism, more civil dialogue on fundamental issues and less partisan posturing and attack ads. Let us turn to a new century with renewed commitment to active citizenship and to full democratic participation.

Questions for the Campaign

Politics is about more than our own pocketbooks or economic interests. Catholics, other believers, and men and women of good will raise different questions for ourselves and for those who would lead us:

1. How will we protect the weakest in our midst — innocent, unborn children?

2. How will we overcome the scandal of a quarter of our preschoolers living in poverty in the richest nation on earth?

3. How will we address the tragedy of 35,000 children dying every day of the consequences of hunger, debt and lack of development around the world?

4. How can our nation help parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, a sense of hope, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility?

5. How can society better support families in their moral roles and responsibilities, offering them real choices and financial resources to obtain quality education and decent housing?

6. How will we address the growing number of families and individuals without affordable and accessible health care? How can health care protect and enhance human life and dignity?

7. How will our society best combat continuing prejudice, bias and discrimination, overcome hostility toward immigrants and refugees, and heal the wounds of racism, religious bigotry and other forms of discrimination?

8. How will our nation pursue the values of justice and peace in a world where injustice is common, destitution is widespread, and peace is too often overwhelmed by warfare and violence?

9. What are the responsibilities and limitations of families, voluntary organizations, markets and government? How can these elements of society work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, care for creation and overcome injustice?

10. How will our nation resist what Pope John Paul II calls a growing "culture of death"? Why does it seem that our nation is turning to violence to solve some of its most difficult problems — to abortion to deal with difficult pregnancies, to the death penalty to combat crime, to euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of age and illness?

We believe every candidate, policy and political platform should be measured by how they touch the human person; whether they enhance or diminish human life, dignity and human rights; and how they advance the common good.

A Call to Faithful Citizenship

One of our greatest blessings in the United States is our right and responsibility to participate in civic life. The Constitution protects the right of individuals and of religious bodies to speak out without governmental interference, endorsement or sanction. It is increasingly apparent that major public issues have clear moral dimensions and that religious values have significant public consequences. Our nation is enriched and our tradition of pluralism enhanced when religious groups contribute to the debate over the policies that guide the nation.

As bishops, it is not only our right as citizens but our responsibility as religious teachers to speak out on the moral dimensions of public life. As members of the Catholic community, we enter the public forum to act on our moral convictions, share our experience in serving the poor and vulnerable, and add our values to the dialogue over our nation's future. Catholics are called to be a community of conscience within the larger society and to test public life by the moral wisdom anchored in Scripture and consistent with the best of our nation's founding ideals. Our moral framework does not easily fit the categories of right or left, Democrat or Republican. Our responsibility is to measure every party and platform by how its agenda touches human life and dignity.

Jesus called us to love our neighbors by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the sick and afflicted, and comforting the victims of injustice.(2) Our Lord's example and words demand a life of charity from each of us. Yet they also require action on a broader scale in defense of

CONTINUED, PAGE 8

life, in pursuit of peace, in support of the common good and in opposition to poverty, hunger and injustice. Such action involves the institutions and structures of society, economy and politics. As Pope John Paul II wrote in his recent exhortation to the people of America living together in this hemisphere:

"For the Christian people of America, conversion to the Gospel means to revise 'all the different areas and aspects of life, especially those related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good.' It will be especially necessary 'to nurture the growing awareness in society of the dignity of every person and therefore to promote in the community a sense of the duty to participate in political life in harmony with the Gospel.'"(3)

For Catholics, public virtue is as important as private virtue in building up the common good. In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. Every believer is called to faithful citizenship, to become an informed, active and responsible participant in the political process. As we said a year ago:

"We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity (more fully) to participate in building the culture of life. Every voice matters in the public forum. Every vote counts. Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power."(4)

Catholic Assets in the Public Square

Our community of faith brings three major assets to these challenges.

A Consistent Moral Framework

The word of God and the teaching of the church give us a particular way of viewing the world. Scripture calls us to "choose life," to serve "the least of these," to "hunger and thirst" for justice and to be "peacemakers." Jesus called us to be the "leaven" in society, the "salt of the earth ... (and) the light of the world."(5)

Catholic teaching offers a consistent set of moral principles for assessing issues, platforms and campaigns. Because of our faith in Jesus Christ, we start with the dignity of the human person. Our teaching calls us to protect human life from conception to natural death, to defend the poor and vulnerable, and to work toward a more just society and a more peaceful world. As Catholics, we are not free to abandon unborn children because they are seen as unwanted or inconvenient; to turn our backs on immigrants because they lack the proper documents; to turn away from poor women and children because they lack economic or political power. Nor can we neglect international responsibilities because the Cold War is over. For us, the duties of citizenship begin with Gospel values and Catholic teaching. No polls or focus groups can release us from the responsibility to speak up for the voiceless, to act in accord with our moral convictions.

Everyday Experience

Our community also brings broad experience in serving those in need. The Catholic community educates the young, cares for the sick, shelters the homeless, feeds the hungry, assists needy families, welcomes refugees and serves the elderly.(6) In defense of life, we reach out to children and to the sick and elderly who need help, support women in difficult pregnancies, and assist those wounded by the trauma of abortion and domestic violence. On many issues, we speak for those who have no voice; we have the practical expertise and everyday experience to enrich public debate.

A Community of Citizens

The Catholic community is large and diverse. We are Republicans, Democrats and independents. We are members of every race, come from every ethnic background and live in urban, rural and suburban communities. We are CEOs and migrant farm workers, senators and persons on public assistance, business owners and union members. But we are all called to a common commitment to protect human life and stand with those who are poor and vulnerable. We cannot be indifferent to or cynical about the obligations of citizenship. As voters and advocates, candidates and contributors, we are called to provide a moral leaven for our democracy.(7)

The Role of the Church

Beyond the responsibilities of every Catholic, the church as an institution also has a role in the political order. This includes educating its members about Catholic social teaching, highlighting the moral dimensions of public policy, participating in debate on matters affecting the common good, and witnessing to the Gospel through the many services and ministries provided by the Catholic community. Our efforts in this area should not be misconstrued. The church's participation in public affairs does not undermine but enriches the political process and affirms genuine pluralism. The leaders of the church have the right and duty to share the church's teaching and to educate Catholics on the moral dimensions of public life, so that they may form their consciences in light of their faith.

As bishops, we do not seek the formation of a religious voting bloc nor do we wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates. We hope that voters will examine the position of candidates on the full range of issues as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy and performance. We are convinced that a consistent ethic of life should be the moral framework from which to address all issues in the political arena. We urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not simply party affiliation or mere self-interest.(8)

The coming elections provide important opportunities to bring together our principles, experience and community in effective public witness. We hope parishes, dioceses, schools and other Catholic institutions will encourage active participation through nonpartisan voter registration and education efforts.(9) As Catholics we need to share our values, raise our voices and use our votes to shape a society that protects human life, promotes family life, pursues social justice and practices solidarity. These efforts will strengthen our nation and renew our church.

Themes of Catholic Social Teaching

The Catholic approach to faithful citizenship begins with moral principles, not party platforms. The directions for our public witness are found in Scripture and Catholic social teaching. Following are key themes at the heart of our Catholic social tradition.(10)

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. The conviction that human life is sacred and that each person has inherent dignity that must be respected in society lies at the heart of Catholic social teaching. Calls to advance human rights are illusions if the right to life itself is subject to attack. We believe that every human life is sacred from conception to natural death; that people are more important than things; and that the measure of every institution is whether or not it enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community and Participation

The human person is not only sacred but inherently social. The God-given institutions of marriage and the family are central and serve as the foundations for social life. They must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. Beyond the family, every person has a right to participate in the wider society and a corresponding duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all, especially the poor and weak.

Rights and Responsibilities

As social beings, our relationships are governed by a web of rights and corresponding duties. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things that allow them to live a decent life — faith and family, food and shelter, health care and housing, education and employment. In society as a whole, those who exercise authority have a duty to respect the fundamental human rights of all persons. Likewise, all citizens have a duty to respect human rights and to fulfill their responsibilities to their families, to each other and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

Scripture teaches that God has a special concern for the poor and vulnerable.(11) The prophets denounced injustice toward the poor as a lack of fidelity to the God of Israel.(12) Jesus, who identified himself with the least of these,(13) came to preach the good news to the poor and told us, "Give to him who asks of you, do not refuse one who would borrow from you."(14) The church calls on all of us to embrace this preferential love of the poor and vulnerable, to embody it in our lives, and to work to have it shape public policies and priorities.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's act of creation. Work is a way of fulfilling part of our human potential given to us by God. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers, owners and managers must be respected — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to economic initiative, and to ownership and private property.

Solidarity

Because of the interdependence among all the members of the human family around the globe, we have a moral responsibility to commit ourselves to the common good at all levels: in local communities, in our nation, in the community of nations. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. As Pope John Paul II has said, "We are all really responsible for all."(15)

Care for God's Creation

The world that God created has been entrusted to us, yet our use of it must be directed by God's plan for creation, not simply by our own benefit. Our stewardship of the earth is a kind of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world. In our use of creation, we must be guided by our concern for the welfare of others, both around the world and for generations to come, and by a respect for the intrinsic worth and beauty of all God's creatures.

Moral Priorities for Public Life

We wish to suggest some issues which we believe are important in the national debate during 2000 and beyond. These are not the concerns of Catholics alone; in every case we are joined with others in advocating these concerns. These brief summaries are not intended to indicate in any depth the details of the positions we have taken in past statements on these matters. For a fuller discussion of our positions on these and related issues, we refer the reader to the documents listed at the end of our statement.

Protecting Human Life

Human life is a gift from God, sacred and inviolable. This is the teaching that calls us to protect and respect every human life from conception until natural death. Because every human person is created in the image and likeness of God, we have a duty to defend human life in all its stages and in every condition. Our world does not lack for threats to human life. We watch with horror the deadly violence of war, genocide and massive starvation in other lands, and children dying from lack of adequate health care. Yet as we wrote in our 1998 statement "Living the Gospel of Life," "Abortion and euthanasia have become pre-eminent threats to human life and dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition for all others."(16) Abortion, the deliberate killing of a human being before birth, is never morally acceptable. The purposeful taking of human life by assisted suicide and euthanasia is never an act of mercy, but is an unjustifiable assault on human life. In assessing our obligation to protect human life, "We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill or collude in the killing of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem."(17)

We urge Catholics and others to promote laws and social policies that protect human life and promote human dignity to the maximum degree possible. Laws that legitimize abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia are profoundly unjust and wrong. We support constitutional protection for unborn human life as well as legislative efforts to oppose abortion and euthanasia. We encourage the passage of laws and programs that promote childbirth and adoption over abortion and assist pregnant women and children. We support aid to those who are sick and dying by encouraging effective palliative care. We call on government and medical researchers to base their decisions regarding biotechnology and human experimentation on respect for the inherent dignity and inviolability of human life from its very beginning.

The church has always sought to have conflicts resolved by peaceful means between and among nations. Church teaching calls on us to avoid and to limit the effects of war in many different ways. Thus, direct and intentional attacks on civilians in war are never morally acceptable nor is the use of weapons of mass destruction or other weapons that cannot distinguish between civilians and soldiers.

War, genocide, and starvation threaten the lives of millions throughout the world. We support programs and policies that promote peace and sustainable development for the world's poor. We urge our nation to join the treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines and to promptly ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as a step toward much deeper cuts in and the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. We further urge our nation to take more serious steps to reduce its own disproportionate role in the scandalous global trade in arms, which contributes to violent conflicts around the world.

Society has a right and duty to defend itself against violent crime and a duty to reach out to victims of crime. Yet our nation's increasing reliance on the death penalty is extremely troubling. Respect for human life must even include respect for the lives of those who have taken the lives of others. It has become clear, as Pope John Paul II has taught, that inflicting the penalty of death is cruel and unnecessary. The antidote to violence is not more violence. As a part of our pro-life commitment, we encourage solutions to violent crime that reflect the dignity of the human person, urging our nation to abandon the use of capital punishment. Respect for human life and dignity is the necessary first step in building a civilization of life and love.

Promoting Family Life

God established the family as the basic cell of human society. Therefore, we must strive to make the needs and concerns of families a central national priority. Marriage as God intended it provides the basic foundation for family life and needs to be protected in the face of the many pressures working to undermine it. Tax, workplace, divorce and welfare policies must be designed to help families stay together and to reward responsibility and sacrifice for children. Because financial and economic factors have such an impact on the well-being and stability of families, it is important that just wages be paid to those who work to support their families and that special efforts be taken to aid poor families.

The education of children is a fundamental parental responsibility. Educational systems can support or undermine parental efforts to educate and nurture children. No one model or means of education is appropriate to the needs of all persons. All parents — the first, most important educators — should have the opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to choose the education best suited to the needs of their children, including private and religious schools. Families of modest means especially should not be denied this choice because of their economic status. The government should, where necessary, help provide the resources required for parents to exercise this basic right without discrimination. To support parents' efforts to share basic values, we believe a national consensus can be reached so that students in all educational settings have opportunities for moral and spiritual formation to complement their intellectual and physical development.

Communications play a growing role in society and family life. The values of our culture are shaped and shared in the print media and on radio, on television and on the Internet. We must balance respect for freedom of speech with concern for the common good, promoting responsible regulations that protect children and families. In recent years, reduced government regulation has lowered standards, opened the door to increasingly offensive material and squeezed out noncommercial religious programming.

However, television and radio broadcasters, cablecasters and satellite operators are still subject to some government regulation. We support regulation that limits the concentration of control over these media; disallows quick sales of media outlets that attract irresponsible owners seeking a quick profit; and opens these outlets to a greater variety of program sources, including religious programming. We support the development of the TV rating system and of the technology that assists parents in supervising what their children view.

The Internet has created both benefits and problems. Since it offers vastly expanded capabilities for learning and communicating, this technology should be available to all students regardless of income. Because it poses a serious danger by giving easy access to pornographic and violent material, we support vigorous enforcement of existing obscenity and child pornography laws with regard to material on the Internet as well as efforts by the industry to develop technology that assists parents, schools and libraries in blocking out unwanted material.

Pursuing Social Justice

In accordance with God's plan for human society, we are called to commit ourselves to protect and promote the life and dignity of the human person and the common good of society as a whole. We must always remember God's special concern for the poor and vulnerable, and make their needs our first priority in public life. We are concerned about a wide range of social issues, including economic prosperity and justice, welfare reform, health care, housing, agricultural policy, education and discrimination.

Church teaching on economic justice insists that economic decisions and institutions be judged on whether they protect or undermine the dignity of the human person. We support policies that create jobs with adequate pay and decent working conditions, increase the minimum wage so it becomes a living wage and overcome barriers to equal pay and employment for women and minorities. We reaffirm the church's traditional teaching in support of the right of all workers to choose to organize and bargain collectively and to exercise these rights without reprisal. We also affirm church teaching on the importance of economic freedom, initiative and the right to private property, which provide tools and resources to pursue the common good.

Efforts to provide for the basic financial needs of poor families and children must enhance their lives and dignity. The goal should be reducing poverty and dependency, not simply cutting resources and programs. We seek approaches that promote greater responsibility and offer concrete steps to help families leave poverty behind. Recent attempts to reform the welfare system have focused on providing productive work and training, mostly in low-wage jobs. Until new workers find jobs that pay a living wage, they will need other forms of support, including tax credits, health care, child care and safe, affordable housing.

We are also concerned about the income security of low- and average-wage workers and their families when they retire, become disabled or die. In many cases women are particularly disadvantaged. Any proposal to change Social Security must provide a decent and reliable income for these workers and those who depend on them.

Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. Any plan to reform the nation's health care system must be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life and meet the unique needs of the poor. We support health care that is affordable and accessible to all. As part of our efforts to achieve fundamental health care reform, we will support measures to strengthen Medicare and Medicaid and work for incremental measures that extend health care coverage to children, pregnant women, workers, immigrants and other vulnerable populations. Additionally, we support policies that provide effective, compassionate care for those suffering from HIV/AIDS and those coping with addictions.

The lack of safe, affordable housing is a national crisis. We support a recommitment to the national pledge of "safe and affordable housing" for all and effective policies that will increase the supply of quality housing and preserve, maintain and improve existing housing. We promote public/private partnerships, especially those that involve religious communities. We continue to oppose all forms of discrimination in housing and support measures such as the Community Reinvestment Act to help ensure that financial institutions meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are located.

The first priority for agriculture policy should be food security for all. Food is not like any other commodity: It is necessary for life itself. Our support for food stamps, the Women, Infant and Children program and other programs that directly benefit poor and low-income people is based on our belief that no one should face hunger in a land of plenty. Those who grow our food should be able to make a decent living and maintain their way of life. Farmers deserve a decent return for their labor. Our priority concern for the poor calls us to advocate especially for the needs of farmworkers, whose pay is often inadequate and whose housing and working conditions are often deplorable. Many farmworkers are undocumented and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation. We also urge that public policies support the practice of sustainable agriculture and careful stewardship of the earth and its natural resources.

Care for the earth and for the environment is a "moral challenge," in the words of Pope John Paul II.(18) We support policies that protect the land, water and the air we share, and encourage environmental protection, sustainable development and greater

CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE

justice in sharing the burdens of environmental neglect and recovery.

The Gospel mandate to love our neighbor and welcome the stranger leads the church to care for immigrants, both documented and undocumented. We seek basic protections for immigrants, including due process rights, access to basic public benefits and fair naturalization and legalization opportunities. We oppose efforts to stem migration that do not effectively address its root causes and permit the continuation of the political, social and economic inequities that cause it.

All persons, by virtue of their dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to receive a quality education. We must ensure that our nation's young people, especially the poor and most vulnerable, are properly prepared to be good citizens, to lead productive lives, and to be socially and morally responsible in the complicated and technologically advanced world of the 21st century. This requires an orderly, just, respectful and nonviolent environment where adequate professional and material resources are available. We support initiatives that provide adequate funding to educate all children no matter what school they attend or what their personal condition. We also support providing salaries and benefits to all teachers and administrators that reflect the principles of economic justice as well as providing the resources necessary for teachers to be academically and personally prepared for the critical tasks they face. As a matter of justice, we believe that when services aimed at improving the educational environment — especially for those most at risk — are available to students and teachers in public schools, these services should be available to students and teachers in private and religious schools as well.

Our schools and our society in general must address the growing "culture of violence." Concern about violence leads us to promote a greater sense of moral responsibility, to advocate a reduction in violence in the media, to support gun safety measures and reasonable restrictions on access to assault weapons and hand guns, and to oppose the death penalty.

Our society must also combat discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity or age. Such discrimination constitutes a grave injustice and an affront to human dignity. It must be aggressively resisted. Where the effects of past discrimination persist, society has the obligation to take positive steps to overcome the legacy of injustice. We support judiciously administered affirmative action programs as tools to overcome discrimination and its continuing effects.

Practicing Global Solidarity

Since the human family extends across the globe, our responsibility to promote the common good requires that we do whatever we can to address human problems wherever they arise around the world. As a very wealthy and powerful nation, the United States has a responsibility to help the poor and vulnerable, promote global economic prosperity and environmental responsibility, foster stable and peaceful relations among nations, and uphold human rights in the world community. In order to advance these goals, we urge the United States to pursue the following:

— Debt relief to overcome poverty in the poorest countries, which are shackled by a debt burden that forces them to divert scarce resources from health, education and other essential services.

> **"As Catholics, we can celebrate the great jubilee by recommitting ourselves to carry the values of the Gospel and church teaching into the public square. As citizens, we can and must participate in the debates and choices over the values, vision and leaders that will take our nation into the next century. This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States as we look with hope to the beginning of a new millennium."**

— A leading role in helping to alleviate global poverty through foreign aid programs that support sustainable development and provide new economic opportunities for the poor without promoting population control, and through trade policies that are tied to worker protection, human rights and environmental concerns.

— More concerted efforts to ensure the promotion of religious liberty and other basic human rights as an integral part of U.S. foreign policy.

— More consistent financial and diplomatic support for the United Nations, other international bodies and international law, so that these institutions may become more effective, responsible and responsive agents for addressing global problems.

— Protection for persons fleeing persecution, who should be provided safe haven in other countries, including the United States. In protecting refugees, special consideration must be given to vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied children, single women and women heads of families, and religious minorities. Asylum must be afforded to all refugees who hold a well-founded fear of persecution in their homelands.

— A more generous immigration and refugee policy based on providing temporary or permanent safe haven for those in need; protecting immigrant workers from exploitation; promoting family reunification; safeguarding the right of all peoples to return to their homelands; ensuring that public benefits and a fair and efficient process for obtaining citizenship are available to immigrants; extending to immigrants the full protection of U.S. law; and addressing the root causes of migration.

— An affirmative role, in collaboration with the international community, in addressing regional conflicts from the Middle East and the Balkans, to Africa, Colombia and East Timor. Assistance in resolving these conflicts must include a willingness to support international peacekeeping as well as long-term post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

Building peace, combating poverty and despair, and protecting freedom and human rights are not only moral imperatives; they are wise national priorities. Given its enormous power and influence in world affairs, the United States has a special responsibility to ensure that it is a force for justice and peace beyond its borders. "Liberty and justice for all" is not only a profound national pledge; it is a worthy goal for any world leader.

Conclusion

We hope these reflections will contribute to a renewed political vitality in our land. We urge all citizens to register, vote and stay involved in public life, seeking the common good and renewing our democracy.

The call to faithful citizenship raises a fundamental question. What does it mean to be a believer and a citizen in the year 2000 and beyond? As Catholics, we can celebrate the great jubilee by recommitting ourselves to carry the values of the Gospel and church teaching into the public square. As citizens, we can and must participate in the debates and choices over the values, vision and leaders that will take our nation into the next century. This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic in the United States as we look with hope to the beginning of a new millennium.

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To order "Faithful Citizenship" in its official published format, contact the USCC Publishing Services, 800-235-8722 (in the Washington metropolitan area or from outside the United States, 202-722-8716). English: No. 5-355; Spanish: No. 5-831. 28-page book. $1.25 per copy; quantity discounts are available. Add 10 percent shipping and handling per order ($3.00 minimum). Coming soon: English brochure, 5-360; Spanish brochure, 5-834; kit, 5-361; and video, 5-367.

Notes

1. Since 1975, the U.S. bishops' conference has developed a reflection on "political responsibility" in advance of each presidential election. This statement continues that tradition. It summarizes Catholic teaching on public life and on key moral issues. These reflections build on past political responsibility statements and integrate themes from several recent bishops' statements, including "Living the Gospel of Life and Everyday Christianity." To give a fuller sense of Catholic teaching on these matters, major Catholic statements on public life and moral issues are listed at the conclusion of these reflections.

2. Mt 25:31-46.

3. John Paul II, "The Church in America" ("Ecclesia in America") (Washington: U.S. Catholic Conference, 1999), 27.

4. USCC, "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics" (Washington: USCC, 1998), 34.

5. Dt 30:19-20, Mt 25:40-45; 5:3-12; 13:33; 5:13-16.

6. The Catholic community has a presence in virtually every part of the nation, including almost 20,000 parishes, 8,300 schools, 231 colleges and universities, 900 hospitals and health care facilities and 1,400 Catholic charities agencies. The Catholic community is the largest nongovernmental provider of education, health care and human services in the United States.

7. USCC, "Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice" (Washington: USCC, 1998).

8. "Living the Gospel of Life."

9. Resources designed to help parishes and dioceses share the message of faithful citizenship and develop nonpartisan voter registration, and education and advocacy programs are available from the USCC; for more information, call 800-235-8722.

10. For a fuller discussion of these themes, see the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" and "Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions."

11. Ex 22:20-26.

12. Is 1:21-23; Jer 5:28.

13. Mt 25:40-45.

14. Mt 11:5; 5:42.

15. John Paul II, "On Social Concerns" ("Sollicitudo Rei Socialis") (Washington: USCC, 1987), 38.

16. "Living the Gospel of Life," 5.

17. Ibid., 21.

18. John Paul II, "The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility," 1990 World Day of Peace Message (Washington: USCC, 1989).

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 22 - 28, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 53:10-11, Hebrews 4:14-16, Mark 10:35-45; **Monday (St. John of Capistrano)**, Ephesians 2:1-10, Luke 12:13-21; **Tuesday (St. Anthony Claret)**, Ephesians 2:12-22, Luke 12:35-38; **Wednesday**, Ephesians 3:2-12, Luke 12:39-48; **Thursday**, Ephesians 3:14-21, Luke 12:49-53; **Friday**, Ephesians 4:1-6, Luke 12:54-59; **Saturday (Sts. Simon and Jude)**, Ephesians 2:19-22, Luke 6:12-16

Readings for the week of Oct. 29 - Nov. 4, 2000

Sunday, Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday**, Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday**, Ephesians 5:21-33, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday (All Saints)**, Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Thursday (All Souls)**, Romans 5:5-11, John 14:1-6; **Friday (St. Martin de Porres)**, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. Charles Borromeo)**, Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11

Catholic books en route

By LOU PANARALE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Here is a list of recent books of particular interest to Catholic readers.

"Papal Primacy in the Third Millennium," by Russell Shaw, Our Sunday Visitor, $12.95, 186 pp. The publisher suggests that if you really want to know what's going on behind efforts to "tame the pope," you owe it to yourself to read this book on the role of St. Peter in the life of the universal church. Shaw is former secretary for public affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Beyond the Walls: Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life," by Paul Wilkes, Image Books, $11.95, 244 pp. Wilkes has created "a loving book" that will help people find peace in their busy lives, says Publishers Weekly. The author tells of his stays at Mempkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery, in a quest to answer questions held by many who have sought the simple, spiritual life. Wilkes' previous writings have appeared in The New York Times Magazine, The New Yorker and Atlantic Monthly.

"Saint Katharine Drexel: Apostle of the Oppressed," by Lou Baldwin, Catholic Standard and Times, $12.95, 241 pp. Baldwin, staff writer with Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper, offers a timely and heartfelt portrait of this second U.S.-born saint, canonized Oct. 1 by Pope John Paul II, who praised her for groundbreaking work in educating the poorest of African-American and Native American children.

Word to Life

October 22, Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B. Readings:
1) Isaiah 53:10-11
Psalm 33:4-5, 18-20, 22
2) Hebrews 4:14-16
3) Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

An observer might watch parish life carefully for years and never identify him as a leader.

In the 14 years I've been a member, I've never once seen him up front as a lector or cantor or catechist. He's never given the stewardship appeal or hosted the talent show or chaired the international fair steering committee.

His face doesn't appear among the photos of leaders of organizations and ministries.

When he stands with the choir, he has a music book in hand, but he never actually sings.

His leadership doesn't fit the obvious patterns we transfer, unthinkingly, from secular life to the life of discipleship.

But if you pay attention over a long period of time, you'll see that he is a leader of enormous influence.

He does the grunt work that underlies parish events.

He stacks chairs, lugs coffee pots, takes out trash, even the really ripe stuff, even on the hottest days.

He gathers up song books left in pews and patiently puts them away. On cold rainy days he holds the door for old folks and children, who sometimes, in their hurry to get out of the wet, rush past and into the dry warmth of the sanctuary without saying "thanks."

He never pouts. And over the years, he accomplishes by example what Christian leadership is supposed to accomplish: He moves people to deeper appropriation of their faith, to greater generosity, to more confident hope in God's mercy.

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus turns upside down the expectations of his friends about leadership: "Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be the first among you will be the slave of all." It is hard wisdom to accept in a world which says the opposite.

May our ears be open to its truth.

QUESTIONS:

What person in your life can help you clarify the meaning of Christian leadership by example of humble service?

What is one specific way in your day-to-day life that you can be great by being a servant to others?

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Eucharist brings believers into 'divine intimacy,' pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Partaking of the Eucharist, believers move into a new intimacy with Jesus Christ which will transform their lives, Pope John Paul II said.

"The way of holiness, love and truth is the revelation to the world of our divine intimacy, which is realized through the banquet of the Eucharist," the pope told an estimated 45,000 people at his Oct. 18 weekly general audience.

At the end of the audience, the pope prayed for the people of northern Italy suffering the effects of flooding after days of heavy rain. More than a dozen people had died after rivers spilled over their banks and landslides were set off in several Alpine villages.

Continuing a series of talks about the Eucharist, the pope said the Eucharist is the highest expression of the communion created between God and individual believers through the church.

The simple symbolism of sharing bread and wine at a meal is a hint of the intimacy and friendship between Jesus and those gathered at his table, the pope said.

But Jesus' words to his disciples show how profound the new bond between God and human beings can become, he said.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever."

"The whole text," Pope John Paul said, "is aimed at underlining the living communion which is established in faith between Christ, the bread of life, and those who eat it."

Because Jesus himself is present in the Eucharist, partaking of the sacrament means sharing the very life of Jesus, the pope said.

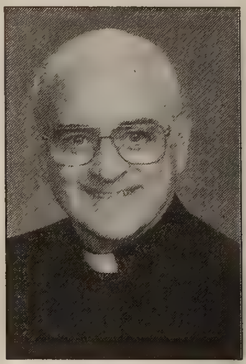
"This communion with Christ generates an intimate transformation of the faithful," he said.

With the cooperation of the person receiving the Eucharist, the pope said, Christ's divine nature should shine through in holiness, justice and a life marked by goodness and virtue.

Pope marks 50th anniversary of Missionaries of Charity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Fifty years after Mother Teresa of Calcutta and 11 companions became the Missionaries of Charity, the order "has become an abundant stream of grace" within the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II said. In a letter marking the Oct. 7 anniversary of the order's founding, the pope gave thanks for the life and work of Mother Teresa and encouraged those continuing her work. In the letter released Oct. 17 at the Vatican, the pope said the order "has produced abundant fruit" with active and contemplative sisters and brothers, priests and lay missionaries and co-workers.

Spirituality for Today



FATHER JOHN CATOIR
CNS Columnist

It's OK to be joyful

When bad things happen to us, we often ask, Why? Why did God allow it? Why me?

Classical theology tells us that God's infinite wisdom transcends our immediate needs. He often leaves us puzzled, confused, angry and unsatisfied. In this state of emotional pain, he lets us try to figure it out for ourselves.

It took St. Augustine a long time to understand that "our hearts are restless until they rest in thee, Oh Lord." He came to realize that God has a secret plan. God wants us to be happy, but to get us there he lets us stew in our own soup until we learn how much we need him.

Granted, sometimes things get worse before they get better, but the Lord wants our trust. Things turn around when we really trust him.

Jesus gave us some stark advice: "Unless you die to yourself you cannot live.... Take up your cross and follow me." He said this so that our joy might be full.

This brings me to the ultimate mystery of holiness. Is holiness living a gloomy life on earth in the hopes of being rewarded later in heaven? Or is it something more splendid?

When Jesus said, "I have told you all this that your joy may be complete," I take him at his word. He doesn't want us to live narrow lives, afraid of our own shadow. All through the Gospels, Jesus practically begs us not to be afraid: "In this world you will have many troubles, but cheer up, I have overcome the world.... Be not afraid.... Be of good cheer."

It's true our hearts will be restless until they rest in the Lord, but once we discover him as a partner in life everything changes.

Christian life is meant to be much more than mere passive resignation to God's will. Once you find the Lord, once you understand the truth that he alone will be your strength and your joy, something wonderful happens. A new kind of joy, and peace, which the world cannot give, fills your soul.

For me, the mystery of holiness is not found in a resigned, miserable spirit, but in a joyous one. Joyful acceptance is far superior to dour resignation. Blessed Julian of Norwich, whom I quote so often, put it beautifully: "The greatest honor you can give to almighty God, greater than all your mortifications, is to live gladly, joyfully, because of the knowledge of God's love."

Hidden in the depths of the human heart is a mysterious power that enables us to plug into God's life. Those who plug in successfully are the holy ones. Their joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was a perfect example. She had a life filled with many sacrifices and mortifications, but above all she was a woman of joy, and she taught her sisters to be joyful.

When asked about the criteria she used in accepting candidates to her religious order, she said: "I approve every one of them myself. If they are happy I take them in, if they are not happy I send them home."

This may sound severe, but it is very wise. The mystery of holiness is found in a joyful spirit.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

In Recognition of Wisdom

Margaret Mead, the distinguished anthropologist, once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The problem is that so much good work by people goes unrecognized in this world, where we seem to be hooked on bad news.

To put a focus on the need to reverse this distorted situation, Sister Rosemarie Greco, director of an interfaith retreat ministry in Litchfield, Conn., came up with the idea of each year seeking out two people who are exemplary in work that benefits their communities and bestowing an honor on them, a "Wisdom Award."

This was a most appropriate designation, since Sister Greco is a Daughter of Wisdom, running Wisdom House, her order's retreat oasis in a lovely country area of the state.

To select a person who has "exhibited qualities of divine wisdom," as Sister Greco expresses it, this very warm and human nun seeks help from her advisory board, of which I am proud to be a member. She has helped us understand the qualities of wisdom, using the Old Testament Book of Wisdom as a source.

A wise person is "someone who draws people together in a sense of community, who heals differences among people and groups, who exhibits a creative, intuitive manner in achieving these goals and who teaches the way to live the good life," Sister Greco says.

This is our second year to offer a Wisdom Award, and we have happily learned that there are many people who have lived wisely and deserve recognition. This year we selected Margaret Reventlow, founder and president of Connecticut Volunteer Services for the Blind and Handicapped, and Frank Weller, a devoted husband and father, holder of a degree in broadcast journalism and film from Boston University, whom we listed simply as "an advocate for humanitarian causes."

I had met Weller several years ago when I was a newspaper editor interested in doing a story on a family television show he produced. It was later that I discovered the other qualities of this man, a Catholic convert, beginning with his yearly Thanksgiving Day party.

He and his wife Lise own a leather goods store in Danbury, Conn., and each Thanksgiving for 10 years they have set up a corner on Main Street, with some tables loaded with food, and others with warm clothing and blankets. This bounty is for several hundred people in need, many homeless, who become their guests.

Weller works continuously for others through AmeriCares, a nonprofit, humanitarian relief organization based in Connecticut, which since its establishment in 1982 has delivered more than $1 billion of medicines and relief supplies to people in the United States and 90 other countries. This work has taken him to Honduras, North Korea, El Salvador, Albania, and last year, Kosovo.

Back in Danbury he helped establish an AmeriCares Free Clinic, which provides free health care to the city's working poor, the uninsured and underinsured. I feel honored to know this man whose work for others is way beyond what I have space to report.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

The Single Life

It has become more difficult than ever to preach a sermon on marriage that pleases everyone. Recently, after delivering what I thought was one of my better talks celebrating the sacredness of matrimony, a fellow walked up to me and said, "That was a nice effort, Father, but what about those of us who are single?"

The more I thought about it, the more I appreciate how right he was to encourage me, a single person, to be sensitive to those who are single. To be sure, all married persons were single until their wedding day. Many become single again when the marriage dissolves through death. Others live the single life again as the result of formal separation or divorce. And many women and men remain single all their lives, either through choice or circumstance.

The recent U.S. census reveals that the ratio of single to married persons is narrowing, principally in large metropolitan areas. Yet, within our culture there is the widely held perception that the single life is somehow inferior and that the single person is deprived.

"When are you going to settle down?" "Isn't it a shame she isn't married?" "Come to the supper anyway. We'll find someone for you to sit with." "Do you think he is, well, different?" In these and other totally tactless ways, social pressure is applied, making a single person into some kind of second-class citizen.

The truth is, of course, God in His goodness gives us the integrity to be free — free to choose the single life or the married life. In fact, it is only when you are free to be a single person that you are really free to be a married person. Much too often, I fear, the insensitive social pressure brought to bear on the single person is but an open invitation to enter into an ill-conceived, bad marriage.

In a world that is built around couples, it is important for us to understand and to proclaim that the gracious God, who has created us, does not hold up singleness as an obstacle to fullness of life. From beginning to end, the Gospel is clear — whether we are married or single, God loves us infinitely and it is through our relationship with Him that we find wholeness of life.

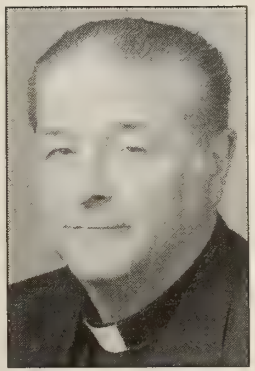
Poet Emily Dickinson, a single person, was sensitive to nature, to God and to other people. "The soul unto itself is an imperial friend, " she wrote. It's a beautiful statement. When you feel good about your own soul, your own integrity, you can become more appreciative of the beauty of another's soul, more respectful of another's integrity.

There is an instructive story of a priest and an old man who went walking together along a country road. A storm came up suddenly and they took cover in an old barn where they remained warm and dry. As he sat on an old pile of hay, waiting for the storm to end, the old man pulled out a prayer book, battered and worn from use, and started to read.

Some time later, the priest, who had been observing the obvious contentment of the old man, said, "You seem to be unusually close to God." The old man looked up and said, "Yes, He is very fond of me."

What a marvelous feeling! And so it is for each one of us. Married or single, God is very fond of us. Deep within, our souls draw upon the love that makes each of us the fulfilled persons God created us to be.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Understanding the Scriptures

Q. If the Scriptures are the word of God, why are we told that so many parts of the Bible are tongue-in-cheek tales or parables? Obviously they were written for a different culture, but we still need to deal with them.

Our parish has very good homilies that relate these stories to our lives. But I'm confused about the basic interpretations of Mary's virginity, Joseph's role, some of Jesus' miracles, not to mention the flood and the Garden of Eden.

A. I know of no genuine Bible scholar who says any part of the Bible is "tongue-in-cheek." It is all true, but that truth is presented in many literary forms: poetry, legal documents, short stories, parables, war stories and a variety of others.

Each of them presents in its own way the truth God wishes to reveal to us.

Obviously I cannot deal here with all the specific subjects you raise. Again, however, I would refer any Catholic who is seriously interested in learning the fundamentals of the Catholic Church's approach to understanding the Scriptures to the New American Bible, St. Joseph edition.

It includes, among other helpful features, official Catholic teachings on the subject, with an explanation of various literary styles found in the Bible, how they help us to know the meaning of different passages of Scripture, plus a lot of notes on specific verses.

Get a copy, and read those parts carefully. If you devote a little serious attention to them, you'll find them enlightening and quite interesting.

Catholic University of America

Q. I hope you can clear up something for me and, I'm sure, a lot of other Catholics.

We recently had a collection for The Catholic University of America. Usually people are generous in these "second collections," but this is one that is never talked about or explained in the Bay area, at least that I know of. It seems few put money in the basket.

What is the Catholic University? Where is it? Do only Catholics attend? Since it is a university, I assume it grants degrees above the bachelor's. Can you solve the mystery?

A. No, there is no mystery. Unfortunately, however, the university and its illustrious history are not as well known as they deserve to be.

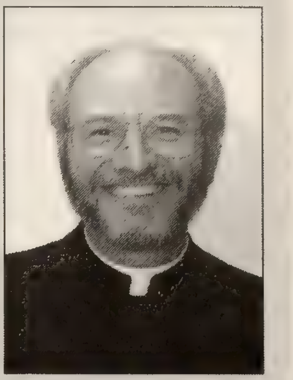
The Catholic University of America was established by the Catholic bishops of the country in 1887 as a graduate and research center. It is the only higher education facility founded by the bishops and the only university in the United States with church faculties to grant canonical degrees in theology, philosophy and canon law.

For more than a century, the university has held a prestigious role in the American church, offering 56 doctoral programs and appropriate professional degrees in all its 10 schools. Its undergraduate and graduate schools are open to men and women of all faiths.

Seventy-thousand graduates have served, and still serve, the nation and the church in numerous major fields, from sciences, music and architecture to theology, education and law. The university has

See DIETZEN, page 15

Economy of Faith



FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest columnist

A device, not a dogma

Faced with few possibilities for employment in her area, Linda considered moving from her mountain home to a distant city to earn her livelihood. She lived on land in her family for three generations, and she wanted to raise her granddaughter in the splendor of Appalachia. The conventional wisdom of the marketplace says the unemployed should move to find work, but Linda understood place, tradition, history and community. The market promises rewards to the faithful, but Linda wanted connectedness to her roots. In the end she did with less, made do with local opportunities, and stayed on the land.

The market system strongly influences people's decisions about their lives and what they do. Families move hundreds of miles away from relatives and supportive friends for the sake of a job. Workers endure undesirable employment to maintain a modest standard of living, and people work harder and longer to keep up with their neighbors. In this perpetual motion few hit the pause button to examine the economic forces on their lives.

Divine omnipotence can do anything, and hence displays the power of creating. Whereas God creates the universe, the Market creates commodities. The Market seemingly possesses a limitless ability to convert a part of creation into a product for sale. Sacred places like ancient burial grounds or holy mountains can wear a sticker price as real estate. The human body not infrequently displays a price tag for blood or bodily organs. The Market's omnipotence can sell whole towns or disrupt vast areas of nature when it decrees the need for more commodities.

While God knows the secrets of the heart, the Market knows the cost of crude and the price of potatoes. The fluctuations of the stock market signal the prophetic truth about buying or selling. And, if some government policy interferes too dramatically with the potential of profit making, the Market cries heresy. The Market knows all and acts best.

Finally, believers walk confidently with God by their side. Comparably, disciples of the Market proceed knowing an awareness of financial consequences will influence nearly all social decision making, whether in business, in government or in the individual. A simple appeal to budget considerations reminds combatants of the omnipresent Market and stops many an argument.

While the market represents a marvelous mechanism for allocating most goods and services, it has its limitations. Ultimately for believers the market is a device, not a dogma. The sacredness of life, the stewardship of creation and the respect for community supercede the market's promised rewards of lucrative employment, cheap prices and expanded choices. These spiritual considerations temper the uncritical acceptance of market wisdom.

Father Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Movie Capsules

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Bedazzled" (20th Century Fox)

Mediocre comedy in which a socially inept computer technician (Brendan Fraiser) sells his soul to the devil (Elizabeth Hurley) in exchange for seven wishes to win the love of his beautiful co-worker (Frances O'Connor), but the wishes don't turn out quite the way he intended. Although the twists on the requests are cleverly conceived, director Harold Ramis' tiresome film emphasizes makeup and costuming more than humorous substance. Some drug content, brief comically intended violence and homosexual innuendo, occasional sex-related humor and a few instances of crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Billy Elliot" (Universal)

Stirring tale about a coal miner's young son (Jamie Bell) who rises above the tough macho culture that surrounds him to follow his dream of becoming a ballet dancer. Though debut director Stephen Daldry's coming-of-age story is by the numbers, effective character development, an engaging narrative and well-placed dance sequences create a pleasurable experience. Some homosexual innuendo and fleeting profanity with recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Contender" (DreamWorks)

Politically charged drama in which a Democratic senator's (Joan Allen) vice-presidential confirmation is derailed by the discovery of an alleged sexual misadventure in her past by a vengeful Republican congressman (Gary Oldman). Director Rod Lurie's left-leaning, wordy thriller has some engrossing moments, but it loses its appeal in its portrayal of politically conservative characters as caricatures. Brief, vivid scenes of sexual encounters with nudity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Get Carter" (Warner Bros.)

Ineffectual remake of a 1971 British thriller in which vicious Las Vegas hit man Sylvester Stallone seeks revenge against the thugs who murdered his brother. Director Stephen Kay's gimmicky camera work and stylized visuals fail to disguise a nonsensical plot, atrocious performances and senseless violence. Much gratuitous violence, brief drug content, fleeting lesbian sexual encounters, recurring rough language and brief profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Pay It Forward" (Warner Bros.)

Poignant drama about an 11-year-old boy (Haley Joel Osment) whose classroom assignment to change the world blossoms into an altruistic movement with far-reaching results including bringing together his alcoholic mother (Helen Hunt) and his facially disfigured teacher (Kevin Spacey). As directed by Mimi Leder, the film's exemplary message and admirable performances are undermined by an overly sentimental script. Some sexual situations, brief violence, some profanity and crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director of Adult Catholic Enrichment/Order of Christian Initiation: Holy Family Catholic Church of Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for Adult Catholic Enrichment (ACE) and the Order of Christian Initiation (OCI) programs. Applicants should have leadership experience in ACE/OCI areas and/or have religious education degreed background suitable to develop high quality programs and volunteer assistance in the community. Must be practicing Catholic. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education at Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Director of Music: Full-time position as Director of Music for growing parish of 650 families who love to sing! Responsibilities include: Liturgy preparation and planning; playing for 5 weekend masses, holy days, funerals. Weddings negotiated; directing and developing adult mixed choir; organizing and directing children's choir; attend conferences and workshops for continued education and renewal; and attend weekly parish staff meetings. Competitive salary and benefits. Experience a plus, but musical accompaniment skills (piano & organ) a must. Send resume to Search Committee, Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., Salisbury, NC 28144, or fax to 704-647-0126.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Religious Education: Holy Family Catholic Church in Marietta seeks a full-time salaried Director for its Religious Education programs. Practical leadership experience in the continuing development of a full range of primary, secondary, young adult and adult based Religious Education programs is essential. The ability to encourage a spirit of volunteerism to meet broad community needs is a must. Should be competent in managing all educational levels and administrative staff functions. Must have bachelors and/or advanced degree in education and/or religious training. Must be practicing Catholic. Holy Family's Religious Education programs serve a multicultural community. Fluency in Spanish or equivalent background experience would be a useful asset. If interested, please submit resume and cover letter to Ret Siefferman, Director of Religious Education, Holy Family Catholic Church, 3401 Lower Roswell Rd., Marietta, GA 30068. Fax (770) 578-0475. Inquire at (770) 973-7400, ext. 21 with questions.

Maintenance Position: Full-time: M-F, 7am-4pm. Start immediately. St. Patrick Elementary School, Charlotte. Good benefits. Fax resume to: Maintenance Position, (704)333-3178.

Principal, Elementary: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Raleigh, NC announces its opening for Principal, effective July 1, 2001. We are a parish-based K-8 coeducational school serving 538 students. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have an advanced degree and administrative experience. Prospective candidates interviewed immediately. Direct inquiries to: Principal Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 2710 Overbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27608. (919)782-1670 ext.123; Fax (919)420-2188.

Production Associate: The Catholic News and Herald has an opening for a part-time production associate (30 hours per week). Good benefit package. Candidate will be proficient with PageMaker 6.5, Photoshop 5.5, and Corel 7.0 (a PC environment preferred). Position involves layout and pre-press of weekly newspaper. Graphic design experience preferred. Please forward layout/design samples and resume to: Editor, The Catholic News & Herald, PO Box 37267; Charlotte, NC, or e-mail jskeane@aol.com

Religious Education Director: Full-time position is available at Saint Brigid Catholic Church, Alpharetta, Georgia (www.saintbrigid.org). Degreed applicant must be a practicing Catholic. The Religious Education Director will administer (design, develop, direct, and evaluate) the total parish catechetical program and provide leadership to assist the parish community in building a solid foundation for Christian living. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Benefits package included. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. Joe Corbett, Saint Brigid Catholic Church, 3400 Old Alabama, Alpharetta, GA 30022, or fax to (678)393-0071, or e-mail to fr.joe@saintbrigid.org.

Youth Ministry Director: Full time. Master's or undergraduate degree in Catechesis or a youth related field. 1,200-family parish in Charlotte, NC. Send resume/cover letter to: St. Patrick Cathedral, Attn: Joanna Catabui, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, Charlotte, NC 28203 or fax (704)377-6403.

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Anniversary, from page 1

that encouragement meant a lot. "That really hit me," she said of the bishop's comments. "I took a step back and thought about it. I said, 'I'm kind of proud that at this point in my life I can say yes, marriage does work.'"

She said communication is essential in any lasting relationship, adding that "our commitment to each other and our deep faith" have been important in their marriage. "We just make our family work by keeping our vows going," she said. "Everything has its ups and downs, but if you talk it out, things have a way of finding their way down the path of getting better."

> "You are proof that marriage works. You are proof that marriage is something beautiful, that it is something sacred in God's eyes."
>
> — *Bishop William G. Curlin*

Bishop Curlin urged the couples to share their recipe for happy marriages with younger generations, people who encounter the negative in a world often filled with anger and despair.

"I hope you will tell your stories to your children and to young people," the bishop said. "I hope you will write down the history of your love affair with one another. We need your stories. We need your witness to Jesus Christ more than ever in this world."

From sacrifice to forgiveness, understanding to sensitivity, "there is a litany of things that makes a happy marriage," the bishop said in his homily. He urged the couples always to continue working at keeping their marriages strong and never to stop learning from and about one another.

Ellicott and Mary Valentine of Pfafftown agreed on the importance of the bishop's message. "That has played a very large part of our marriage," said Mary of the need to communicate and understand. Married in 1950 in Washington, D.C., the Valentines said a deep love for one another has been the key to their happiness as a married couple.

"We have a lot of interests in common, and then he has his own interests and I have mine," said Mary with a chuckle. "We usually acknowledge whatever the other is interested in doing."

The annual celebration is sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Family Life program, a program of Catholic Social Services' Special Ministries. The day included the renewal of marriage vows, anniversary certificates to each couple, long-stemmed red roses and a catered reception.

"We are honoring those couples who have been real symbols of what family life is all about," said Gerry Carter, director of Special Ministries. "Our purpose is to say thank you for their inspiration they provide for the entire community. They really are sterling examples for the rest of us to aspire to."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Family, from page 1

He criticized the widespread acceptance of divorce, saying many children "will always bear the psychological sign of the trial that the division of their parents subjected them to."

At the same time, the pope said the "church feels called not to express a severe and distanced judgment."

Even those who have divorced and remarried civilly, while in a state of "objective moral disorder," are invited to participate in the life of the church, he said.

Divorce is just one phenomenon where children's rights are often overlooked, said the pope, and despite advances in recognizing the rights of the youngest members of society, in practice they are often denied.

For example, he referred to the growing use of fertility treatments that the church does not condone, such as in vitro fertilization or genetic screening.

"The tendency to use practices which are morally unacceptable in the generation (of children) betrays the absurd mentality of the right to a child," he said, "which takes the place of the correct recognition of the right of a child to be born and then to grow in a fully human way."

The pope encouraged couples who may not be able to have their own children to turn to adoption, a "true exercise of charity that places children's well-being before parental needs."

Whether conceived naturally or adopted, he said, children need both a mother and father united as one flesh in the sacrament of marriage.

"It is not a step forward for civilization to support tendencies that place this elementary truth into the shadows and claim to assert themselves legally," said the pope, an apparent reference to recent laws in some countries recognizing homosexual unions.

Appealing to Catholics around the world to promulgate respect for human life from the moment of conception, he expressed hope that governments and international organizations like the United Nations would come to recognize the truth of the church's emphasis on the family.

Both the Oct. 14 prayer vigil and Oct. 15 Mass included emotional moments between the pope and children, encounters with whom often have moved him deeply throughout his pontificate.

Afflicted by a neurological disorder commonly believed to be Parkinson's disease, which severely limits the pope's facial expressions, the 80-year-old pontiff broke into rare smiles as he blessed youngsters.

Several children remained at the pope's side to whisper in his ear, and he repaid their gestures by speaking with them in return and embracing them fondly.

Dietzen, from page 13

educated 9,000 priests — from most, if not all, dioceses in the country — and hundreds of bishops.

The school is still a significant feature of the U.S. Catholic Church. Located in the nation's capital, it is frequently a resource for research and statistics for the American bishops in their Congressional hearings and other legal activities. The archbishop of Washington, D.C., is the university's chancellor.

More information is available by writing to the CUA Office of Public Affairs, 620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20078-5216.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about ecumenism, intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

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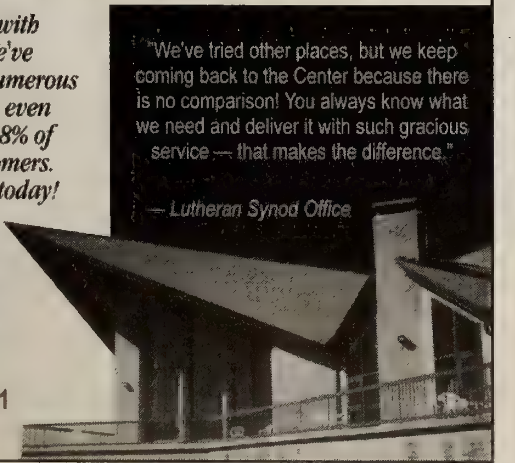
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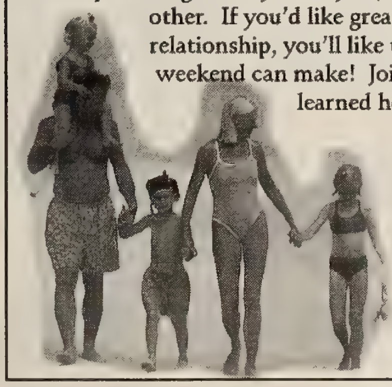

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Nobel winner has credited Catholic faith with helping him

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who won the 2000 Nobel Peace Prize, has credited his Catholic faith for helping him through periods of torture and imprisonment.

Kim, whose baptismal name is Thomas More, converted to Catholicism as an adult in the late 1950s. Under previous government administrations, he faced kidnapping, exile, the death penalty and beatings.

He once said that when faced with the threat of death and imprisonment, "I was able to remain peaceful and firmly resolved in my mind to face the threat of death because of my resolute faith in the risen Jesus Christ and my belief in the existence of the living God."

Kim won the Nobel Peace Prize for his persistent peace efforts with North Korea and his commitment to human rights and democracy.

While the Korean conflict 50 years ago ended in an armed truce and not a peace agreement, North and South Korea have made steps toward peace. The two Koreas have held reunions of families separated during the Korean War, agreed to re-link railroads and roads cut off during the conflict, and ordered the two armies to work together to clear land mines on the border.

At their landmark summit in Pyongyang, North Korea, in June, Kim embraced North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

During much of the country's past four decades of military dictatorships, Kim, 74, sometimes described as "Asia's Mandela," was under house arrest, imprisoned or in exile.

In 1997, he became the first opposition candidate to win the South Korean presidency. He lost three previous bids for the presidency, in 1971, 1987 and 1992.

In 1995, while speaking at a Lenten lecture hosted by the Seoul Archdiocese, Kim spoke of his faith in the face of death. In his lecture, titled "Jesus Christ, Risen Lord and Reunification," Kim also outlined a three-stage plan for reunification that he said could be accomplished by 2020.

An outspoken critic of the 1963-79 rule of South Korean President Park Chung Hee and the other right-wing governments that ruled South Korea since 1961, Kim called the Catholic Church "the centrifocal point of the spiritual struggle against the Park dictatorship."

During his unsuccessful run against Park in the 1971 campaign, Kim suffered a serious hip injury in an automobile accident, which was later acknowledged to be a secret-police assassination attempt. The accident left him with a limp and chronic neuralgia.

After Park declared martial law in the fall of 1972, Kim lived in the United States until 1973, and again from 1982 to 1985. During his exile, Kim founded the Korean Institute for Human Rights in Alexandria, Va.

In a 1999 interview with the British news agency Reuters, Kim said he has been motivated by the sense that he is on the right side of history.

"When I was kidnapped and when I was sentenced to death, of course I was afraid of death, but I thought to myself I was the victor. If I felt that I was the victor, then I had no reason to be discouraged," said Kim.

Kim was born Dec. 3, 1925, the son of a wealthy farmer on an island off the coast of Cholla province. In 1961, he entered parliament after publishing a newspaper and working as an accountant. He and his wife, Lee Hi-ho, an activist for women's rights, have three sons.

MRS. AMERICA

CNS PHOTO BY LISA BENOIT

Mrs. America, Leslie Lam, poses in front of her alma mater, St. Francis School in Honolulu, in September. She said her family and Catholic faith are important in helping to overcome life's obstacles.

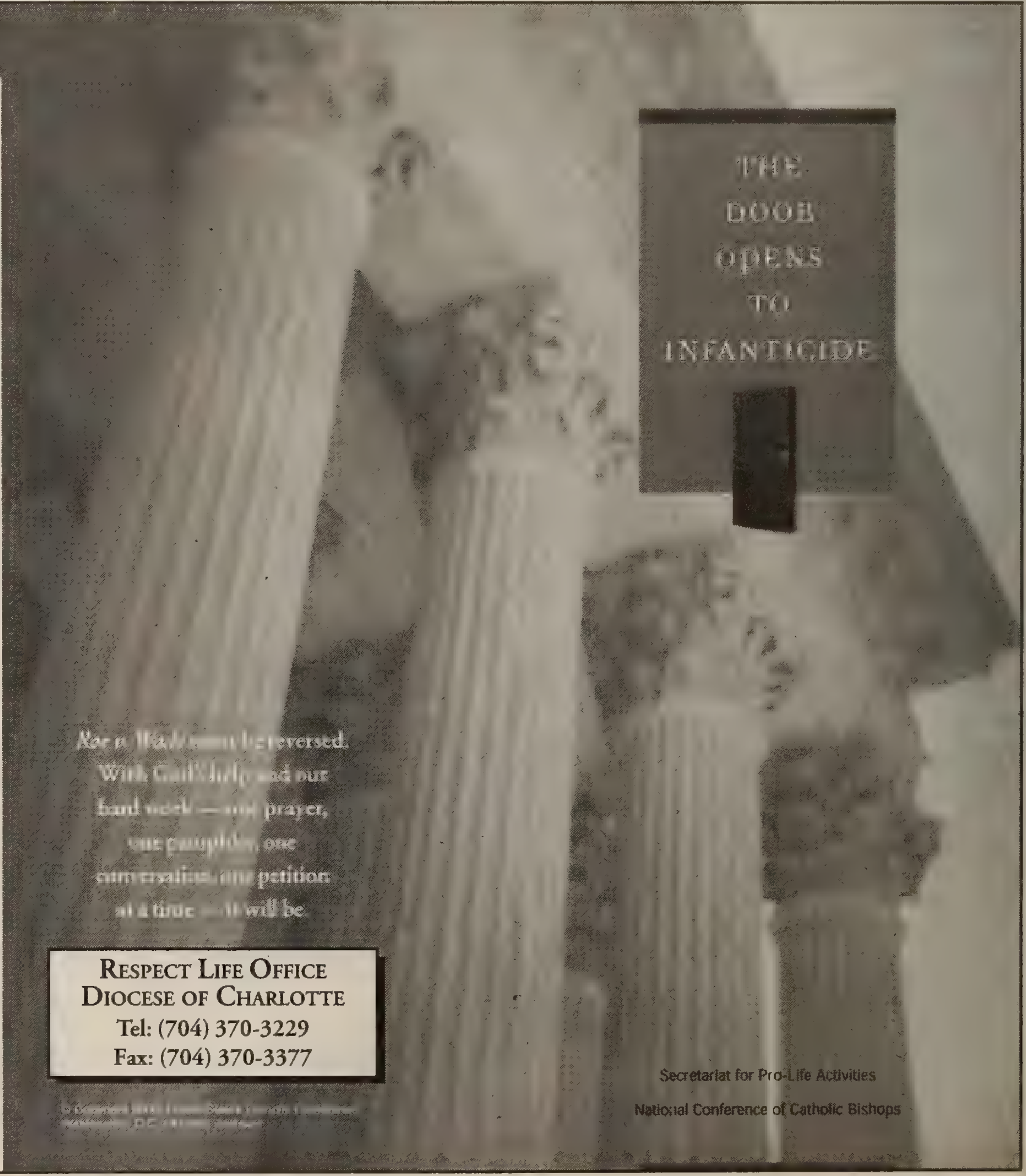
ROE V. WADE was a watershed event. One day, we were a nation that protected the lives of unborn human beings. The next day, seven justices of the U.S. Supreme Court said that throughout pregnancy abortion is a fundamental constitutional right. That was January 1973.

In June 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court expanded the right to kill, from children in the womb *(Roe v. Wade)* to children almost completely born *(Stenberg v. Carhart)*. With its decision in *Carhart*, we've moved beyond abortion to near infanticide. And in doing so, it has created a new level of moral blindness and insensitivity.

How much killing can we stand without losing our humanity?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- PRAY every day that our nation will again respect the lives of every human being from conception to natural death. Each Sunday we might make this plea in the *Prayers of the Faithful.*
- LEARN the facts about abortion. The newsletter *Life Insight*, and other education materials are available from the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. Also visit www.nccbuscc.org/prolife and www.hopeafterabortion.org.
- COMMUNICATE, because we need to speak out when we can. It is in speaking with others that we can help them to understand and touch their hearts with a message of respect for human life.
- SERVE programs that serve pregnant women and children — they always need extra hands. Offer to help.
- ORGANIZE on behalf of life. The most effective vehicle for building a community that respects each and every human life is the Parish Respect Life Committee.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Roe v. Wade must be reversed. With God's help and our hard work — one prayer, one pamphlet, one conversation, one petition at a time — it will be.
Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities
National Conference of Catholic Bishops

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

October 27, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 8

Inside

Pro-life leaders fight cloning proposals ...PAGE 5

Ebola outbreak causes havoc in Uganda ...PAGE 7

Living the Faith
Paralympian once competed with able-bodied swimmers ...PAGE 16

Local News

Rosary makers send prayers worldwide ...PAGE 3

Belmont Abbey College president to retire ...PAGE 4

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

Inside This Week:

Bishop's Financial Stewardship Report

Faith and the Ballot Box

BY THE MOST REVEREND
WILLIAM G. CURLIN

Last November I co-signed with brother bishops in the United States a document that addressed national and international issues of major concern to all who are committed to freedom and justice. Although it was reprinted in last week's edition of The Catholic News & Herald, I want to draw your attention to some of the challenges contained in the text of "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility For A New Millennium."

The Catholic community in America is large and diverse. We are Democrats, Independents and Republicans. We are members of every race, come from every ethnic background and live in urban, rural and suburban communities. We cannot be indifferent to or cynical about our obligations of citizenship. For us the duties of citizenship begin with Gospel values and Catholic teaching that offer a consistent set of moral principles to help us in assessing the issues, platforms and campaigns that invite our support. No polls or focus groups can excuse us from the responsibility to speak for the voiceless and to act in accord with our moral convictions.

Of major importance is our Catholic belief that every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Calls to advance human rights are illusions if the *Right to Life* is subject to attack. Catholics believe that every human life is sacred from conception to natural death, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every human institution is whether or not it enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

We need to *know where candidates for public office stand* in relationship to the challenges surrounding us: *Abortion destroys 1.4 million children every year.* In many cities, a majority of children never see the day of their birth. The added horror of *partial birth destruction of innocent life* is a national tragedy. The younger you are in America, the more likely you are to be poor. Some schools have become war zones. Hate and intolerance haunt our nation and beget division, bigotry, racism and conflict. Millions do not have basic health care. Scandals, sensationalism and intense partisan combat diminish public life. Wars, ethnic cleansing and the denial of human rights destroy tens of thousands of lives each year.

It is increasingly apparent that major public issues have clear moral dimensions and that religious values have significant public consequences. One of the greatest blessings in the United States is our right and responsibility to participate in civic life. I urge you to exercise this right of citizenship by casting your vote in the coming election of State and National leaders. As disciples of Jesus Christ let our votes provide a moral leaven for democracy.

Lenoir Catholic community urged by Bishop Curlin to brighten world at new church facility

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LENOIR — More than 60 minutes into the two-hour Mass dedicating the new St. Francis of Assisi Church, dim lights were augmented to their full brilliance. The congregation sang "Christ, Be Our Light" as clergy lit candles in the sanctuary. Priests and deacons placed cloths on the altar, setting the table for celebrating the Eucharist.

Lighting the altar and the church during a dedication ceremony reminds the faithful of Jesus' radiant presence in the new spiritual center — and in the world through Christian example by his people.

The theme of bringing Christ's light to the world permeated the dedication celebration at St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 22. Bishop William G. Curlin, who presided at the Mass, urged those gathered to remember the significance of bringing that light beyond their new church.

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Bishop William G. Curlin blesses the altar at the new St. Francis of Assisi.

"If we are to celebrate the mystery of God here, we must be conscious to take that presence outside these walls into the community," said Bishop Curlin.

He said that as Catholic faithful, it is the parishioners' duty to "celebrate God's holy presence in the Eucharist, to be empowered by the Spirit and to take that love beyond these walls, and to be that light out there, not just a light in here."

The new church facility is just blocks away from the old sanctuary, which now serves as a recording stu-

SEE LENOIR, PAGE 4

Pope says service must characterize church's missionary efforts

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At a jubilee liturgy to celebrate evangelization around the world, Pope John Paul II said the church's missionary efforts must be based on service, not domination, with special attention to the poor and suffering. "The church wants to announce Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, following the way that Christ himself took: service, poverty, humility, the cross. Therefore it must resist the temptations" that lead to "a spirit of rivalry and competition," the pope said at a Mass in St. Peter's Square Oct. 22, World Mission Sunday.

Readers of U.S. Catholic periodicals are well-educated

RONKONKOMA, N.Y. (CNS) — Readers of U.S. Catholic periodicals are well-educated and well-off, and the vast majority have read at least three of the last four issues of their local Catholic publication, according to a recent survey. "On any given week, Catholic publications are read by more than 16 million Catholics seeking and finding information on world, national, local and religious subjects," said the Catholic Advertising Network, the arm of the Catholic Press Association that commissioned the survey. The survey was conducted by the Simmons Market Research Bureau among a random sample of subscribers to U.S. Catholic newspapers and magazines in the Catholic Advertising Network.

Jesuit urges people of faith to personally help poor children

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jesuit Father Walter J. Burghardt appealed Oct. 18 for members of the religious community to get personally involved in the lives of poor children. Issuing a "passionate personal plea" on behalf of children living in poverty, he said it was important "to touch a child" as Jesus did with the children the disciples would have turned away (Mt 19:13-15) and as Mother Teresa did with a child who was HIV positive. Father Burghardt, an author and preacher who is based at Woodstock Theological Center in Washington, was the featured speaker at a forum on welfare reform held at the Lincoln Center campus of Fordham University in New York.

CNS photo by Debbie Hill

Child's room hit by machine gun fire in West Bank

Jorge Nazzal, 6, holds his damaged stuffed toy inside his bedroom hit the night before by machine gun fire from Israeli troops. Israeli soldiers returning fire with Palestinian snipers in the West Bank neighborhood of Beit Jalla Oct. 22 endangered the Nazzal family and caused damage to their home.

Immigrants, prisons, church architecture on bishops' agenda

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immigrants, immigration reform, crime and criminal justice, and the relation of church buildings and art to liturgy are among major topics the U.S. Catholic bishops will take up when they meet in Washington Nov. 13-16. They will also vote on brief statements titled "The U.S. Supreme Court and the Culture of Death" and "Sudan's Cry for Peace." Final modifications in their new conference statutes are up for a vote, as is a proposal to form a new standing Committee on Catechesis.

Workers still negotiating, but cardinal's words halted strike

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles County workers were still involved in an ongoing contract dispute Oct. 18, but Cardinal Roger M. Mahony's appeal several days earlier halted a walkout by the workers. The cardinal said a protracted strike would disable vital services and urged it be suspended "while ongoing and productive collective bargaining continues." Workers returned to work Oct. 12 after more than 13,000 went out on strike Oct. 11, shutting down libraries, curtailing services at health centers and stopping payments at welfare offices throughout the county.

North American Orthodox, Catholic bishops meet in Crete

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The North American Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops combined dialogue and pilgrimage as it met for the first time in Greece, on the island of Crete. In a statement, the participants expressed joy and gratitude at the advances in Catholic-Orthodox relations over the past four decades. "The difficulties that have recently beset the international dialogue do not alter our conviction that continued dialogue in love is the only way that our churches can be faithful to our Lord's command to love one another and to be reconciled," they said. The meeting, held at the Orthodox Academy of Crete near Hania, took place Oct. 2-4. The statement was released later by the communications office of the U.S. Catholic bishops in Washington.

NCCW looks to past, future at general assembly

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The 2000 General Assembly of the National Council of Catholic Women, held in Portland in early October, celebrated the organization's 80th anniversary and focused on honoring the past and shaping the future. The hundreds of Catholic women who attended the Oct. 5-7 assembly also discussed ways to counter pornography, stop assisted suicide and guide women to holy lives. Keynote speaker Victoria Ries, pastoral life director of St. Catherine's Parish in Seattle, spoke of the present era as an "in-between time" for the NCCW.

Vatican, Organization of African Unity sign agreement

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pledging to work together on areas of common interest, the Vatican and the Organization of African Unity signed a cooperation agreement. Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, apostolic nuncio to Ethiopia, and Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary-general of the OAU, signed the accord Oct. 19 in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. The Vatican announced the signing Oct. 21 in a statement that said the agreement "clears the way for close cooperation" between the Holy See and the OAU in education, health care, human rights and social affairs.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 1 — 9:30 a.m.
All Saints' Day Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School
7:30 p.m.
All Saints' Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
November 2 — 7:30 p.m.
All Souls' Day Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral
November 3 — 7:30 a.m.
First Friday Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral
November 4 — 5 p.m.
Black Catholic History Month Gospel Mass
St. Pius X, Greensboro

Diocesan planner

October

29 GREENSBORO — To benefit the Bishop McGuinness High School Athletic Program, the BMHS Golf Classic is taking place this morning with a 9:30 a.m. tee time and Mass at 8:15 a.m. at Grandover Resort, 1000 Club Rd. For details, call Eddie Mitchell, director of development and admissions, at (336) 722-8238.

31 WINSTON-SALEM — Frank and Kitty Rodgers are presenting "Finding Your Character in the Scriptures: Are We So Different?" today from 12:30-2 p.m. at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel Spirituality Center on the corner of Cherry and 3rd Streets. A free will offering is being taken during the program. For registration and more details, call the church office at (336) 723-8238.

November

3 ASHEVILLE — The Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry of St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., is sponsoring a Booktique and More Sale today from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Nov. 4 from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Nov. 5 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Items for sale include hard and soft cover books, compact discs, household treasures, holiday ornaments and other item. For more details, call Mary Henderson at (828) 254-2773 or the church office at (828) 252-3151.

HOT SPRINGS — For time to renew and review, a Married Couples' Retreat, facilitated by Jesuit Father Vincent Alagia and Marlene and Steve Stowe, is being held at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, through Nov. 6. Participants must register no later than Oct. 25. For details, call Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege at (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

4 GREENSBORO — The 3rd Annual Gospel Mass in honor of Black Catholic History Month is being celebrated today

Rosary makers send prayers around the world

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — People throughout the United States and in various countries have a piece of the Diocese of Charlotte through the efforts of Our Lady's Rosary Makers of Charlotte. The group, in existence for about three years, has mailed their handmade missionary rosaries to countries such as Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Kenya, Colombia and Cuba.

The group began after Jackie Gallagher, a St. Patrick Cathedral parishioner, visited Lourdes, France, with Bishop William G. Curlin, in 1997. After.she returned home to Charlotte, she wanted to do something to honor Mary and to promote the rosary.

She was no stranger to this holy craft having made rosaries as gifts and for missionaries while living in Virginia. Gallagher contacted the Our Lady's Rosary Makers headquarters in Louisville, Ky., found individual rosary makers in and around Charlotte and began meeting with them in her home.

"This is an at-home, no-pressure, no-deadline charity work activity that the elderly, shut-ins, mothers with young children and retired people or anyone with free time can do," said Gallagher. "We choose the missionaries and gather and package the rosaries."

Since those first home gatherings, several parish and school groups have developed from the larger group at St. Matthew Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Church and St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and St. Francis of Assisi in Jefferson and All Saints Catholic Mission in Lake Wylie, S.C.

Now, the groups consist of a 92-year-old woman at the Little Flower Assisted Living Community who has made over 1,140 rosaries in 3 years and an 88-year-old man who makes black and brown camouflage rosaries for the military.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Irene Schell, one of the Our Lady's Rosary Makers from St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte, threads beads for one of her handmade rosaries. The St. Patrick group has been making rosaries since June.

"A little over a year ago, some of the rosary makers expressed that they wanted more spiritual time together, which is how the parish groups began," said Gallagher. "My hope has been that the individual parish groups will supply the spiritual support that they need. The primary function of the parish groups is to provide rosaries for the missionaries, their parish priests, RCIA classes and confirmation classes."

A group of rosary makers at St. Patrick Cathedral, led by Patti Reimler, has done their part to help missionaries around the world. They have been working nearly six months and have sent several boxes of rosaries to different countries. This month they will be shipping their finished product to a woman in New Jersey who will then mail them to Italy. Thus far, the group has already received a couple of thank you letters from people who have benefited from their work.

"Making the rosaries helps you keep your thoughts centered on God; it brings you closer to him, especially after a very hectic day. It brings peace to your heart," said Marylou Hindley, one of the rosary makers at St. Patrick.

"The rosary is something tangible, something to hold onto while praying. It allows you to pray with words, feelings, all of your senses," said Irene Schell, another rosary maker. "This is one of the most beautiful prayers that we can say, and I feel humbled to receive the letters because this is such a small thing that we do."

> **"The rosary is something tangible, something to hold onto while praying. It allows you to pray with words, feelings, all of your senses," said Irene Schell. "This is one of the most beautiful prayers that we can say, and I feel humbled to receive the letters because this is such a small thing that we do."**

The parish groups purchase their supplies from the Kentucky location, funded solely by free-will donations from those involved. The rosaries are made of cord, dipped in clear nail polish to keep it from unraveling, plastic beads and a plastic crucifix, all made with a special tool that helps them to make the intricate knot formations. Beginners can take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour to complete one rosary, while those who have been working at it for a while can take only 15 minutes.

Packages of 100 are placed into boxes and shipped to the locations printed in the quarterly newsletter that they receive from Kentucky. The rosaries are blessed either by the parish priest or the missionary priests after they receive them in the mail. Bishop William G. Curlin blessed over 5,000 rosaries during a Mass for the rosary makers in September.

Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) have also become involved with students from Charlotte Catholic High School, Holy Trinity Middle School, St. Ann School, St Gabriel School and St. Patrick School making their own versions of the rosaries, and Belmont Abbey College students have also become a part of the group of rosary makers.

"The kids make the rosaries during recess and lunch using spacers, so it doesn't take them away from their school activities or work," said Gallagher. "The kids are learning prayers and how to make them, and they can assist the teachers in helping other students."

Gallagher hopes that there will be a rosary group in every school and one in every church parish in the near future. "I tell the students that their rosary will end up in the hands of a poor child or a person in his or her deathbed clinging to faith. The rosary is what people turn to in times of need and thanksgiving."

For more information on Our Lady's Rosary Makers, call Jackie Gallagher at (704) 544-2131.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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at 5 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. Bishop William G. Curlin is the celebrant, and the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte is providing the music ministry. A karamu, or community meal, follows the Mass, which is being sponsored by North Carolina A&T University Catholic Campus Ministry, St. Pius X and the Women's Friendship Club of St. Mary Church. For more information, call Alberta Hairston at (336) 272-5868 or e-mail theahouse1@juno.com.

SWANNANOA — For those interested in joining St. Margaret Mary Church to make a pilgrimage for the Jubilee Indulgence, there is a bus leaving for a visit to St. Patrick Cathedral, Belmont Abbey Basilica and St. Joseph Church today. For more information about lunch and other details, call the church office at (828) 686-8833.

5 GREENSBORO — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) welcomes all ladies of Irish birth or Irish descent or whose husband is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians to the Kloster Center at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St, for a meeting from 3-5 p.m. All women who are interested in joining the largest Irish Catholic organization in America can call Carol McGough at (336) 292-5474, Bonnie O'Hanlon at (336) 299-6705 or Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983 for reservations and information.

6 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center, St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. in the activity center in classroom 5. For more information, call these contacts: St. Vincent - Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733, St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

7 CHARLOTTE — "Tapping into the Spirit" is the theme for Theology on Tap, a series of programs geared for young adults in their late teens to their late thirties and early forties to reacquaint them with the Catholic Church. The series continues tonight from 7-9 p.m. at Southend Brewery, 2100 South Blvd. The programs will continue as follows: Nov. 12 with Father Matthew Leonard at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Nov. 21 with Julie Ostergaard at Southend and Dec. 3 with Bishop William G. Curlin at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. For more information, call Jennifer Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

8 CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is sponsoring the Hospice of Charlotte's program about dealing with the holidays after a loved one has died. The focus is that the bereaved can create new rituals and traditions that pay tribute to the memory of the deceased. The program takes place tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the ministry center. For more information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

10 GREENSBORO — John Michael Talbot, a popular Catholic singer and songwriter for over 20 years, is performing in concert with Terry Talbot and Barry McGuire tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St. For tickets and details, call Tracy Welliver at the church office at (336) 272-4681.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Lenoir, from page 1

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

The Catholic commuity of Lenoir proceeds into their new St. Francis of Assisi Church. The church was dedicated Oct. 22.

dio.

Alan Stewart, the design architect and a St. Francis parishioner, took great care to preserve many of the original church's design elements in the new structure. The old church's crucifix, Stations of the Cross, statues, stained glass windows and other artifacts have found a home in the new church, designed to be more accommodating to parishioners with handicaps and to allow more accessibility in liturgical celebrations such as funerals.

"Here is where we celebrate," Bishop Curlin said of the new facility. "This is a visible sign of our love for the Lord and our faith in him. But we carry in *us* ... God's holy presence."

In his homily, Bishop Curlin told the congregation that they are the living stones who make up the universal church, and that as those stones, they must share their love for Christ with all they encounter. "We should manifest in them the deep love we have for Jesus, also recognizing in that person the presence of the living God," he said.

"This has truly been a day beyond all comprehension for (us), the folks at St. Francis," said Father Michael Buttner, pastor at the parish since 1994. He said the project could not have been completed without the grace of God.

The parish broke ground in May 1999 for their new church. The first Mass was celebrated Oct. 1 this year, and the parish hosts four Masses each weekend, including a Spanish liturgy.

A larger sanctuary provides more worship space for a growing congregation, which includes a faithful assembly of Hispanic families.

"We have a tremendous Hispanic community," said Rev. Mr. Ron Caplette, permanent deacon serving St. Francis. "Both the Anglo and the Hispanic communities have integrated, and we often have celebrations that are bilingual in nature."

Those celebrations — along with a host of other parish gatherings — will take place in a spacious multipurpose family hall on the facility's ground level.

A former school once staffed by Franciscan nuns also resides on the parish property, providing the parish space for faith formation classes and parish meetings.

With a more accommodating facility to engage in spiritual and social events, Rev. Mr. Caplette looks forward to continued service in a parish even more fused by a new center of worship.

"What this new church does for the Catholic community of Lenoir is allow us an opportunity to be unified under one roof," he said. "By building this new church and bringing us together, the light of Christ has really been exposed to all segments of our community."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Belmont Abbey College president to retire in May 2001

BELMONT — Dr. Robert A. Preston, president of Belmont Abbey College, has announced he will retire at the end of the academic year in May 2001. He made the announcement to the college's Board of Trustees Oct. 13.

Dr. Preston became the 13th president of the private Catholic liberal arts institution in August 1995. At that time he told the Board of Trustees he would serve for five years. However, he will complete his sixth year in 2001. The trustees will soon appoint a search committee of trustees, faculty, alumni and others to identify Dr. Preston's successor.

Dr. Preston will continue to teach philosophy at the Abbey, and he will remain involved with the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture, which he founded.

Dr. Preston graduated from Belmont Abbey in 1953, the first year it was a senior college. He earned a master's degree and doctorate in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. He has also studied at Harvard University's Institute for Educational Management and Carnegie-Mellon University's College Management Institute.

At Belmont Abbey, Dr. Preston oversaw the development and implementation of a new strategic plan. He instituted numerous academic initiatives and is widely credited with positioning the Abbey to adhere more closely to its Benedictine Catholic heritage. He presided while the college led a successful capital campaign, which has already exceeded its $18 million goal by more than $1 million. The Millennium Campaign continues through May 2001. Enrollment at the college, which had begun a slow decline during the early '90s, has increased and stabilized during his tenure. He is liked and respected by students, faculty and staff.

A native of Richmond, Va., Dr. Preston and his wife, Helen, have five children. Their daughter, Katherine Preston Migaki, is a 1981 graduate of Belmont Abbey.

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British church, pro-life leaders fight human cloning proposals

By PAULINUS BARNES
Catholic News Service

LONDON (CNS) — Catholics and pro-life groups in Britain will try to persuade the British Parliament to oppose proposals that would permit human cloning.

In a pastoral letter read in all churches in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, England, Archbishop Vincent Nichols urged Catholics to contact their members of Parliament to express opposition to the proposals.

He said human cloning was "a grave abuse of human life in its most vulnerable form."

"The Catholic position is clear. We cannot agree to the generation and use of human life through cloning for the sole purpose of experimentation and the generation of new cells or organs, since this involves the direct and deliberate destruction of innocent human life," he said.

"Your parliamentary representatives must take your views into account. But he or she can only do so if you make your views known," he said.

The archbishop said the issue at stake was of "fundamental moral importance."

"Far too much respect for human life has already been lost through the changes made in British law. This time I hope and pray that those responsible for making this decision will heed and observe these fundamental moral principles," he said.

In June 1999, the British government set up a committee, chaired by its chief medical adviser, Liam Donaldson, to examine the ethical and medical issues involved in human cloning.

The committee's findings, published in August, recommended that a form of human cloning known as ovum cell nuclear replacement should be permitted for medical research and the extraction of embryonic stem cells.

The proposals were heavily criticized by the Vatican, by pro-lifers and also by the European Parliament.

Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow, Scotland, chairman of the Catholic bishops' of Britain and Ireland joint committee on bio-ethical issues, said "therapeutic cloning" was "the ultimate misnomer — for it actually means killing."

But the British government has indicated that it broadly supports the committee's recommendations. Members of Parliament will, however, be allowed to vote their consciences on the issue.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is writing each parish in Britain, asking that pastors urge parishioners to lobby their members of Parliament against the proposals.

John Smeaton, the society's national director, said Archbishop Nichols' pastoral letter was an "inspiration and a sign of great hope at a difficult moment in history."

In an Oct. 20 interview, Smeaton told Catholic News Service that scientists were attempting to draw a distinction between "therapeutic" and "reproductive" cloning.

"We reject that distinction," he said. "Both types involve the creation and destruction of human embryos. You are talking about the creation of a complete human being in both cases. Both techniques involve the destruction of huge amounts of human embryos."

He said a recent poll of scientists, published by the London newspaper The Independent, had indicated that most believed that "therapeutic" cloning would inevitably lead to "reproductive" cloning.

"The danger of so-called therapeutic cloning is that you are creating a category of human being simply for the benefit of other people, not because a human being has a right to exist. It is totally subject to the requirements of the particular scientific or medical protocol that has been adopted," Smeaton said.

He said the proposals would lead to the creation of a group of human beings who were "slave humans" — created solely for others' benefit.

The organization's supporters will be outside churches collecting signatures on a petition against cloning beginning Nov. 1, he said. The petition states that "human cloning of any kind for any purpose is unacceptable."

The British government committee concluded that stem cells had "enormous potential to create new forms of treatment for currently incurable diseases."

Scientists envisage that one day stem cells may provide an entirely new source of tissue for transplantation in diseased or damaged organs. They also predict that stem-cell research may lead to breakthroughs in the treatment of diseases such as cancer, diabetes and Parkinson's disease, as well as treatment of spinal injuries.

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Kenyan archbishop says foreign aid won't end economic troubles

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Dependence on foreign aid is no solution to Kenya's ailing economy, said Archbishop Raphael Ndingi Mwana'a Nzeki of Nairobi. The archbishop welcomed the mid-October relaxation of aid terms by the International Monetary Fund, but warned that the measure would only improve the national economy if the government stamped out corruption. "Things are likely to get better, but this does not mean that it is the end of our economic problems," he said after a thanksgiving Mass at Holy Family Basilica in late October.

Lutheran bishop installed at Baltimore Catholic cathedral

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The doors of ecumenical cooperation were thrown open when the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore became the prayerful setting for the installation of the Rev. Henry Gerard Knoche as the third bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Elected in June to lead more than 96,000 Lutherans, Bishop Knoche succeeds retiring Bishop George Paul Mocko. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore invited the Lutherans to hold their Oct. 14 installation service at the cathedral to help accommodate the large number of guests from throughout Maryland, Delaware and other regions of the country.

Quebec bishops emphasize church responsibility for catechesis

MONTREAL (CNS) — Quebec's bishops said the church has increased responsibility for religious education as the province prepares to eliminate religious instruction from schools. "The situation created by Bill 118 in a constantly evolving sociological context leads the church to take on increased responsibilities outside of the state schools network," the bishops said in an Oct. 18 statement signed by the president of the Quebec Assembly of Bishops, Bishop Pierre Morissette of Baie-Comeau. "The church cannot dodge its responsibilities. It must play its specific role in faith-related education," the bishops said.

CNS PHOTO BY ALLEN FREDRICKSON

Shuttle pilot Melroy leaves for mission
Rookie shuttle pilot Pamela Melroy waves to spectators before boarding the Space Shuttle Discovery in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Oct. 10. Melroy is a graduate of Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, N.Y. The shuttle launch was aborted that day due to weather, but the crew made a successful launch Oct. 11.

Sister Lourdes Sheehan named associate general secretary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mercy Sister Lourdes Sheehan, the U.S. bishops' education secretary, has been named associate general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference. Her appointment was announced Oct. 20 by Msgr. William P. Fay, NCCB-USCC general secretary-elect. When the appointment takes effect Jan. 15, she will join associate general secretaries Bruce Egnew and Msgr. David J. Malloy on the executive staff.

Italian cardinal, Microsoft launch e-book on medical ethics

ROME (CNS) — In what's being touted as the church's "first global multimedia project," an Italian cardinal and Microsoft have teamed up to produce an online "e-book" on medical ethics. The 653-page book, "New Christian Bioethics," was written by Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi of Genoa and examines the church's teaching on in-vitro fertilization, cloning, AIDS and abortion. The Italian-language volume is available in bookstores. The online version is being offered in Microsoft Reader format for $14.50, in English and Italian, at the Web site www.bioeticacristiana.it. At the same site, a forum has been set up for debate and discussion of medical morality issues as they arise.

Prayers offered for Missouri governor killed in plane crash

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Missouri offered prayers for Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan, who was killed Oct. 16 in a plane crash 25 miles south of St. Louis. Carnahan, 66, had spared the life of condemned murderer Darrell Mease last year at Pope John Paul II's personal urging during the pope's visit to St. Louis. The bishops said they remember "the courage of his commutation of the death sentence of Darrell Mease in the days before his (scheduled) execution."

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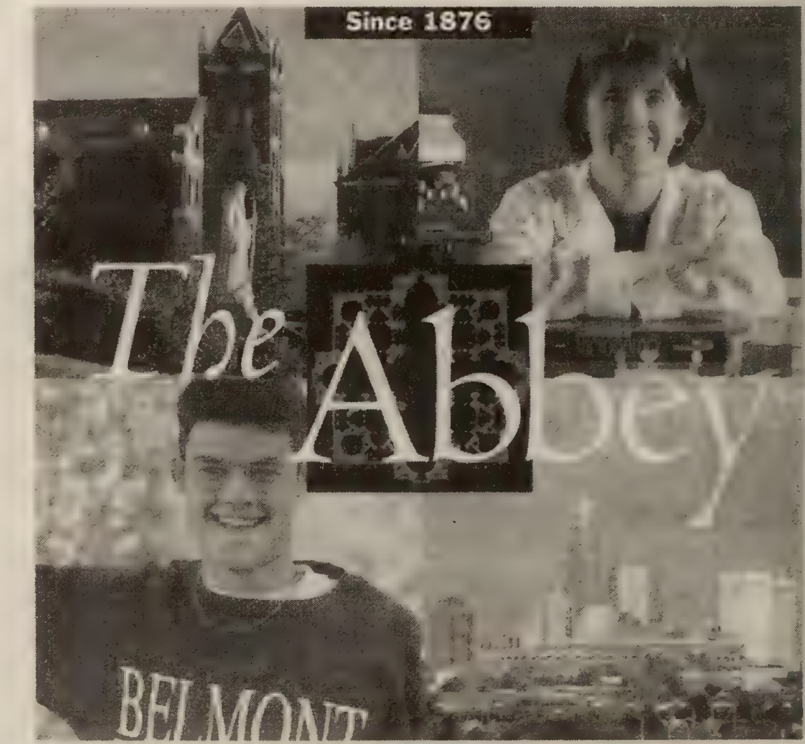

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Hospital in Uganda at center of fight against Ebola; founder returns to epicenter

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As most foreigners left northern Uganda because of an outbreak of the Ebola virus, an Italian who founded a Catholic hospital at the outbreak's epicenter returned.

Dr. Piero Corti, who started St. Mary's Lacor Hospital in Gulu with his now-deceased Canadian wife, Dr. Lucille Teasdale, spoke to the Vatican's Fides news agency Oct. 24 after returning to Uganda from a fund-raising trip in Canada.

The World Health Organization reported Oct. 23 that 55 people in the Gulu region had died of the Ebola virus and 160 people had been infected with the virus.

Corti said a nurse and two patients at St. Mary's had died before the outbreak was confirmed to be caused by the Ebola virus, which is characterized by fever, vomiting, diarrhea and massive bleeding through all body openings.

The World Health Organization reported Oct. 23 that 55 people in the Gulu region had died of the Ebola virus and 160 people had been infected with the virus.

The virus is spread through direct contact with body fluid from an infected person.

Corti said that as soon as the diagnosis was made, his colleagues released or transferred every patient that could be moved from the 450-bed facility, the largest Catholic hospital in sub-Saharan Africa.

An isolation ward and a special cemetery for Ebola victims were set up to contain the spread of the disease.

"After the death of two nurses and a doctor, there was panic even among the hospital personnel," Corti told Fides.

Members of the hospital staff were given the choice of remaining or leaving, and only those who volunteered were assigned to care for those diagnosed as having the virus.

"Almost no one left," Corti said.

The World Health Organization and other agencies provided huge shipments of gowns, goggles, gloves and masks to protect the staff.

Corti said that infection comes only from direct contact, "but if you are working a foot away from a patient who is spitting saliva or blood and has constant diarrhea, the risk increases."

"Thank heavens one of our nurses, who is a bit of an hurricane, started cleaning everything and washing the patients. She set an example and the others followed," he said.

Corti said that by Oct. 24 the patients arriving at St. Mary's with the Ebola virus had decreased "because the government hospital has begun accepting patients."

He said the government had begun a massive effort to help the sick and to educate the rest of the population, which seems to have helped at least city dwellers understand what they have to do to avoid infection.

"It seems that order has returned," Corti said.

CRS, other NGOs withdraw from northern Uganda as Ebola spreads

By JOSEPH NGALA
Catholic News Service

KAMPALA, Uganda (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services and other nongovernmental agencies pulled their staff out of northern Uganda after an Ebola virus outbreak killed dozens of people.

Meanwhile, Ugandan officials declared limited mobility out of regions affected by the virus.

Ken Hackett, executive director of Baltimore-based CRS, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, said the agency was taking measures to protect its staff since the disease appeared to be spreading.

CRS staff in Gulu had been supporting an agriculture project that will have to be suspended until the Ebola outbreak is stabilized, he said.

"We are, however, continuing to support the health interventions of the Catholic hospitals in Gulu and have offered to provide any additional support they may require to deal with the Ebola outbreak," Hackett said in an Oct. 17 statement.

The local council secretary for

See CRS, page 8

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CRS, from page 7

health, Betty Ocan, said Oct. 18 that officials from nongovernmental organizations operating in Gulu have left for their Kampala headquarters for fear of contracting Ebola.

She said most of those reported by district officials to have left Gulu were foreigners.

One church source described how one woman became infected.

"There is a woman who went for a funeral and buried the person in her Gomes — a Ugandan traditional dress that is worn by Ugandan women — then used the blanket of the deceased to wrap herself," the source said. "Now she is sick and the children are at a risk. We will have to burn the blanket."

The Ugandan health minister, Cryspus Kiyonga, declared a limited-movement control affecting localities where cases of Ebola have been identified. At least 40 people had died of the disease by Oct. 18.

Kiyonga said Ebola is spread by contact and not through air or insect bites.

He said the ministry had drawn up an emergency plan to tame the epidemic. The plan includes the recruitment of health scouts in all 23 subcounties of Gulu and equipping hospitals with medication and protective gear. It also includes formation of task forces that would meet daily.

"The spread of this disease can be quickly restricted and stopped provided we all act appropriately," Kiyonga said.

He said all people who show signs of high fever, body pains and bleeding should immediately be reported for treatment to increase the chances of survival. Anybody who dies should be buried immediately, he added.

Meanwhile four investigators from the special pathogens branch of the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were expected to leave for Gulu to confirm the Ugandan diagnosis, spokeswoman Barbara Reynolds said.

The team was invited by the World Health Organization to help determine the origin of the outbreak and how to contain it, she said.

Ebola fever is named after river in Congo where it was first recognized in 1976, when an epidemic killed more than 270 people.

Ebola is one of the world's worst viral diseases, leading to death in up to 90 percent of cases. It can kill within 24 hours and is characterized by massive hemorrhaging. Victims bleed through all body openings — the eyes, mouth, nose, ears — and almost inevitably die. It has no vaccine or cure.

First symptoms include fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throats, followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, limited kidney and liver functions and internal and external bleeding.

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Cardinal urges Catholics, Hindus to improve relations

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If Catholics and Hindus improved their relationship, they would show the world that the peace and harmony their religions strive for can become a reality, said Cardinal Francis Arinze.

The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, reaffirmed the Catholic Church's commitment to improving its relations with other religions in his annual letter to Hindus celebrating Diwali.

The Hindu celebration, observed Oct. 27 this year, marks a new year and emphasizes reconciliation within families and adoration of God. Diwali celebrates the victory of truth over lies, light over darkness, life over death and good over evil.

In his letter, Cardinal Arinze expressed his hopes that Christians and Hindus would "continue to grow in mutual respect and understanding and be enriched in order that they may contribute to building peace and harmony in our world."

The cardinal said, "The Catholic Church lays special emphasis on deepening friendship between Christians and people of other religious traditions.

"We are convinced that together we can achieve much for the good of the world," he said.

The cardinal said Christians and Hindus place the mystery of God at the heart of daily life, and they can build on that common value to promote respect and harmony in the world.

"Christians believe that Jesus Christ reveals the fullness of God's mystery," Cardinal Arinze wrote.

"Jesus taught love of neighbor and showed compassion, particularly for the poor," he said. "He showed himself to be the Redeemer, liberating those who are in the bonds of ignorance and sin. Is not Jesus thus a model and a permanent message for humanity?"

Following Jesus' example of love, he said, Christians want to work with others to help the oppressed, the poor and the victims of injustice.

"It is my sincere wish and prayer that we Hindus and Christians, through our mutual respect, esteem and friendship, may become concrete examples and a proof of harmony and peace for many others throughout India and beyond," he wrote.

In recent years, India, which has a majority Hindu population, has been the scene of interreligious violence. Small groups of Hindu fundamentalists have made numerous attacks on Christians and their places of worship.

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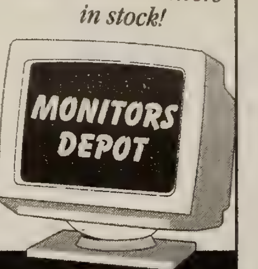

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Diocese of Charlotte

Bishop's Financial Stewardship Report

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000

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— 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Letter from the Bishop of Charlotte

THE MOST REVEREND WILLIAM G. CURLIN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As your bishop, I am accountable to you, the people of the Church of western North Carolina, for the proper stewardship of our financial resources. I am pleased to once again present to you the annual financial report of the Central Administration of the Diocese of Charlotte for the year ending June 30, 2000.

I encourage you to review the financial information contained on the following pages. The report shows that the Central Administration of your diocese is financially healthy. I am grateful for this report and for the good works that have been accomplished during the past year. Through your generosity, Catholic education programs have been strengthened; outreach to minorities and those who are new to our country has been expanded; and financial support and counseling services to struggling families has been increased. Additionally, your support of our young men studying for the priesthood — *your* future priests — has been a tremendous blessing. These good works are the direct result of your generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure.

During this past year, the diocese opened an office of Catholic Social Services in Murphy to address social and economic needs in the four western counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain. I am very pleased with the progress being made to alleviate poverty and unemployment in these communities.

Construction is currently underway on the new Bishop McGuinness High School (BMHS), which will accommodate 800 students in a 108,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. The site of the new school is centrally located so as to serve the entire Triad region. I am pleased to report that the project is proceeding on budget and on schedule. The new BMHS is scheduled to open for students in August, 2001.

Throughout this past year, we continued our outreach to the growing numbers of Hispanics in our diocese through the diocesan Hispanic Ministry program, Catholic Social Services' Hispanic outreach programs, and numerous parish-based programs throughout the diocese. Currently, 48 of the 90 parishes and missions in our diocese regularly offer Mass in Spanish.

We are blessed to be living in a place and time in which our Church is thriving and growing. This growth presents unique challenges and opportunities. In Jesus' name, we must continue to reach out to all God's people, especially to those in need, to the marginalized. It is only by your generous assistance that we will be able to continue to be responsive to the increasing needs of our people.

I am very grateful for your support. I am aware of the many sacrifices that you make on behalf of your parish, the Diocesan Support Appeal and the special appeals that directly assist the ministries of the Church. I beg your continued assistance as, together, we build God's Kingdom on earth.

Remembering you and your loved ones in my daily prayer, I am

Devotedly in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Report from the Chief Financial Officer

WILLIAM G. WELDON, CPA

The Central Administration of the Diocese of Charlotte, the administrative arm of the Catholic Church here in western North Carolina, completed the year ended June 30, 2000 with an increase in net assets of approximately $2,340,000. Included in this increase is $171,000 which has been restricted by donor imposed stipulations, as follows:

- $155,000 representing an increase in permanent funds, which have donor stipulations that the funds be held in perpetuity; and
- $16,000 representing an increase in net assets whose use is limited by donor imposed restrictions which are temporary and had not been satisfied as of June 30, 2000.

The remainder of $2,169,000 represents an increase in unrestricted net assets. This increase is primarily attributable to the following special purpose activities:

- Self-insurance and employee benefit programs: The amount by which these revenues exceeded claims and other expenses: $507,000, has been designated as additional reserves for future contingencies;
- Unrealized gains on long-term investments: Current year market appreciation on investments: $1,237,000, may be offset in future years should market values decline;
- Proceeds from the sale of the net assets of Good Shepherd Home Health & Hospice Agency: $400,000, has been designated as an Economic Development Fund for the counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain;
- DSA contributions: Included in current year revenues are those funds which exceed the current year program budget and, thus, are for use next year: $200,000.

These four items total $2,344,000, exceeding the net increase in unrestricted net assets by $175,000. The difference of $175,000 (1% of unrestricted revenues) represents the loss attributable to all other programs and activities of the Central Administration.

During the fiscal year just ended, support of diocesan programs and ministries, i.e., program expenses, increased by approximately $1,513,000 over fiscal 1999. This represents a 17% increase in expenditures that directly support the mission of our rapidly growing diocese. Expenses relating to supporting activities, i.e., administrative and fundraising expenses, increased from last year's level by $444,000 (12%), of which $253,000 represents interest paid to parishes through the diocesan savings and investment programs.

The diocesan Finance Office remains committed to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and accountability. It is our responsibility to ensure that accounting policies and procedures are being adhered to, and internal controls are in place and operating so as to safeguard Church assets and ensure that all financial activity is accounted for properly. The employees and volunteers who serve at diocesan parishes, schools and agencies, as well as those at the diocesan Pastoral Center, are stewards of the Church's temporal resources and thus, are accountable to you, the people who make up the Church of western North Carolina.

The financial statements of the Central Administration for the year ended June 30, 2000 are presented on the following pages for your review. The integrity of these statements and the integrity of the underlying financial systems are the responsibility of the diocese. The public accounting firm of Arthur Andersen, LLP, was engaged to perform an independent audit of these financial statements. Their audit report is also included in the financial report that follows.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

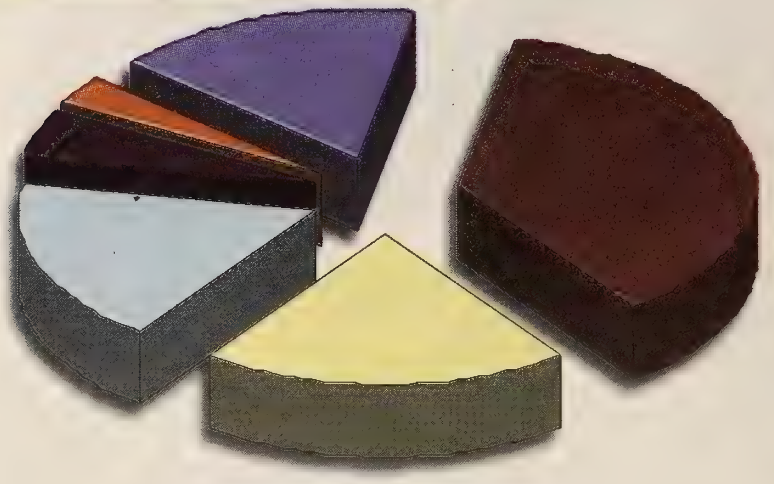
Financial Highlights

▼ The pie chart at the top of the page presents total revenues for the year by source.

▼ The bottom pie chart presents an analysis of expenditures for the year, including a listing of DSA program expenses by ministry.

Sources of Revenue

Year ended June 30, 2000

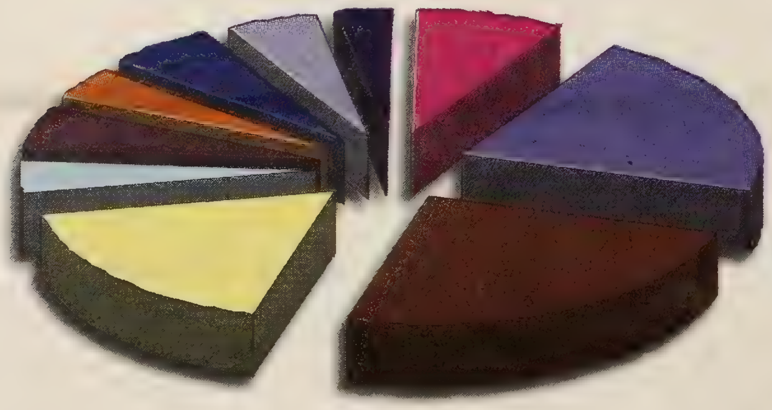


Total Revenue: $17,050,000

- **17%** *from* **Investment Income** ($2,946,000)
  Represents interest, dividends, realized & unrealized gains
- **37%** *from* **Assessments** ($6,321,000)
  Assessments on diocesan parishes, schools and agencies to support administrative services, the property/liability insurance program and employee benefit programs
- **20%** *from* **Other Souces** ($3,371,000)
  Represents gifts, donations, grants, collections, program and other fees, and rental income
- **18%** *from* **Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)** ($3,140,000)
  Represents funds raised for use during fiscal 2000-2001
- **5%** *from* **Support of *The Catholic News & Herald*** ($840,000)
  Primarily represents parish support of the newspaper
- **3%** *from* **Catholic Conference Center Revenue** ($432,000)
  Represents fees for use of the Catholic Conference Center

Uses of Our Resources

Year ended June 30, 2000



Total Expenses: $14,710,000

- **21% Benefit Programs for Diocesan Employees** ($3,116,000)
- **25% DSA Funded Ministries** ($3,668,000) *see breakdown below*
- **18% Administrative Services & Other Expenses** ($2,727,000)
- **4% Catholic Conference Center Operations** ($528,000)
- **6% Publication of *The Catholic News & Herald*** ($824,000)
- **4% Property/Liability Insurance Program** ($566,000)
- **6% Interest Paid on Parish Savings** ($865,000)
- **5% Chancery and Tribunal** ($679,000)
- **3% Grants and Subsidies** ($477,000)
- **8% Continuing Care of Clergy** ($1,260,000)

Report of Independent Public Accountants

To the Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Bishop of Charlotte:

We have audited the accompanying combined statement of financial position of The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. (the Central Administration) as of June 30, 2000, and the related combined statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Central Administration's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined financial position of the Central Administration as of June 30, 2000, and the combined results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

Arthur Andersen LLP

Charlotte, North Carolina,
September 1, 2000.

DSA Funded Ministries

(unaudited) Amounts in thousands

Grants to Catholic Social Services		**$ 1,161**
Multicultural Ministries		**443**
African American	96	
Hispanic	282	
Vietnamese	9	
Hmong	46	
Montagnard	10	
Educational Ministries		**1,501**
Faith Formation	287	
Catholic Schools	418	
Campus Ministry	423	
Evangelization	6	
Lay Ministry Training	50	
Media Resources	55	
Vicar's Office	70	
Youth Ministry	191	
Liturgy	1	
Vocations		**563**
Permanent Diaconate	82	
Seminarian Education	481	
Total Expenditures		**3,668**

Note: Funding sources for above programs:

1999 Diocesan Support Appeal	2,611
Program specific support	932
General Central Administration support	125
Total	3,668

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte — Financial Statements

Combined Statement of Financial Position
As of June 30, 2000

Assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 2,024,436
Accounts receivable-	
Pledges, net of amounts due parishes	492,488
Assessments	153,823
Bequests	20,000
Other	322,592
Prepaid expenses and other	318,874
Advances to parishes, net of discounts and allowances of $823,000	650,243
Notes receivable, net of discounts and allowances of $61,000	4,638,467
Due from affiliates - Bond issue (Note 11)	19,700,000
Investments	19,205,078
Beneficial interest in perpetual trust (Note 2)	5,057,070
Property and equipment, net	14,399,994
Total assets	$66,983,065
Liabilities and net assets:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	$ 597,477
Accrued health claims	424,034
Accrued property/liability claims	75,800
Accrued pension expense	378,525
Accrued clergy long-term care (Note 8)	109,000
Bonds payable (Note 11)	19,700,000
Custodial obligations	17,924,162
Unearned revenue	46,483
Total liabilities	39,255,481
Unrestricted net assets-	
Undesignated	8,113,118
Designated	11,340,140
Temporarily restricted net assets	1,205,820
Permanently restricted net assets	7,068,506
Total net assets	27,727,584
Total liabilities and net assets	$66,983,065

Combined Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended June 30, 2000

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Change in net assets	$ 2,340,005
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities-	
Depreciation expense	539,289
Loss on beneficial interest in perpetual trust	139,036
Gain on disposition of property	(59,074)
Change in assets and liabilities:	
Decrease in pledges receivable, net of amounts due parishes	51,115
Decrease in assessments receivable	53,315
Decrease in bequests receivable	50,000
(Increase) in other receivables	(159,826)
(Increase) in prepaid expenses and other	(106,496)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses	234,580
Increase in accrued pension expense	59,199
(Decrease) in accrued property/ liability claims	(17,422)
Increase in accrued clergy long-term care	109,000
Increase in unearned revenue -Assessments	36,145
Net unrealized and realized gains on investments	(1,951,878)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,316,988
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,286,763)
Proceeds from the disposition of property	256,161
Issuance of advances and notes	(10,444,673)
Payments received on advances and notes	8,130,228
Decrease in discount on advances and notes	(144,233)
Increase in allowance on advances	300,396
Increase in custodial obligations	4, 676,320
Purchase of investments, net	(4,847,724)
Net cash used in investing activities	(4,360,288)
Cash flows from financing activities:	
Issuance of bonds	19,700,000
Increase in due from affiliates - Bond issue	(19,700,000)
Net cash provided by financing activities	–
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(3,043,300)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	5,067,736
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	$ 2,024,436

Combined Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended June 30, 2000

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues and other support:				
Contributions - Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA)	$ 3,140,000	$ –	$ –	$ 3,140,000
Other support - DSA programs	446,789	48,932	–	495,721
Assessments	6,321,041	–	–	6,321,041
Fees - Services rendered to related entities	265,639	–	–	265,639
Fees - Other	59,453	–	–	59,453
Gift income	183,021	196,713	–	379,734
Catholic Conference Center	432,046	–	–	432,046
Cathedral Publishing, Inc.	840,433	–	–	840,433
Collections	–	494,723	–	494,723
Grants	–	210,400	–	210,400
Rental income	921,343	–	–	921,343
Interest and dividend income	830,781	–	163,633	994,414
Net realized/unrealized gains (losses) on investments	1,960,583	–	(8,705)	1,951,878
Other income (Note 10)	541,797	1,505	–	543,302
Net assets released from restrictions - Satisfaction of program restrictions	936,594	(936,594)	–	–
Total revenues and other support	16,879,520	15,679	154,928	17,050,127
Expenses:				
Program —				
Educational ministries	1,501,094	–	–	1,501,094
Multicultural ministries	443,630	–	–	443,630
Vocations	562,577	–	–	562,577
Contributions, grants and subsidies:				
Catholic Social Services	1,160,957	–	–	1,160,957
Other	477,273	–	–	477,273
Clergy continuing care program	1,260,453	–	–	1,260,453
Employee health benefits program	2,373,440	–	–	2,373,440
Property and liability insurance program	565,581	–	–	565,581
Lay employee retirement and disability programs	742,164	–	–	742,164
Cathedral Publishing	824,265	–	–	824,265
Catholic Conference Center	527,601	–	–	527,601
Tribunal	187,270	–	–	187,270
Total program expenses	10,626,305	–	–	10,626,305
Administrative —				
Chancery	491,820	–	–	491,820
Development, planning and communication	457,476	–	–	457,476
Finance administration	752,174	–	–	752,174
General administration	372,395	–	–	372,395
Rental property expense	338,654	–	–	338,654
Interest - Parish savings and investment programs	865,157	–	–	865,157
Depreciation	539,289	–	–	539,289
Other	99,390	–	–	99,390
Total administrative expenses	3,916,355	–	–	3,916,355
Fundraising	167,462	–	–	167,462
Total expenses	14,710,122	–	–	14,710,122
Change in net assets	2,169,398	15,679	154,928	2,340,005
Net assets, beginning of year	17,283,860	1,190,141	6,913,578	25,387,579
Net assets, end of year	$ 19,453,258	$ 1,205,820	$ 7,068,506	$ 27,727,584

The accompanying notes to financial statements are an integral part of these statements.

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Notes to Financial Statements — June 30, 2000

1. Organization:

The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte (the Central Administration) is the administrative arm of the Roman Catholic Church in western North Carolina (the Diocese). The Central Administration provides diocesan entities with business and administrative services including: Administering a savings and investment program wherein all funds on deposit along with the associated accrued interest are reflected as custodial obligations of the Central Administration; arranging financing for diocesan entities; sponsoring a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan and a tax-deferred annuity plan covering substantially all lay employees; and providing medical and dental insurance coverage for employees. The Central Administration assesses the diocesan entities on a monthly basis to cover the costs of these benefits. In addition, the Central Administration oversees the operations of Cathedral Publishing, Inc., publisher of *The Catholic News & Herald.* The Central Administration of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and Cathedral Publishing, Inc. are collectively referred to herein as "the Central Administration."

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of Accounting

The accounts of the Central Administration are maintained on the accrual basis. The Central Administration complies with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 116, "Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made," and SFAS No. 117, "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Central Administration considers all highly liquid instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The Central Administration has designated $230,000 of cash and investments for property and liability self-insurance reserves as of June 30, 2000.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment is stated at cost, when purchased, and at estimated market value, when donated. Depreciation expense is determined by using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The following represents the major classes of property and equipment at June 30, 2000:

	2000	Life (in years)
Land	$ 5,742,000	N/A
Buildings	8,570,000	30
Improvements	2,334,000	10
Equipment	587,000	10
Vehicles	334,000	5
	17,567,000	
Less -		
Accumulated depreciation	3,167,000	
	$ 14,400,000	

Tax-exempt Status

The Central Administration is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Use of Estimates in the Preparation of Financial Statements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Assets

The Central Administration's net assets consist of the following:

Unrestricted

Unrestricted net assets consist of all resources of the Central Administration which have no donor-imposed restrictions. The officials of the Central Administration may, at their discretion, designate unrestricted support for a specified purpose.

Temporarily Restricted

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of contributions received whose use by the Central Administration is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that expire by passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Central Administration. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the combined statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Permanently Restricted

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from donors whose use by the Central Administration is limited permanently by donor-imposed stipulations.

Reclassifications

Certain 1999 amounts have been reclassified to conform to the 2000 presentation.

3. Advances to Parishes:

The Central Administration maintains a revolving loan fund, which was established primarily from resources provided by bequests stipulated for advances to small or needy parishes at no interest. Advances outstanding at June 30, 2000 totaled approximately $1,473,000. These advances are long-term in nature and are reflected at their estimated present value of approximately $650,000 in the accompanying combined statement of financial position at June 30, 2000.

4. Pledges and Assessments Receivable:

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) campaign begins in the fiscal year prior to the expenditure of funds by DSA program agencies. At June 30, 2000, approximately $473,000 in pledges out of goals of $3,140,000 had not been collected.

The Central Administration assesses parishes and affiliates to cover the costs of general administration, property and liability insurance, employee health insurance, employee retirement and *The Catholic News & Herald.* Total assessments receivable at June 30, 2000 were approximately $154,000.

5. Notes Receivable:

The Central Administration has various notes receivable outstanding at June 30, 2000. Most of these notes bear interest at rates ranging from prime minus .5% to prime plus .25%; however, some are noninterest bearing. A summary of notes receivable, net of discounts and allowances, is as follows:

	2000
Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools	$1,284,000
Parishes	3,270,000
Other	84,000
	$4,638,000

6. Investments:

Investments are carried at market value and realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the combined statement of activities. The cost and fair market value of investments at June 30, 2000 are summarized below:

	Cost	Market
Common stocks	$ 8,889,000	$ 12,171,000
Bonds	6,711,000	6,652,000
Cash	311,000	311,000
Other	71,000	71,000
Total investments	$ 15,982,000	$ 19,205,000

7. Parish Savings and Investment Programs:

The Central Administration administers parish savings and parish investment programs. These programs have been established for the benefit of diocesan parishes, schools and agencies. Interest is earned at 4% for the savings program and prime less 2.75% for the investment program. Savings program funds may be withdrawn at any time and investment program funds may be withdrawn the first business day of each month subject to a minimum 18-month investment period. Funds on deposit related to these programs along with accrued interest totaled approximately $17,616,000 at June 30, 2000 and are reflected as custodial obligations in the accompanying combined statement of financial position.

8. Pension and Retirement Plans:

Lay Noncontributory Deferred Benefit Pension Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a noncontributory defined benefit pension plan (the Plan) covering substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Plan provides for benefits based on an employee's years of service and compensation. It is the intent of the Central Administration for the minimum funding to be the actuarially recommended contribution amount.

The following table sets forth the funded status of the plan and amounts recognized in the Company's balance sheet:

	2000
Benefit obligation	$ (10,975,000)
Fair value of plan assets	12,032,000
Funded Status	$1,057,000
Accrued benefit cost recognized in the statement of financial position	$ (379,000)
Weighted average assumptions:	
Discount Rate	8%
Expected return on plan assets	8.5
Rate of compensation increase	5.0%
Benefit cost	$662,000
Employer contribution	643,000
Benefits paid	313,000

Each diocesan entity is assessed 4% of lay employees' salaries to fund the contribution to the Plan and certain other employee benefits.

Tax-deferred Annuity Plan

The Central Administration sponsors a tax-deferred annuity plan under section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code for substantially all lay employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. Employer matching contributions to the plan are based on a percentage of contributions. Each diocesan entity is responsible for payment of the matching contribution directly to the tax-deferred annuity plan.

Clergy Retirement Plan

The Central Administration sponsors the Diocese of Charlotte Clergy Retirement Plan (The Clergy Plan) to provide retirement benefits for priests within the Diocese. An annual collection is held at each parish to raise funds for clergy retirement and other clergy benefits. Each parish is assigned 3% of annual offertory as their goal for this collection. Any shortfall from goal in the amount collected is paid by the parish. Annual collections from the parishes for this purpose are included within the temporarily restricted fund. The annual contribution to the Clergy Plan is based on the results of an actuarial evaluation. This actuarial valuation is performed once every three years. The next anticipated valuation will be performed as of July 1, 2000. Between valuations, required funding will be increased by 5% to account for inflation and other factors. Contributions to this plan were approximately $333,000 in fiscal 2000.

Clergy Long-term Care

In fiscal 2000, the Central Administration began to designate investments in order to fund long-term care for clergy within the Diocese. The annual amount designated is based on the results of an actuarial valuation. This actuarial valuation is performed once every three years. The next anticipated valuation will be performed as of July 1, 2002. Between valuations, required funding will be increased by 5% to account for inflation and other factors. Total designated amounts and expenses were $109,000 for the year ended June 30, 2000.

9. Employee Health Benefits:

The Central Administration administers medical and dental insurance coverage for the employees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte. The Central Administration charges each organization premiums for the coverage of its employees on a monthly basis. The individual organizations have no liability for claims in excess of the premiums to be paid. The Central Administration has an arrangement with a third party to administer the medical and dental plan. Approximately 10% of the premiums submitted by diocesan entities is paid to the third-party administrator for administrative services and the premiums for specific and aggregate stop-loss coverages. The remaining portion of the premiums is designated by the Central Administration to pay claims which are processed by the third-party administrator. The Central Administration has specific stop-loss coverage at $75,000 per claim and aggregate coverage beginning at 120% of the actuarially projected total individual claims under $75,000. Employee health benefits expense was approximately $2,373,000 during fiscal 2000.

10. Other Income:

In August 1999, the net assets of Good Shepherd Home Health Hospice Agency, an affiliated entity, were sold to Murphy Medical Center, an unrelated party. The proceeds from the sale of $400,000 were transferred by the Diocese to the Central Administration and are included in other income on the accompanying combined statement of activities.

11. Bonds Payable:

In June 2000, the North Carolina Educational Facilities Financial Agency (the Agency) issued $19,700,000 of variable rate educational facilities revenue bonds (Bond issue) with final maturity, subject to prior redemption, on June 1, 2017. The proceeds therefrom have been loaned to William G. Curlin, as Bishop of the Diocese and will be administered by the Central Administration. Such proceeds are being used to finance the acquisition, construction, installation and equipping of a new Bishop McGuiness High School (BMHS) and to refinance the construction and equipping of a Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) entity, as well as to pay a portion of the interest on the bonds and to pay bond issue costs. The Central Administration is allocating a pro rata portion of the Bond issue to BMHS and MACS. These affiliated entities have recorded their pro rata investments, interest components and resulting payable to the Central Administration on their financial statements.

Principal and interest payments on the loan are supported by an irrevocable, direct-pay letter of credit by a bank. As of June 30, 2000, the letter of credit, which expires on July 5, 2001 (subject to earlier termination or extension in accordance with the letter-of-credit agreement) supports the entire loan amount. The annual fee associated with this letter of credit is .32%.

The mandatory redemption of the Bonds will be provided by sinking fund payments beginning in June 2002 and ending June 2017. Interest accrues at a variable rate and is due quarterly, beginning September 1, 2000. The interest rate fluctuates on a weekly basis and was 4.8% at June 30, 2000.

The future debt service requirements of the bonds are as follows:

2001	$ 1,080,000
2002	1,470,000
2003	1,527,000
2004	1,582,000
2005	1,652,000
Thereafter	24,708,000
	32,019,000
Less amount representing interest	(12,319,000)
	$ 19,700,000

Million-dollar prize goes to Covenant House in Latin America

By TRACY EARLY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — An international jury selected the Latin American branch of New York-based Covenant House, the shelter for homeless and runaway children, York, to receive the annual $1 million Humanitarian Prize from a foundation established by hotel operator Conrad N. Hilton.

Bruce Harris, director of the Covenant House program in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua, called Casa Alianza in Spanish, said Oct. 23 that foundation officials would join him the week of Oct. 30 to look at specific projects that might be financed with the funds.

An announcement of how the money will be used is expected Nov. 6, he said.

In a telephone interview from his base in Costa Rica, Harris said terms of the prize do not require consultation on how the money is spent, but he hoped to develop a "long-term relationship" with the Hilton Foundation.

Although the $1 million prize gave a major boost to the program and its staff of 430, Latin America has 40 million street children, and much more money is needed to serve them, he said.

The selection of Casa Alianza out of more than 150 nominations to receive the 2000 Humanitarian Prize was announced Oct. 19 in Geneva.

"Casa Alianza has taken a leadership role in advocating for the protection of homeless street children," said Steven Hilton, grandson of Conrad Hilton and president of the foundation. "Its work has reached beyond Latin America onto the world stage to speak out on behalf of exploited children everywhere."

> **"Casa Alianza has taken a leadership role in advocating for the protection of homeless street children," said Steven Hilton, grandson of Conrad Hilton and president of the foundation. exploited children everywhere."**

The prize was presented to Harris the next day by Queen Noor, widow of Jordan's King Hussein who is actively involved in children's issues.

Citing estimates that street children number 100 million worldwide, she called Casa Alianza "the voice and the defender of this helpless and unprotected segment of society."

Harris told Catholic News Service that Kerry Kennedy Cuomo nominated Casa Alianza for the Hilton prize. She has been "following our work in Guatemala about nine years," and visited it several times, he added.

In her book, "Speak Truth to Power," she wrote about defenders of human rights, and included Harris.

He said he had also received political support from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and other Kennedy family members during personal legal battles he has had in Guatemala.

Harris, an Englishman and member of the Anglican Communion, spent a year in Bolivia and married a Bolivian, and they and their two boys now live in Costa Rica.

Director of Casa Alianza since 1989, he said that some improvements in the treatment of children had occurred during the time he has been addressing the issue, though severe problems remain.

"In Guatemala, the number of children murdered by the police has dropped dramatically," he said. "Honduras has stopped the jailing of children with adults. And we have gotten thousands of children off the streets."

But Harris said a new challenge had emerged with the development of sex tourism in Latin America after some Asian countries cracked down on operators of the tours.

It has taken three years for Costa Rica to acknowledge the problem, but sex tourism is now on the agenda there, he said.

Casa Alianza also has been concerned with the prevalence of glue sniffing as an "entry drug" among street children seeking an escape from their hunger and misery.

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Rev. John S. Regan 1976
Rev. Stephen A. Sullivan 1989

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Book Review

Book presents grim picture for today's children

Reviewed by NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

The slim volume "Endangered: Your Child in a Hostile World" (Plough Publishing) shot to No. 1 on the list of best-selling Catholic paperbacks when it was published in September and remained on top for the month of October.

Written by Johann Christoph Arnold — senior elder of the Bruderhof community, a family counselor for 30 years, and the father of eight and grandfather of 24 — "Endangered" presents a grim picture of the status of today's children, whether they live in the wealthiest U.S. suburb or the most disadvantaged area overseas.

Arnold makes many points with which few Catholic parents would disagree. He calls corporal punishment "a sign of moral bankruptcy" and says disciplining children should involve "guidance but not control; persuasion, but not suppression or coercion."

He strongly criticizes the tendency to enroll children in too many activities — usually chosen by the parents — and says children must be allowed time simply to be children. "Hours spent alone in daydreams or in quiet, unstructured activities instill a sense of security and independence and provide a necessary lull in the rhythm of the day," Arnold says.

In American society today, childhood has become merely a time of training for an adult job, rather than a necessary period for developing individuality and creativity, the author contends.

"We have abandoned the idea of education as growth, and decided to see it only as a ticket to the job market," he says.

An inevitable corollary to that is the vast increase in the use of Ritalin to subdue disruptive students in the classroom, Arnold says.

He calls this "medical suppression of childhood" just one symptom

See "ENDANGERED," page 15

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Oct. 29 - Nov. 4, 2000

Sunday, Jeremiah 31:7-9, Hebrews 5:1-6, Mark 10:46-52; **Monday,** Ephesians 4:32-5:8, Luke 13:10-17; **Tuesday,** Ephesians 5:21-33, Luke 13:18-21; **Wednesday (All Saints),** Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12; **Thursday (All Souls),** Romans 5:5-11, John 14:1-6; **Friday (St. Martin de Porres),** Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 14:1-6; **Saturday (St. Charles Borromeo),** Philippians 1:18-26, Luke 14:1, 7-11

Readings for the week of Nov. 5 - 11, 2000

Sunday, Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34; **Monday,** Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday,** Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday,** Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica),** Isaiah 56:1, 6-7, Ephesians 2:19-22, Matthew 5:23-24; **Friday (St. Leo the Great),** Philippians 3:17-4.1, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday (St. Martin of Tours),** Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15

Word to Life

October 29, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B Readings:

1) Jeremiah 31:7-9
Psalm 126:1-6
2) Hebrew 5:1-6
3) Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

In the closing days of the brutally hot August of 2000, we longed for a respite from the relentless glare of a cloudless sky, filled only with an ancient fireball that holds us captive, bakes our crops and leaves us watching the local weathercast, praying for the miracle of rain. Soon, we tell ourselves, as we flip the calendar to September, soon, soon there will be rain. We have hope. We watch the forecast.

Records fall but not rain. The heat and the drought continue. We look to the horizon for some slight indication of relief. Our public and private prayers begin to mention rain with new fervor. All summer I watch the trees, birds, grass and animals suffer from the lack of water and from the blistering heat. I begin to wonder if these bizarre climatic changes leave others with the sense of malaise and foreboding that I feel.

In the sameness of heat-filled days, I start to give more credence to warnings about our environment. I wonder how anyone ever lived without air-conditioning or the luxury of soaking rains. Yet in my heart of hearts, I know people around the world live without it every day. Heat and drought have the power to shape our lives. We see the evidence in something as modern as a newspaper and as ancient as sacred Scripture.

Jeremiah, in this Sunday's first reading, promises the faithful remnant who have been true to God and who have survived long years of suffering a straight path and the refreshment of brooks of cool water. After spending this last summer and perhaps several others in the severe Texas heat and drought, conceivably we may connect with the words of the prophet in a more concrete way than we once did.

When I read them, I wonder what Jeremiah would have to say to us who have abdicated our roles of stewardship of our precious planet.

Jesus asks Bartimaeus, the blind beggar in Mark's Gospel, "What do you want me to do for you?"

The blind man replies, "Master, I want to see." Perhaps, we are sitting in blindness beside our own roads, failing to see how we can do our part in caring for our earth, which has been entrusted to us by God.

QUESTIONS:

How can I be a better steward of the resources of the earth as they pass through my hands? Can I allow draught to draw me closer to the one who brings rain, to see God as the supplier, ulitmately, of all my needs?

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CNS PHOTO FROM DISNEY

Scene from "Whispers: An Elephant's Tale"
The journey of a baby elephant is featured in the Disney movie "Whispers: An Elephant's Tale." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"American Byzantine" to feature art addition to Basilica of the National Shrine

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A major artistic addition to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is examined in "American Byzantine," airing during November on PBS stations (check local listings).

"The Universal Call to Holiness" is a massive 38-ton marble sculpture inspired by the Second Vatican Council's teaching that all of us, no matter who we are or our background, are called to be holy. The beautiful carving, five years in the making, depicts figures from various ethnic backgrounds being drawn to the Holy Spirit.

The documentary chronicles the creation of this unique work of art by its designer, sculptor George Carr, to its carving in a northern Italian quarry through to its installation and dedication in November of 1999.

The documentary chronicles the creation of this unique work of art by its designer, sculptor George Carr, to its carving in a northern Italian quarry through to its installation and dedication in November of 1999.

The program also incorporates the history of the basilica, which is the largest church in the Americas, and now in its 80th year is still under construction.

While the shrine is done in the Byzantine style, it emanates a distinctly American feeling. Making it unique are the more than 60 chapels which reflect the many diverse cultures of the immigrants who settled in America from all over the world.

The ancient artwork of Byzantine churches could be compared to an illustrated Bible for everyone, its pictures on the church walls telling stories even the illiterate could understand and see as inspiration for their beliefs.

Outstanding examples of churches from the era of the Byzantine Empire are visited, including Istanbul's huge Hagia Sophia, the fifth largest church in the world yet built in only six years. The luminous beauty of Byzantine art is especially evident in the glittering mosaics of Ravenna, Italy, where the millions of tiny glass squares remain undimmed after 15 centuries.

An intriguing section of the program shows the 22 Italian carvers at work in Pietrasanta, where the master carver explains how they allow the figures in the sculpture relief to "escape" from the towering blocks of marble.

Producer, co-writer and narrator Martin Doblmeier nicely blends art, history, architecture and religious sentiment within the hour documentary.

A most interesting program, it would move anyone planning a trip to the nation's capital to be sure to include a visit to the basilica to see "The Universal Call to Holiness" in person as well as to contemplate the artwork of diverse cultures that makes the shrine so American by nature.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Eucharist is food for journey

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Eucharist is food for a Christian's journey toward God and a taste of the glory that will be experienced in eternal life, Pope John Paul II said.

"Because it is communion with Christ, the Eucharist is a participation in the life of God which is eternal and defeats death," the pope said Oct. 25 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The real presence of Christ gives the Eucharist its "double taste," he said.

As a pledge of eternal life, the Eucharist gives people the strength to live holy and hope-filled lives and, because Christ himself is present in the Eucharist, it allows them to experience part of the divine life promised to them at the end of time, Pope John Paul said.

The Eucharist, while anchored in the reality of the present life, is open to eternity, the pope said.

"Just as Christ lived in the flesh while remaining in glory as the Son of God, so the Eucharist is a divine and transcendent presence (and) communion with the eternal," he said.

Like the manna which fed the people of Israel wandering in the desert, the pope said, the bread of the Eucharist is a sign of God's continuing care for his people and the food Christians need to continue their journey.

At the same time, he said, it is a sharing in the eternal and divine life of Christ, a pledge that those who receive the Eucharist will have eternal life and be resurrected at the end of time.

Quoting from the Russian theologian Sergej Bulgakov, the pope said, "the liturgy is heaven on earth."

Pope John Paul said Catholics should not miss the opportunity to participate in "this banquet which Christ prepares for us with love."

Vatican studies possible papal trip to Ukraine in 2001

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is studying the possibility of a trip by Pope John Paul II to Ukraine sometime next year following strong overtures from the Ukrainian government.

Because of ecumenical sensitivities in the former Soviet republic, the Vatican is taking extra care before giving the trip a green light, Vatican sources said Oct. 25. Orthodox and Catholic communities in Ukraine have bitterly disagreed in recent years over church property and evangelization issues.

"The pope's desire has always been to meet the Orthodox patriarch of Moscow (Alexei II) before visiting Ukraine. But since that meeting has been put off for so long, one can ask whether it's right to penalize a people who have wanted a papal visit for many years," said one church source.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Observing the Sabbath

The Third Commandment handed down by God through Moses is one that perhaps is too easy to set aside. Sabbath — what does it mean in our high-tech, ultra-busy world? Time is a commodity that shouldn't be wasted. So, reserving a day to step out of the hectic pace of the week might seem imprudent by today's values.

Perhaps following the rubrics of the Hebrews to the letter isn't realistic today. That might be too focused on what not to do.

However, reserving a day to make praising and worshiping God central in all we do reminds us of what's important and helps us to live our covenant relationship with God.

Our family Sunday Sabbath over the years has always included community worship at Eucharist. The fellowship with other families at church connects us with God who is in community. Sunday is also the day we visit with extended family, which connects us with the same God who is with us through all the generations of our family. Sunday is the likely day we'll get together with friends, watch football or play games.

This connects us with God who is in our lasting friendships and our recreation time.

Because of the general busyness of the week, there is an ongoing temptation to forego at least some of our Sabbath ritual to do what didn't get done the week before, or to get a head start on the coming week.

Sometimes, Sundays are spent doing homework that didn't get done on the weekend, laundry and other household tasks. Sometimes we fail to keep the Sabbath.

However, as a "rule," Sundays are when we intentionally keep God central in our thoughts and experience God in our relationships in the community, with family and friends.

What's the point in all this? Does it matter? Isn't God with us every day of the week? Why do we need a day set aside? We are creatures of habit. We ritualize what is important to preserve it. To know what's important to a family, look at their patterns of activities — their family rituals. Frequent, repeated actions of worship and praise etch into our hearts the love relationship we have with God. It's how we come to know God and be intimate with God.

Keeping the Sabbath is a pattern that informs and reminds us that we have a covenant relationship with God. It's like dancing. If you make a pattern of movements frequently enough, you no longer have to think about it; you just know how to do it — it's etched in your heart.

In Jeremiah 31:33, the Hebrew Scripture says, "I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." Keeping the Sabbath is like dancing with God. It's how we experience ourselves as God's people.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of marriage ministry for the Archdiocese of chicago.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

We can change, and that's great!

A few months ago, my children and I moved from Florida to parts much further north.

For the first time in years (for me) and really the first time ever (for them), we're experiencing something different as a result of that move:

Changes in nature. Lots of them too.

Up here in our new home, warm breezes one afternoon can be followed up amazingly chilly nights. My youngest is looking forward to a big change she's never, ever seen in all of her nine years: snow.

But in the meantime, as we wait for the cold white stuff, we're surrounded by the fascinating change of the leaves on the trees, turning from green to brown, yellow, red and orange — and of course, changing their residence, too, from tree branches to the yard, waiting to be raked.

It's something that you just don't see in Florida. Nature keeps a pretty steady pace down there without a lot of change.

Teens think about change a lot, because nature does it to you too. You grow, you mature, you develop in ways that have nothing to do with your choices and everything to do with the ways of nature.

Did you ever think, though, about the one amazing difference between human beings and the rest of nature? There's not one element — whether it be animal, vegetable or mineral — of the natural world that can choose to change.

Not one. But we can.

All the things that make human life so rich and interesting — we have control over every one of those. And to tell the truth, change is more possible for most of us than we like to admit.

We like to rely on what we think are our natural limitations and sigh, "Well, that's just the way I am. I can't help it." The vast majority of the time, that just isn't true.

Think for a moment about all the changes you have the power to make in your life right now, changes that would make you a better, happier person and that would open your life up to being more of what you really want it to be.

You can choose to change the way you spend your time: less television, less Internet, fewer video games. What would happen if you took those two or three hours and used part of it to study and part of it to (gasp!) do volunteer work?

You can choose to change your attitude toward school. What would happen if you chose to take it seriously and actually engaged your brain in what's going on in the classroom instead of just enduring it?

You can choose to be more physically active. What would happen, not only now but in the distant future, as you get older, if you got into the habit of regular exercise right now?

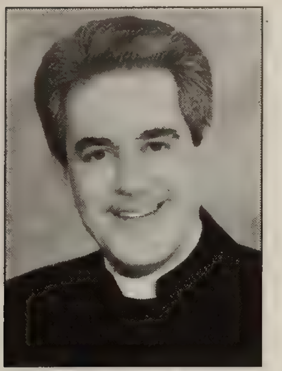
You can choose to put God and others first. What would happen if, instead of moaning about how distant God feels and how boring Mass is, you actually chose to change your spiritual habits — if you actually took time to pray every day, if you actually paid attention during Mass and prayed then? Do you think God would continue to feel so distant?

Change is all around us. It's a constant in nature. It's one of the things that makes the world so fascinating and beautiful.

It's one of the things that makes us fascinating, too.

The difference is, we have to choose change.

And the great thing is that we can.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Remembering John XXIII

It has been 38 years since John XXIII convened the Second Vatican Council. Since then Catholics have been rethinking just what it means to be a Catholic in a modern world. For me and, I suspect, for most of my generation who think back on Vatican II, the image of John XXIII himself remains vividly at the heart of all that took place.

Shortly after his election to the papacy, John XXIII announced that he wanted "to offer to the Catholic Church and to the world the gift of a new Ecumenical Council." He invoked the Holy Spirit as the force that would guide the church to embrace an ambitious agenda of "aggiornamento," or updating.

Historian Jay Dolan observes: "John wanted Catholicism to be in tune with the times and its dogmas presented in a language reflective of modern thought. Preferring the 'medicine of mercy rather than severity,' the Pope also made an eloquent plea for Christian unity. Protestants were in attendance as invited observers. Though a simple gesture, it was loaded with profound significance, since it symbolized the break with past tradition.

"That was the genius of John XXIII. He cut through tradition like a hot knife through butter, simply but decisively. Gone was the tiara, seclusion in the Vatican palace, aloofness, the trappings of imperial splendor, and harshness toward people of other religions. In their place stood warmth, concern, openness, simplicity — an urbane, modern style not unlike that of John F. Kennedy."

John XXIII inspired bishops and laity alike with prospects for renewal. His insistence on full and mutually respectful participation in the Council was a "conversion experience" for many. The sheer power of his personality touched off enormous public affection for him and enthusiasm for his mission. Most Catholics accepted and even welcomed the sweeping changes in their spiritual lives and anticipated further reforms.

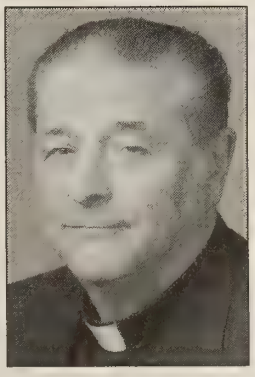
As Holy Father, he frequently reminded the Vatican bureaucracy that his first responsibility as bishop of Rome was to the people of Rome. He insisted on frequent visits to prisons, hospitals and, above all, his parishes. It's hard to forget the pictures of him acting as a simple parish priest, ministering to the poorest of the poor.

He made much of his "taking possession" of St. John Lateran, his real cathedral (St. Peter's belongs to the whole church), and thought of moving his office there. He was in touch with the people of God. This is the image that still inspires me. At that time, I became one of the thousands of young men who entered the seminary in response to the Spirit-filled vision John XXIII so dynamically radiated.

Georges Rouault, the great French artist, used his wonderful gift with colors to create some of the most beautiful portraits of Jesus ever painted. Toward the end of his career he said something about his work that describes what John XXIII's pontificate continues to represent for me. Rouault said, "My only ambition is to paint a Christ so moving that everyone who sees Him will be converted."

This is precisely what John XXIII tried to do. He converted others to a greater love of Christ by showing them Christ through himself. It is, ultimately, why he was beatified and is now Blessed John XXIII.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Tell Me About Limbo

Q. In a recent column about those who die without baptism, you never mentioned limbo. I was taught this is where the souls of unbaptized good people went after death. Could you clarify this? Why don't we hear about limbo any more?

A. It's true there was much talk about limbo in the past, much more in fact than it deserved and more than enough to be confusing.

Some, like yourself, still think of limbo along with heaven and hell as a third possible eternal "place to go" after death. The fact is, however, the church never did have much to say officially about the subject.

A few hundred years ago, limbo became the subject of heated theological debate when a sect called Jansenism taught that all infants dying without baptism are condemned to hell.

In 1794, Pope Pius VI condemned this teaching. He said, in effect, that one may believe in a limbo, a fringe middle state of happiness that is not heaven, and still be a Catholic. (Errors of the Synod of Pistoia, n. 26)

That remains the only significant Catholic mention of limbo. It is a long way from saying that limbo belongs anywhere in official Catholic teaching.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, which touches on everything seriously connected with Catholic faith, contains no mention of limbo, for good reason.

A place or condition like limbo would imply some sort of two-tiered final destiny for human beings. One (heaven) is eternal life with God. The other (limbo) is a "natural" happiness apart from God where people "go" who through no fault of their own do not reach the top level.

Catholic belief is importantly different. There is only one final goal, one desire and possibility for happiness for all humanity, eternal life in the presence of the God who created us.

All human persons may attain that goal or they may reject it by their own deliberate choice, but there is no half-happiness in-between. God has raised us to a supernatural life, a supernatural end beyond human attainment without his grace. Having done that, there is, so to speak, no going back.

The catechism teaches that the desire for this happiness is part of our human nature, a gift of God, a calling addressed to every human being.

Thus, the ultimate goal of human existence, of every individual and of everything people do, is the same: to share in the very happiness of God (Paragraphs 1718-1719).

There's no room to discuss again the church's teachings concerning the death of unbaptized babies. Obviously, however, when we search for solutions to questions about what happens to unbaptized adults or children, we need to find the answers to those questions without resorting to something called limbo.

Because of the volume of his mail, Father Dietzen can respond in this column to only relatively few inquiries. Those who would like a personal response must include their address.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen Father, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

Part III: The Principle of Participation

"Participation," as the first four letters in the word suggest, means "taking part." The word hints at the idea of partnership, but doesn't claim full partnership status for all participants in all decision-making processes.

Catholic social teaching holds that everyone has a part to play in the making of a good society. Each person has a right not to be shut out from participating in those institutions that are necessary for human fulfillment. Nor should anyone be excluded from participation in the decisions and formation of policies that directly affect his or her personal human development.

This principle applies in a special way to conditions associated with work because it is in and through work that the individual participates in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, the basic rights of workers — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to own private property, to take economic initiatives — must be protected.

Also important (and of special relevance to those of voting age) is the question of voter participation in elections that determine public policy and elect public officials. This is democracy's way of getting things done. It works best with full voter participation. It cannot work well if voter nonparticipation gives away the political store to those who care little about the common good.

Failure to register to vote, coupled with nonparticipation by registered voters, hands control of the process over to those who resist campaign finance reform and consider themselves entitled to the best government money can buy.

Although money can pollute the political process, it is necessary to move the wheels of commerce. Here again participation is important. Every day in the marketplace there is a national referendum on taste, style, standards, safety, quality and the characteristics of anything else that can be sold. If enough good people buy the kind of food, drink, clothing, housing, transportation, books, magazines and entertainment that meet the standards of a good society, we will enjoy a good and wholesome way of life.

However, participation considerations extend beyond workplace, polling place and marketplace; they look to decision making in family, faith and civic communities as well.

Denial of participation is one thing, refusal to participate is another and, in my view, the more common problem for most of us. Each of us is responsible for overcoming the inertia, hesitation, fear, selfishness or whatever else that holds us back from doing what should be done if we are to meet our responsibilities as participating human beings.

"Never volunteer for anything," may have been good advice for nervous newcomers to military service in the days of the wartime draft. But faith urges us to help one another in the style of the Good Samaritan and to participate in some way in the political processes that can change unjust social structures or forge new and just ways of assuring peace and justice for all in the human community.

Diocesan liturgy leaders concerned about new instruction

By MIKE NELSON
Catholic News Service

COSTA MESA, Calif. (CNS) — Diocesan liturgical officials expressed concern during a national meeting in Costa Mesa about confusion over new liturgical instructions from Rome and asked the U.S. bishops to form a special group to study and resolve issues quickly.

The discussion was about the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which has not yet taken effect. It was released in July by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

When it takes effect, it will require some changes in the way Mass is celebrated. The U.S. bishops have already received a clarification on one issue and may seek an exception to the new legislation on another, both affecting the actions of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., a member and former chairman of the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, said that he plans to raise the matter of a U.S. exception to the law at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting Nov. 13-16.

The exception would allow extraordinary eucharistic ministers to cleanse the sacred vessels after Communion or after Mass. The new law would restrict the cleansing of the vessels to a priest, a deacon or someone formally installed as an acolyte.

Bishop Trautman said some bishops have questioned whether such an exception, called an indult, can be sought before the new law is officially promulgated.

> **The discussion was about the new General Instruction of the Roman Missal, which has not yet taken effect. It was released in July by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments. When it takes effect, it will require some changes in the way Mass is celebrated.**

The bishops have already received a clarification from the Holy See affirming that they can continue, when warranted, the U.S. practice of extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist coming up at the Lamb of God to assist the priest in distributing consecrated wine into extra chalices.

Msgr. Craig Cox, judicial vicar of the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said that in implementing any change in church practice it is important to avoid confusion.

For people in the parishes as well as church leaders, he said, "it is very important to know, is this law effective from day one (of the issuance of the new Roman Missal)? If Rome is open to the indult process, it doesn't make sense to put people through a roller-coaster ride where a law is one way, and then it's another way, and then it's back to the first way."

When the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions met in early October in Costa Mesa, the 240 delegates rearranged their agenda to hold a special session addressing issues of reception, translation and implementation of liturgical documents raised by the new instruction and its handling in the United States.

They adopted a resolution which noted the "disagreement and/or confusion" regarding the instruction's canonical status, effective date and implementation date.

It urged appointment of an interdisciplinary ad hoc committee in the bishops' conference, with representatives from the liturgy, canon law and pastoral practice committees, to study the issues and make recommendations to the conference as soon as possible.

A second resolution was aimed at the immediate appearance of an unofficial "study translation" in English of the Latin-language instruction. "The general release of the English-language study translation has caused confusion among the faithful," the resolution said.

The translation was done by the bishops' Secretariat for the Liturgy with permission of and in consultation with Vatican authorities to help liturgists study the instruction before it takes effect and prepare for the changes that will be required.

But widespread popular knowledge of the changes that resulted, coupled with a failure by some to understand that they are not yet in force, led to pressures on pastors and diocesan officials to implement the changes prematurely.

The resolution called on the liturgy secretariat in the future to let such Vatican liturgy texts follow their normal course of reception of the Latin text, eventual translation by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, NCCB discussion and approval, confirmation by the Holy See and final pastoral implementation.

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"Endangered," from page 10

of the "addiction to convenience and control" among American parents.

But some of the anecdotes, especially in the second half of the book, seem unnecessarily guilt-inducing for parents, who could very well end this book convinced that nothing they have done for their children is right.

For example, one elderly woman named Louise recounts the harm done to her at age 5 or 6 when she heard her mother and aunts talk about her as "that wonderful child."

"I could never forget this conversation. The damage was done," Louise says.

"Now I had an image of myself, and I had to work to keep it up, even when my life began to fall apart.

"I couldn't be myself, but instead became ambitious, dishonest and twisted.

"Looking back on it I see from that point on, I was no longer a real child."

Puh-leeze!

Then there's the story of a family who adopted a 3-year-old with fetal alcohol syndrome and tried with the help of various professionals to teach their daughter how to communicate.

Later the father chastised himself for those efforts: "Right from the beginning we had tried much too hard to correct her expressions, to make her speech more intelligible, more socially acceptable instead of just listening to her and receiving her jumbled thoughts however they came out.

The very idea of verbal development was not important to her, only to us."

To this reader, it seems unfair to criticize these parents for trying to ease their daughter's way in the world by improving her speech.

"Endangered: Your Child in a Hostile World,"
by Johann Christoph Arnold.
(Farmington, Pa., 2000).
200 pp., paper, $10.

Another jarring note in "Endangered" is the use of quotations from sources that include Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day and Mumia Abu-Jamal, without any mention that Abu-Jamal — convicted of killing a police officer — is on death row in Pennsylvania.

Although Arnold has many valid points about the need for a "reverence for children," some of his ideas and anecdotes might be too radical for the average reader — or parent.

O'Brien is deputy editor of Catholic News Service and has a 16-year-old son.

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Vatican official: Denial of rights at root of Mideast conflict

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The ongoing conflicts in Israel and the Palestinian lands demonstrate how the violation of human rights unleashes violence, a Vatican official told the U.N. Human Rights Commission.

Archbishop Giuseppe Bertello, the Vatican's permanent observer to the commission, spoke during its Oct. 17-19 general session in Geneva. The Vatican released the text of his remarks Oct. 21.

"The events which have plunged the Middle East into mourning show with extreme seriousness the urgency of a continuing engagement on behalf of respect for human rights and remind us that their violation can unleash a series of violence, sometimes uncontrollable," Archbishop Bertello said.

"These two peoples need to see their rights recognized: on the one side, the conditions necessary for a safe and peaceful life; on the other to have a land and the possibility of self-governance and of living in harmony with their neighbors," he said.

The situation, he said, requires immediate political decisions aimed at establishing "a climate of trust between the peoples of a land which both designate as holy."

The root of the problem, the archbishop said, is "the absence of respect for certain basic rights," including the right of the Palestinians "to have a state and an independent government" as well as the right of Israelis to security.

Both peoples, he said, have a right to "the free expression of their own culture and their own history."

Archbishop Bertello said the involvement and support of the international community can play an essential role in the peace process by ensuring that each side feels respected and recognized as partners in building a better world.

The violence in Israel and the Palestinian territories, which began in late September after an Israeli politician made a provocative visit to a Muslim holy site in Jerusalem, shows that any delay in recognizing the rights of the Palestinians quickly can degenerate into violence, he said.

"These two peoples need to see their rights recognized: on the one side, the conditions necessary for a safe and peaceful life; on the other to have a land and the possibility of self-governance and of living in harmony with their neighbors," he said.

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Paralympian once competed with able-bodied swimmers

By CHRIS HOOK
Catholic News Service

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Priya Cooper, a 26-year-old Catholic gold medalist in the Paralympic Games, started off competing with able-bodied swimmers before participating in sports for the disabled.

"When I was a little girl, I used to swim and compete, and I used to compete at all my school swimming carnivals," said Cooper, who won a gold in the 400-meter freestyle in the Sydney Paralympics.

"I didn't get introduced to sport for people with disabilities until I was 16 or 17, so I didn't really know anything about sport for people with disabilities, and I used to train with an able-bodied squad. But then I found out about it and I got involved," she said.

The involvement saw her heading to Barcelona, Spain, within a year.

"I already had the background, but being disabled I was never going to make Olympic standard because I can't kick my legs. But then I found out about the Paralympics and I realized I actually was quite good. ... I wasn't a tough competitor then, I was just a little girl," Cooper added with a laugh.

Cooper has the degenerative muscular disorder cerebral palsy but, despite this, she has always gone hard at her sport.

Cooper already has eight gold medals, three silvers and a bronze from the last two Paralympic Games.

The former St. Brigid's College schoolgirl never let her disability hold her back.

The Barcelona Paralympics was the first time Cooper represented Australia.

"It was a big step," she said. "I just had no clue, no idea what was going on. I thought it was exciting that we had traffic lights and a bowling alley in the (Paralympic) village. I was pretty focused, but I could have been more so. That's something we're doing with the younger members of the team, making sure when they go into the village they don't get distracted."

In Barcelona, she won gold medals for the women's 100-meter freestyle, 50-meter freestyle and the individual medley, setting world records in the latter two. She also picked up a silver medal for the 400-meter freestyle and the 100-meter backstroke.

In a way, Cooper believes her youthful naivete actually helped.

"It did help because there was not a lot of pressure," Cooper said. "I thought there was at the time, but when I think about it, there was no pressure because no one knew who I was anyway.

People's expectations for her performance have continued to grow since her record of victories at Barcelona, as well as in Atlanta, where she won five gold medals, she said, "so it's now as though people expect I'll win five gold medals and then some. But four years is a long time and a lot of things change in that time."

Keeping her focus after setting a world record has been a challenge, she said.

"It's hard, but I've done a few events and I'm used to it now. ... My coach helped me. He'd say 'whatever, just move on,' and he'd play it down. Then you party afterward. If you've got one race then fine, but you've got to refocus if you've got more than one event," she said.

In 1993, Cooper was awarded the Order of Australia and has since acted as an Australia Day ambassador every year. She has also received awards for her work in disabled sports, sporting achievements and promotion of the Paralympics.

Cooper was Australian flagbearer for the Barcelona and Atlanta closing ceremonies and was co-captain of the Australian Paralympic team in Atlanta.

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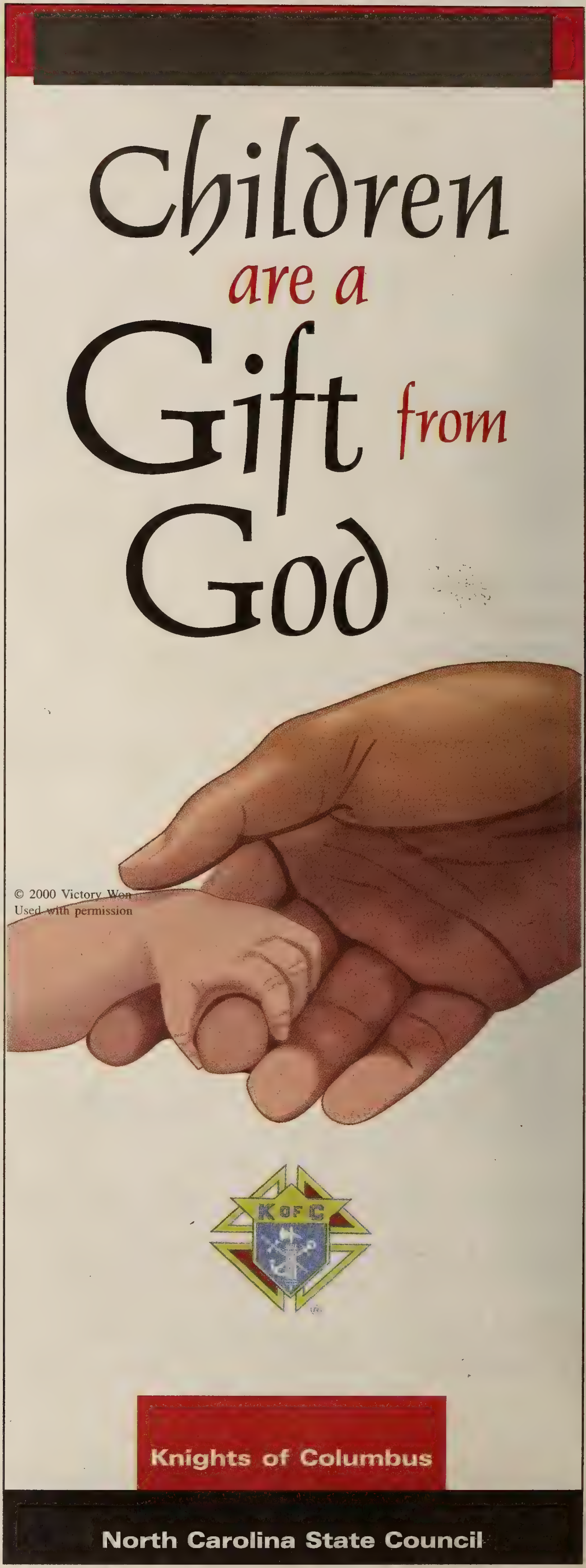
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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 3, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 9

Inside

Education in-service
USCC official addresses Charlotte Diocese educators
...PAGE 3

Pope John Paul II to declare St. Thomas More patron of politicians
...PAGE 7

Local News

Development Office welcomes new staffers
...PAGE 4

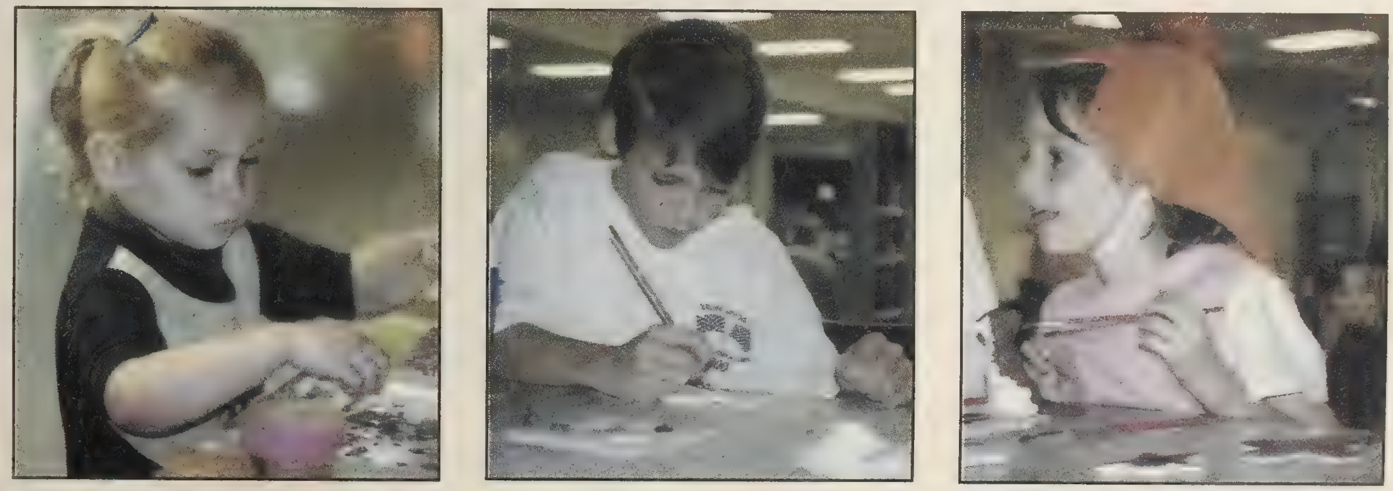
Fire in the Mountains
Priest challenges assembly to know, love Bible
...PAGE 5

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up."

— *Galatians 6:9*



PHOTOS BY CHRIS KEANE

Four-year-old Caitlin Dest, 9-year-old T.J. Roux and 6-year-old Katherine Francis find crafty ways to fill a fall afternoon at St. Gabriel School in Charlotte. Caitlin is putting together a picture frame decorated with puzzle pieces. T.J. paints a ceramic butterfly, while Katherine ponders ceramic painting as well. The fifth-annual Craft Fair is sponsored by the school's Parent-Teacher Organization. This year, 34 crafters participated, with all funds going to the St. Gabriel PTO.

'Moratorium Now!' echoes in downtown Raleigh during rally and march

By MATT DOYLE
NC CATHOLIC STAFF

RALEIGH — With fiery rhetoric and defiant tones, members of several groups opposed to the death penalty in North Carolina brought their message to the center of North Carolina's government Oct. 28. About 100 people gathered outside the offices of Attorney General Mike Easley and marched to the Governor's Mansion about five blocks away.

It was a Saturday afternoon and few people were visible along the parade route. At one point a speaker suggested that the group shout loud enough to get the Governor's bodyguards to look out the window of the mansion.

That wish had already been granted as uniformed officers stood at a gated entrance to the residence. Another in plain clothes was visible on the grounds. One Raleigh police officer twirled his baton casually as the group dispersed following the rally.

From the mansion side of the street, the crowd was obviously peaceful and non-threatening. There were clergymen, elderly and children prominently among the ranks of protesters.

Buoyed by statistics they claimed showed that sixty percent of the people in North Carolina support a moratorium on the death penalty, the group called on Easley to be "courageous" and suspend the three executions that have been scheduled between Election Day and Christmas.

Several groups calling for a moratorium on the death penalty gathered outside Easley's office. They urged the Democratic candidate for governor to call a halt to executions in the state until the General Assembly has had an opportunity to review the appropriateness of the death penalty.

Across the street from the State Capitol, those who gathered for the noontime rally listened to the lawyer representing the next man scheduled to be executed, Michael Sexton. Tracey Barley of Durham told the group racism is prevalent in the way justice is meted out on North Carolina.

She said in Sexton's trial "racial bias was a factor." Barley accused the Wake County District Attorney's Office of systematically excluding African-Americans from the jury.

Several times, the group was reminded that homicide was the cause of death in an execution. Rev. George Allison, executive director of the state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, spoke outside the Governor's Mansion following a procession. He fully utilized his preacher's tools to rouse the crowd in opposition to the death penalty.

But the most emotional plea of all came from a man identified as a "survivor" of death row, Alfred Rivera. After 22 months, on death row, the Winston-Salem man was found innocent and released.

He spoke of the inmates on death row as his "brothers" and noted that he knew several of the men who have been executed. Rivera said he believed he was spared for a reason and that, he said, was to work against the death penalty.

"I was one of the lucky ones," said Rivera. "There are three guys right now that may be not as lucky as me and might not have a chance."

"They might be innocent," he said. "We cannot execute people on 'ifs'."

Rivera said even if guilty, there are other ways to punish the men. Execution, he said, eliminates the possibility of repentance and forgiveness. "They can't repent in the grave."

Stephen Dear of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty credited or blamed the current political campaign for imposing a de facto moratorium on the death penalty in North Carolina. However, he questioned the cynicism of scheduling the first execution in nearly a year within 26 hours of the general election.

In a prepared statement issued before the rally, Dear referred to the demand for a moratorium made by at

SEE MORATORIUM, PAGE 8

Pope appeals for return to negotiations in Middle East

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II appealed for a return to negotiations in the Middle East, saying that mutual trust and respect for international law were needed to breathe new life into the peace process. Addressing some 70,000 people gathered for Mass and a jubilee sports event in a Rome soccer stadium Oct. 29, the pope said no one should forget that in the Middle East, "people continue to suffer and die." In recent weeks, more than 140 people — almost all of them Palestinians — have been killed in an escalation of violence between Palestinians and Israeli security forces.

Study says Catholic colleges not ready for declining numbers of religious

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (CNS) — Even though 85 percent of Catholic colleges in the United States are sponsored by religious orders, many of them have not prepared for the aging of their sponsoring congregations, according to a new study. The study emphasizes that religious orders have dwindling numbers of members available to operate and staff the Catholic colleges founded by their congregations, but that only 39 percent of Catholic colleges have a plan for how they will operate without them. The study was conducted by Vincentian Father Dennis H. Holtschneider, executive vice president and chief operating officer at Niagara University, a Vincentian-sponsored college in Niagara Falls, and Melanie M. Morey, senior associate of Leadership and Legacy Associates, a Boston consulting firm that specializes in Catholic higher education. The researchers found 98 percent of survey respondents have experienced "organizational stresses" due to the decreasing numbers or increasing age of religious at their schools.

Jubilee for Pizza-makers

A pizza maker demonstrates his skill at throwing dough during the Jubilee for Pizza-Makers in Rome Oct. 25. The "pizzaioli," as they are called in Italian, served 50,000 portions of the popular Italian food during the celebration.

China watchers say new rules show growing control of ideologies

HONG KONG (CNS) — New rules on the religious activities of foreigners in mainland China must be viewed as part of the growing control of certain ideologies by the Chinese authorities, say China church watchers. The State Administration of Religious Affairs issued "Rules for Implementation of the Provisions on the Administration of Religious Activities of Aliens within the Territory of the People's Republic of China" Sept. 26. Some China church watchers in Hong Kong told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that the document is more than a supplement to provisions issued in 1994. Anthony Lam Sui-ki, senior researcher of Hong Kong diocese's Holy Spirit Study Center, said the new rules represent a government move to show its determination to control religions and the growing number of cults, including the outlawed Falun Gong, which is gaining momentum outside the mainland.

Gallup pollsters report Bible-reading in decline

PRINCETON, N.J. (CNS) — According to a recent Gallup Poll, American readership of the Bible has declined since 1990, from 73 percent to 59 percent. About six in 10 Americans say they read the Bible at least on occasion, with the most-likely readers being women, nonwhites, older people, Republicans and political conservatives, say the pollsters. Alec Gallup and Wendy W. Simmons, who were in charge of the Gallup Poll, said they also found that the percentage of frequent readers — those who read the Bible at least once a week — has decreased slightly over the last decade, from 40 percent in 1990 to 37 percent today.

Congress passes debt relief, abortion compromise in aid

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Congress passed a $14.9 billion foreign aid bill Oct. 25 that included the full U.S. share of $435 million for Third World debt relief and left it up to the next president to decide on abortion-related family planning funding abroad. The bill was approved 307-101 in the House and then 65-27 in the Senate. The foreign aid bill was one of the last must-finish appropriations bills for the 2001 fiscal year, which began Oct. 1. The agreement on full U.S. funding of debt relief for the world's most heavily indebted poor countries marked a major victory for religious and humanitarian advocates of the poor.

In wake of scandal, bishop counsels care in choosing charities

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (CNS) — In the wake of the Food for the Poor scandal, Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg counseled care in choosing charities for donations. In his column in The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper, Bishop Lynch said he, along with many others, found the news of financial and sexual misconduct by Ferdinand Mahfood, Food for the Poor's founder and CEO, "saddening." "Charities have enjoyed a bond of trust with their donors that is almost sacred," he wrote in the Oct. 19 column. "When people feel motivated to share their resources with those less fortunate," he said, "they expect the recipient of those monies to use them solely for the intention for which they were donated."

Israel asks intervention against anti-Semitism

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Israel asked the Vatican's "immediate intervention" in stopping the rising incidents of anti-Semitism around the world. In an Oct. 30 telephone conversation with Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to Israel, Israeli Cabinet Secretary Yitzhak Herzog asked the Holy See to confront the recent wave of anti-Semitic attacks. A statement from Herzog's office said the conversation followed a special Israeli Cabinet meeting held a day earlier on the subject of the attacks.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 5 — 2 p.m.
Mass and dinner for Catholic Heritage Society
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

November 8 — 7 p.m.
80th birthday dinner for
Cardinal James Hickey
Washington D.C.

November 10-11
Directing weekend retreat for seminarians
Theological College, The Catholic University of America
Washington, D.C.

November 12 — 5 p.m.
Award dinner honoring James Kelley
Arlington, Va.

Diocesan planner

November

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., hosts a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Chris Davis from Holy Infant Church in Reidsville. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

8 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having their meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

9 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre are presenting "A Piece of My Heart," a Vietnam Wartime drama about the lives of six women and how they change after their experiences overseas. The play runs tonight through Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. For more information, call the theatre at (704) 825-6787.

CHARLOTTE — There is a Charlotte area ultreya taking place at 7 p.m. tonight at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. The evening begins with sharing and fellowship and concludes with a leader school involving training and education about cursillo. Contact Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 for information.

11 BOONE — The Fall Jubilee Education Conference of the Boone Vicariate is taking place today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. The conference theme is "A Day With the Gospel of Luke" in anticipation of the cycle C readings

Church's social mission at heart of Catholic education, says speaker

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The church's social mission of promoting solidarity, justice and human dignity for all is at the heart of Catholic education, a representative of the U.S. Catholic bishops told educators who teach in the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic schools.

John Carr, secretary of the bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace, addressed the diocese's teachers during an in-service day Oct. 27 at Charlotte Catholic High School. In his humor-sprinkled message, he urged the educators to advance the ideals of integrating the church's social mission into Catholic education.

Voicing the church's teaching that participation in public life is a key tenet of the faith, Carr said a challenge is to carry out that social mission in communities defiled by violence and apathy.

"If you're trying to build a new kind of public life, where do you look?" he asked. "I would argue that you look in places like this and to people like you, who have given their lives to the formation of the next generation and the sharing of fundamental values."

Carr, whose department is the national public policy agency of the U.S. Catholic bishops, has traveled across the world to help the bishops share and apply Catholic social teaching for the past decade. A husband and the father of four children, he has been involved in Catholic social ministry for a quarter-century.

The in-service day is geared for ongoing education of teachers in the Diocese of Charlotte's 17 Catholic schools. Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for schools, directed the event.

"I felt that this gathering would be an extension of Encuentro," she said, referring to the jubilee celebration "Encuentro 2000: Many Faces in God's House," the U.S. bishops' jubilee celebration of multicultural and ethnic diversity in the U.S. church. That July gathering in Los Angeles brought many people of different backgrounds together to show a common mission in the faith while illustrating the church's diversity.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Danita McDonald, a teacher at Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro, chats with John Carr of the United States Catholic Conference. Carr was a featured speaker at an Oct. 27 in-service day for teachers.

"I work with teachers at various grade and experience levels, and we bring in methods that integrate Gospel values into the curriculum," Sister Maureen said of her program. There are several in-service days each school year.

In his presentation, Carr said sharing Gospel values in their classrooms and communities puts Catholic educators on the forefront of teaching justice.

He suggested ways to make the church's social mission come alive for students by weaving justice teachings into everyday school experiences — from morning announcements to field trips, math problems to liturgies, assemblies to extracurricular activities.

He said teachers can find "a roadmap for Catholic education" in the key tenets of modern Catholic social teaching: human life and dignity; the call to family and social participation; human rights and responsibilities; outreach to the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity; and stewardship of creation.

"The church is clear about the message," Carr said. "Catholic educators can deliver with the skill, creativity, consistency and confidence" to ensure their students understand their mission as members of the Christian faithful.

He suggested finding age-appropriate ways to apply social teaching in a variety of lessons.

For many Catholics, he said, the idea of studying, living and sharing the church's social teachings may be unfamiliar. But he added that social teaching draws on the rich tradition of the faith and is genuine doctrine of the church. He said that in the 110-year history of modern Catholic social teaching, "the church has moved from whether this is a part of our mission to how we are to carry it out."

"These are not bumper sticker endorsements of a political agenda," he said of social teachings. "They cut across political lines. They are not politically correct by the definition of Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative."

The themes do, however, call on people of good will to promote and effect societal change, he said. He added that the key questions faithful citizens must ask themselves as a people and as a government is how the choices they make will bring good news to the poor, liberty to the oppressed and new sight to the blind.

"These are questions not just for popes and bishops, not just for activists and advocates, not just for diocesan offices, but for every believer — and certainly for every Catholic educator," he said. "This mission is at the core of Catholic education. It is not optional. ... It is not extracurricular. It is part of who we are and why we exist."

The in-service day also featured other leaders in Catholic education.

- **Franciscan Brother Michel**, principal of Cardinal Gibbons Catholic High School, led a panel in an address called "Catholic Identity in Education: A Challenge for the 21st Century." Brother Michel focused on how educators can integrate Catholic values and tradition into classrooms in a variety of ways. A Catholic educator for 35 years, Brother Michel has published "Stories of God," an anthology of literature for the Catholic school. Next year he plans to publish "Tales of God," an anthology for the Catholic family.

See IN-SERVICE, page 8

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for 2001. Oratorian Father David Valtierra of the Rock Hill Oratory is today's featured speaker. For more information, call (828) 264-8338 or (828) 264-6347.

CHARLOTTE — Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is having an attic sale today from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the church grounds. The proceeds will benefit church funds. If anyone has items to donate or to volunteer, call Dale Brown at the church office at (704) 375-4339 from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

CLEMMONS — The Cursillo Evangelization Workshop (CEW) for the Cursillo community in the diocese will be held at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., this morning beginning at 8 a.m. and concluding with Mass at 5:30 p.m. All cursillistas are invited and urged to attend and expand their knowledge of the movement and their call to evangelization. Advanced registration is required. Call Tommy Barnhart (336) 766-0377 or (336) 856-1929 or e-mail tbarnhar@bellsouth.net.

TAYLORSVILLE — The Ladies' Circle of Holy Trinity Church, 655 W. Main Ave., are having their annual craft bazaar today from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Attendants can purchase a variety of crafts, gifts, woodworking items, homemade and baked goods, refreshments and plants. For more information, call (828) 632-8009.

WINSTON-SALEM — Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos is speaking about "Francis and Clare for a Contemporary World - Sharing their Lives through their Prayer and their Writings" today from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Our Lady of Fatima Spirituality Center on the corner of Cherry and Third Streets. Reservations, which include lunch, must be made by Nov. 8., and a free will offering is being taken during the event. For details, call the church office at (336) 723-8235.

12 CHARLOTTE — For those who would like to learn more about St. Francis of Assisi and the Secular Franciscan Order, all are invited to attend an inquiry session this afternoon from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. For more information, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church, with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Also, Greg Smith is leading a seminar about "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit" at 3 p.m. this afternoon before the Mass. For further information, contact Josie Backus at 527-4676.

13 GREENSBORO — Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, is the guest speaker at the noontime information gathering at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., today from 12:10-1 p.m. The topic is "November and the Communion of Saints: Death and Beyond," and a love offering is being taken before the meal. For more information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

16 GREENSBORO — All are welcome to join the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women for their annual Mass of remembrance for deceased members, family and friends this morning at 11 a.m. with lunch following the Mass. Reservations and donations should be sent in by Nov. 10 to Clare Corazza, 3606 Cherry Dr., Greensboro, N.C., 27410. For further details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Development office gets Northeast, Midwest flavor

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The autumnal winds have begun to ruffle the golden-tipped trees, and they have transported three new people to the Office of Development. Three women have brought their talents and skills to the office to aid in stewardship and fund raising for the betterment of the programs in the diocese.

Kathy Bartlett

Music and a dedication to spiritual life has been the binding force throughout Kathy Bartlett's professional and personal life. This songbird is probably better known in some circles as Kathy, one-half of the contemporary Christian music duo Kathy and David and part of the band Redeemed. St. Matthew Church parishioners are also familiar with her from her work as the parish director of music. Her new role is diocesan director of development for campus ministry.

Bartlett and her five siblings moved around because their father worked for the railroad, and they ended up in New Jersey, where she graduated high school, attended college and began her career in education. She was a seventh- and eighth-grade Catholic schoolteacher, and this was her first opportunity to work with young people.

After moving to Charlotte, she began working at Kings' Business College as a recruiter and later became director of placement and taught professional development classes.

"This positive experience showed me that college students want to be viewed as mature and self-assured. However, if you get them to be honest, they are in a major search mode. You can take them in the right direction and help them to learn and grow."

Bartlett also worked in recruitment and placement for several companies, worked in human resources and later started her own consulting business. During that time, the muse of music prompted her to volunteer to play music at masses at St. Matthew Church.

In six months, she was asked to become the church music director in 1987. She took a break from being music director and started her own band in the early nineties only to assume the music director role again in the late nineties along with David Shoff as parish co-director of music.

Singing praise music and making her Cursillo gave her life a new focus. "Cursillo had a profound effect on my life. I left corporate America after realizing that God should be the number one focus, and I wanted to spend time with my family — Jennifer, 22, Katie, 18, Stephanie, 14 and David, 12," said Bartlett.

It was this resurgence of spirituality in her life that led her to her current part-time position as campus ministry development director. Her job is to assist the campus ministers with fund raising and contributions, which help the campus ministers with the students' spiritual lives.

"If campus ministry can get the word out to parents and alumni about how they are touching the lives of students, that message will touch their hearts and will motivate them to raise contribution levels," she said.

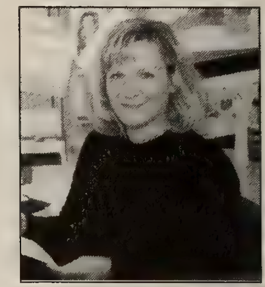
"This is a tough time for students, a time when we can lose them, and campus ministry is an incredible conduit to keep them in their faith and to help it grow stronger."

Pam Janowicz Gray

After being offered the job with the diocese as the development director for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS), the good news just kept on rolling in for Pam Gray and her husband Doug. After moving to Charlotte in May from Illinois, the couple found out that they were expecting their first child, due in January. "I thank God for allowing us to have this baby," said Gray.

Gray's work with non-profit organizations, in communications and with people led her to this current position, where she works with area schools, faculty, students and parents almost on a daily basis.

She grew up as the third oldest of five children in Illinois and graduated from Illinois State University with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. She had ambitions to be a technical engineer, but after working in the field for six months, she quickly rethought her choice of career. A detour in the retail industry led her to a radio station where she helped to create 60-second commercials for the station.



Gray became a public television development associate, responsible for those yearly on-air pledge drives, where she gathered sponsors and ordered prize gifts. "Broadcasting is fun but challenging because you have to get everything in order for the weekends on Fridays. When everyone is making plans, you are working," said Gray.

She then moved on to the Illinois Symphony as a director of marketing and development for two and a half years.

"I started working in development and fund raising and for non-profit organizations because I felt like the corporate community was so aggressive and not people-oriented," said Gray.

See DEVELOPMENT, page 15

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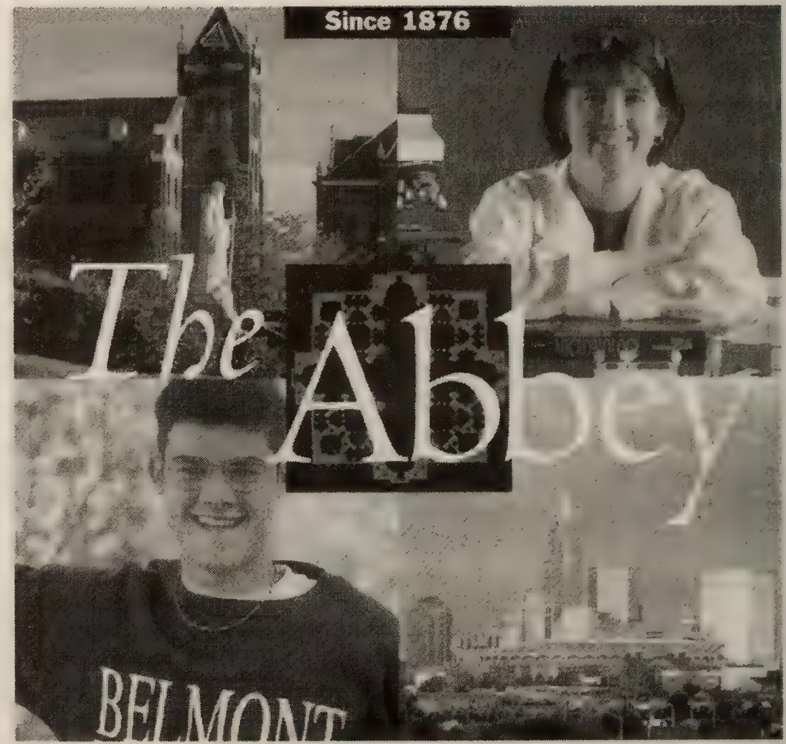

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Fire in the Mountains focuses on Scripture's themes

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Father Richard Rohr, pictured with Sharon Fender, challenged particpants in this year's Fire in the Mountains to understand biblical themes.

LAKE JUNALUSKA — The Bible is not the book you thought it was — if you were looking for the answers to all your problems. That was Father Richard Rohr's message to a packed Fire in the Mountains Oct. 21.

More than 300 people attended the seventh annual Fire in the Mountains to hear Father Rohr, a Franciscan priest, speak on "Great Themes of Sacred Scripture."

"The Bible is not an answer book; it's a process book," Father Rohr said. "The Bible is the best book in the world — and the worst. If you don't get the Bible right, you can really screw yourself up."

By the worst, Father Rohr meant that "untransformed people" use the Bible to pull themselves up and to put others down. He said it is easy for people to find something in Scripture to affirm their beliefs. However, that's not how Scripture should be used.

"The key," he said, "is to know the great themes. If you get lost in one-liners, you can prove anything. People find something in the Bible to affirm their prejudices. Once you get the great themes, then we can trust the individual to deal with the one-liners."

Even knowing the words and information in Scripture is not enough. It's all about the process called "transformation." "If [the Bible] doesn't transform you, so what if you have the right information in your head?" Father Rohr said. "Even the devil believes in God. We all need a whole new head. That's transformation. A mind that doesn't see beyond the superficial — that doesn't work."

Father Rohr explained that the Bible was written for particular audiences: "It's important to know the cultural settings: Why, when Jesus said something, was that revolutionary? You can't just pull it into North Carolina in America."

So if the Bible isn't supposed to provide all the answers or justify an individual's personal opinions, what is its purpose? According to Father Rohr, it's about making God real.

"If God has never become real to you, it's all just academic," Father Rohr said. "It's all just egocentric, keeping yourself in your comfort zone, so you don't have to be converted. You can be a convert to the Catholic Church and not be converted. You can be born a Catholic and not be converted. Conversion is an identity transplant. All great spirituality is about letting go. It's letting go of what you don't need. If you want a litmus test of if you're doing it right, you need less and less as you get older. Anything you need more and more of is not working."

The Bible reveals struggles like our own.

One of Scripture's key themes, Father Rohr said, is a changing view of God: "The Bible, step by step, is overcoming the violent God. It takes all the way to the risen Christ to get the image of a totally nonviolent God. You've got to look at the big picture."

Another Bible theme, Father Rohr said, is the gradual movement from a God of power to a God of powerlessness:

"We have a most unusual image of God — a naked, bleeding man on a cross. If your job were to create a religion, you would never come up with that. It took three centuries for Christians to make an image of that. God is participatory in your powerlessness. Unless you get that, you will never have the power to weep over your own powerlessness. We learn from being wrong. The Bible teaches, not a path of ascent, but a path of descent. The place of real power is powerlessness. That came from Jesus."

Father Rohr also sees a Scripture theme, tying in with the idea of powerlessness, about where truth is.

"Truth," he said, "is more likely found at the bottom than at the top. God chooses the people at the bottom, the slaves of the Egyptians, for example. We have the pattern beginning. It's amazing that Christians have spent so much time trying to get to the top. God is always choosing the sinner, the expelled one, the outsider. Jesus is the ultimate expelled one, the ultimate outsider. Christianity is the only religion that worships the outsider."

Another theme is the contrasts to be found in life and that there is redemption in pain, whether physical, mental or emotional.

"You can't appreciate the wonderful until you appreciate the terrible," Father Rohr said. "Until you've been down, you don't know what it means to be up. Until you've been excluded, you don't know what it is to be included. The biblical tradition is going to lead you into your pain. Pain is the only thing that pulls the rug out from under you. There's nothing else that works. As long as everything is going well, you'll continue to live in your illusions — business as usual. Pain *dis*-illusions us.

"The biblical tradition is about

See FATHER ROHR, page 8

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Father Hotchkin, Lutheran scholar win unity awards

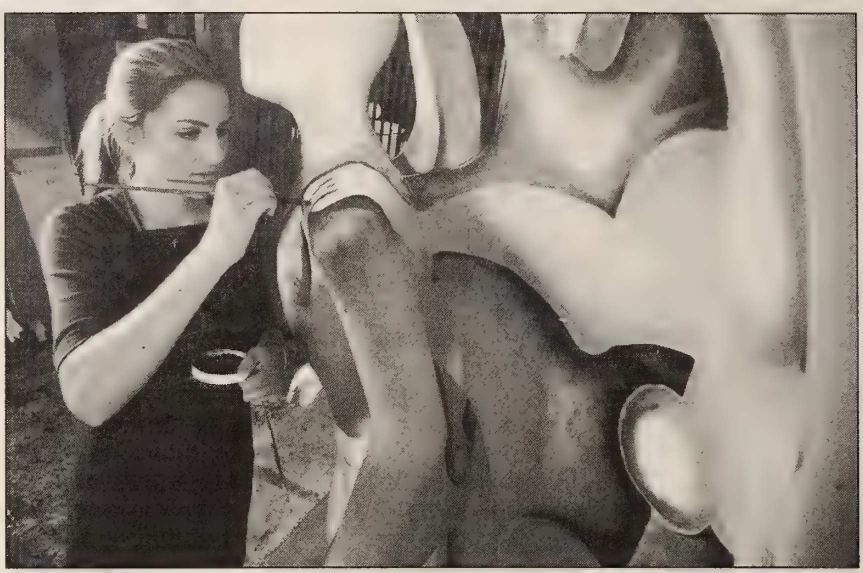
NEW YORK (CNS) — The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement gave the Paul Wattson Christian Unity Award to the Rev. George A. Lindbeck, a Lutheran scholar who is retired from teaching at Yale Divinity School, and Father John F. Hotchkin, director of the Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Father Arthur M. Johnson, minister general of the Atonement Friars, presented the award named for his order's founder to the "two eminent ecumenists" at a service Oct. 27 in the chapel of the Interchurch Center in New York.

Parishioners relieved at decision to evict abortionist

BELLEVUE, Neb. (CNS) — Parishioners, administrators and parents at St. Mary Parish and School in Bellevue said they are pleased with a court decision clearing the way for eviction of Dr. LeRoy Carhart from his abortion clinic.Carhart made national headlines when the U.S. Supreme Court June 28 upheld by 5-4 his challenge to Nebraska's ban on partial-birth abortion. Carhart's Abortion and Contraception Clinic of Nebraska is located only three blocks from St. Mary Church and just across the street from the school. "Obviously there should not be an abortion clinic across the street from any school, public or private," said Father Frank Lordemann, pastor at St. Mary Parish.

Retired Archbishop Sheehan of Omaha dies of brain tumor

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan, the retired head of the Omaha Archdiocese who died of a brain tumor Oct. 24 at the Mercy Care Center in Omaha, was remembered as a "gentle shepherd" who championed Catholic education. "All of us will miss this gentle shepherd who was such a loving presence in our midst for so many years," said current Omaha Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss. "He was a man of faith and integrity who loved the people of this archdiocese whom he served his entire life." Archbishop Sheehan, 83, served the archdiocese for 58 years. He began his priestly career as an assistant pastor at St. Cecilia Cathedral. He later served as chancellor, auxiliary bishop and bishop.



CNS PHOTO BY ELLIE HIDALGO, THE TIDINGS

Community of Angels

Fifteen-year-old Alexandra Nechita, a Greek Orthodox Christian, paints one of about 400 life-size angel figures to be placed throughout Los Angeles in early 2001. The outdoor exhibit, "A Community of Angels," aims to strengthened civic pride, generate funds for charities and encourage tourism.

Catholic says faith sustained him in Vietnamese POW camp

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. Air Force pilot who was in a North Vietnamese POW camp for six years said his faith sustained him through the ordeal. John Fer, a member of Beatitudes of Our Lord Parish in La Mirada, Calif., and principal of the parish grade school, said he and three of his cellmates — including future U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. — rotated chaplain duties during the Sunday morning prayer services they conducted in camp. "We put together a homily, we would put together some Scripture reading, and our choir, which was led by Quincy Collins — they were very quiet because the North Vietnamese guards didn't like any noise that could be considered a disturbance — sang hymns," Fer said. Fer is one of more than a dozen POWs featured in "Return With Honor," an "American Experience" documentary special about U.S. prisoners of war in North Vietnam that will air Monday, Nov. 13, 9-11 p.m. EST on PBS (check local listings).

Satellite hookup allows bishop to teach again

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Satellite technology will enable Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie to return to one of the things he loves best: teaching. The bishop will give two presentations on Scripture as part of the Satellite Theological Education Program sponsored by the Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. The dioceses of Erie; Reno, Nev.; and Winona, Minn., participate in the program begun last fall to provide adult religious education. "I welcome the role of returning to teach in the classroom," said Bishop Trautman, who for several years taught seminarians in the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. He said parish ministers reached in the program "clearly will play a significant role in the life of the church."

Entertainment figure Steve Allen remembered for decency efforts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The entertainment world mourned the death Oct. 30 of Steve Allen, whose sprawling career in television, movies, radio, books and music spanned more than 50 years. Allen, who died at age 78 of an apparent heart attack at the Encino, Calif., home of his youngest son, Bill, was known in his early career for being the first host of "The Tonight Show," and later for hosting a number of comedy-variety and talk shows. In recent years, he had taken up the role as honorary chairman of the Parents Television Council, which urged people to join with full-page ads in daily newspapers which were headlined, "TV Is Leading Our Children Down a Moral Sewer." "Rarely have I ever known a man more humble and more decent," said Parents Television Council chairman Brent Bozell III in a Nov. 1 statement.

Jerusalem patriarch urges prayers for peace

JERUSALEM (CNS) — As tension and violence in the Holy Land continued to escalate, Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem called on the faithful to strengthen their faith and to pray for peace. In separate homilies delivered in late October, Patriarch Sabbah urged Catholics to find God's mystery amid the violence and to look toward Mary as a model of faith. Later, he traveled to Rome, where he met Oct. 31 with Pope John Paul II.

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Pope to declare St. Thomas More patron of politicians

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican announced Pope John Paul II is scheduled to declare St. Thomas More patron of politicians and government officials Oct. 31

The English martyr "has been recognized as a symbol of integrity and a hero of conscience by people regardless of their nations or beliefs," said an Oct. 26 Vatican announcement of the pope's decision.

Thomas More served as lord chancellor of England under King Henry VIII and was beheaded in 1535 on charges of treason. He refused to defy the pope by recognizing the legitimacy of the king's second marriage.

Former Italian President Francesco Cossiga, who with Venezuelan Sen. Hilarion Cardozo presented Pope John Paul with a petition requesting the proclamation, said all politicians may not rejoice at the news.

"Some politicians may be afraid of taking St. Thomas More as their patron, because following his example will mean opening themselves to having to follow him completely," Cossiga said, chuckling at the reaction some politicians might have to the idea of obeying their consciences to the point of giving up their lives.

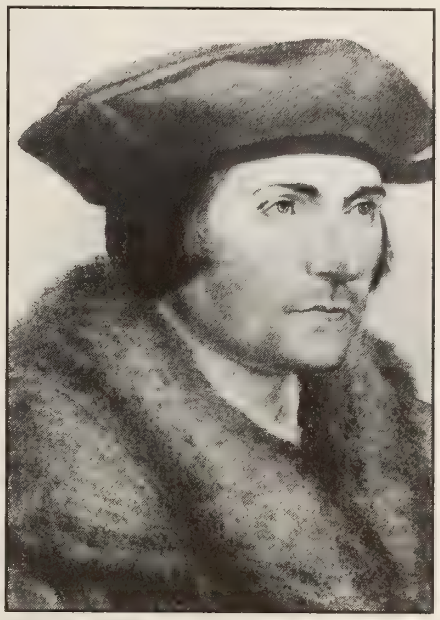
Cossiga described St. Thomas More as "an extraordinarily modern saint — a layman, who perhaps better than any other, lived to the full the vocation of the layperson later described by the Second Vatican Council."

At an Oct. 26 Vatican press conference, Cossiga said support for the proclamation came from all over the world and included letters to the pope from hundreds of government officials.

While the initiative began in Italy and was supported by dozens of British parliamentarians, members of the Polish parliament outnumbered supporters from any other country, Cossiga said.

None of the signatures or letters in the two blue-bound volumes Cossiga gave the pope were from politicians in the United States or Canada.

Cossiga described St. Thomas More as "an extraordinarily modern saint — a layman, who perhaps better than any other, lived to the full the vocation of the layperson later described by the Second Vatican Council."



St. Thomas More, an English statesman beheaded for refusing to defy the papacy under King Henry VIII, is to be declared patron of politicians by Pope John Paul II.

The Italian politician said More chose marriage and public service as his vocation after considering the religious life. He said More was a family man and a man of learning who lived his faith in the midst of worldly affairs.

Britain's Lord David Alton, a Catholic member of the House of Lords, said naming St. Thomas More patron of politicians is a reminder that politicians should not leave their faith or consciences at home when they enter the halls of power.

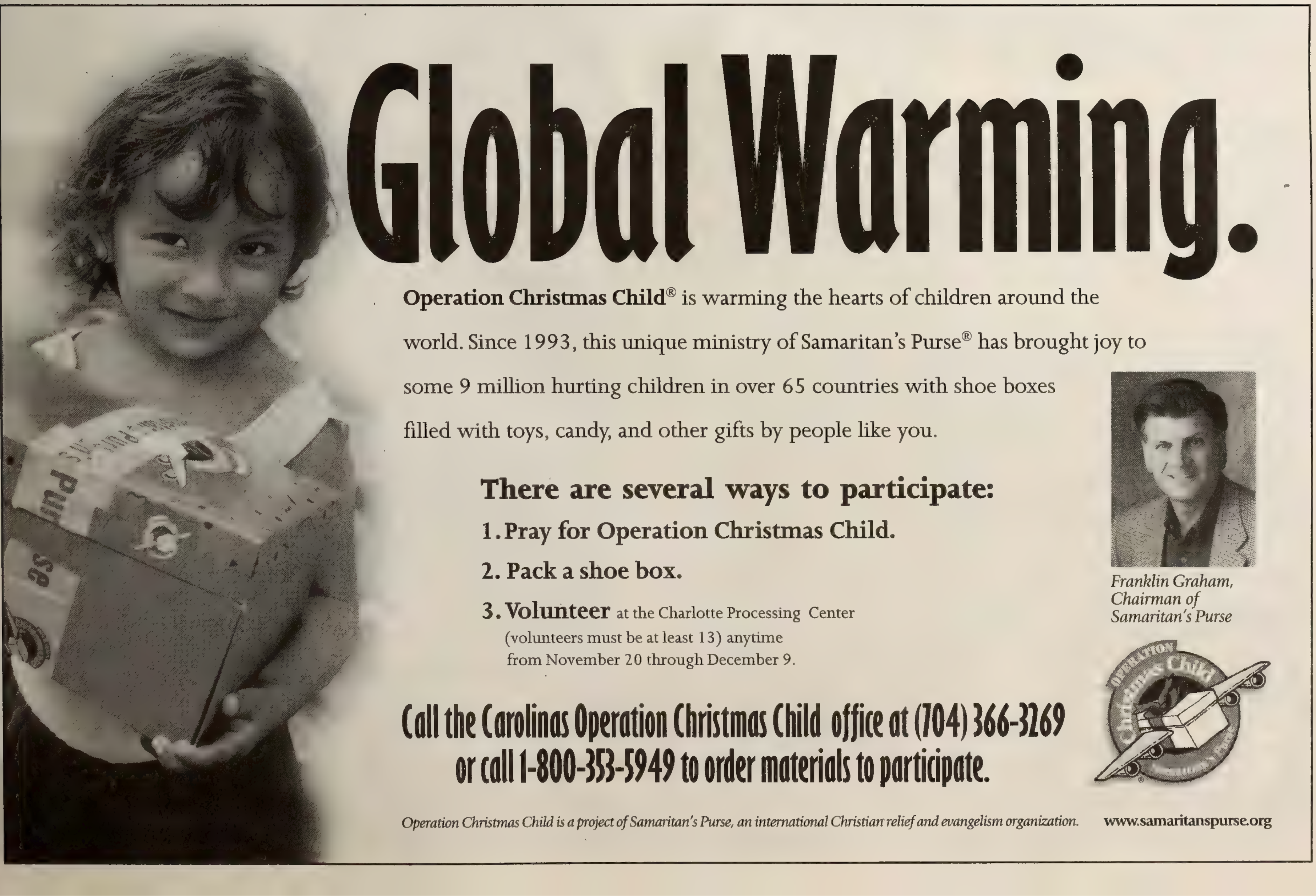
"In our times, political life is so often about personal aggrandizement and advantage," he said. "Its participants pursue careers rather than causes."

Alton said that if More were alive today he would be on the front line of the battle against "the culture of death," fighting abortion and euthanasia.

Cossiga said the "long journey" toward the papal proclamation of More's patronage started with a discussion sponsored by the Italian Association of St. Thomas More on morality in politics.

He discussed the idea with Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, the then-prelate of Opus Dei, who helped garner support for the proclamation, especially in Latin America. Bishop Del Portillo died in 1994.

Cossiga said the founder of Opus Dei, Blessed Josemaria Escriva, often cited St. Thomas More as an example of the vocation of lay Catholics to put their faith to work in the world.



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Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization. www.samaritanspurse.org

Moratorium, from page 1

least eight communities when he said, "We call on the Governor Hunt and Attorney General Easley to acknowledge what the people and community leaders of our state are saying."

He said the state needed to have a "cease fire' while the General Assembly takes a "serious look at the death penalty." Dear repeated those statements at the rally.

In addition to private citizens signing petitions across the state, at least eight communities, the state Democratic Party, and more than 100 congregations, community groups and businesses have endorsed the moratorium according to PFAD.

Dr. James Megivern of Wilmington also spoke. He has written a definitive work on the history of the death penalty and has documented the steps taken by the Roman Catholic Church in arriving at its stand against capital punishment.

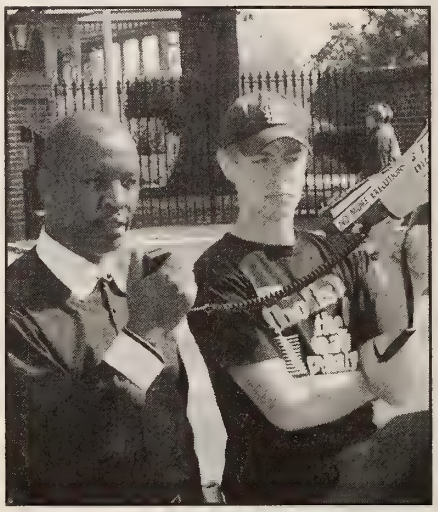

PHOTO BY MATT DOYLE

Rev. George Allison, executive director of the N.C. chapter of the NAACP, addressed the moratorium rally. Also pictured is Brock Towler of Chapel Hill.

In-Service, from page 3

* J.D. Childs joined Brother Michel to discuss a project he created for Cardinal Gibbons High School that integrates Catholic teaching on evolution to show the bridge between religion and science. An educator at Cardinal Gibbons, Childs earned a master's of theology degree from Notre Dame University.

* Michael Rogosich, an English teacher at Cardinal Gibbons, spoke on a unit he developed for sophomores on Flannery O'Connor, an influential Catholic southern writer. In his O'Connor program, Rogosich illustrates literature written from a faith perspective.

* John Stack, national field consultant for publisher William H. Sadlier, Inc., addressed religion teachers on the importance of connecting with students based on life experiences. He said devoting a few minutes of classroom time to storytelling, puppetry and other creative means can cause students to react to lessons more personally and make them a part of themselves.

A theme of solidarity in mission ran through an in-service day focusing on bringing social justice themes to life in the new millennium. "We're part of something much larger than the hundreds of us gathered in this gymnasium," Carr said. "We're part of a much larger family of faith that is struggling as we struggle with how we are to preach the Gospel and live it out.

"What you do in your classroom, in your school, has meaning — not only for your school and this diocese, but for the whole church."

Contact Associae Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334, or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

"We're part of something much larger than the hundreds of us gathered in this gymnasium," Carr said. "We're part of a much larger family of faith...."

Father Rohr, from page 5

transmit it to others. Jesus carries the pain himself. He doesn't project it onto others. For the rest of your life, I want you to see the two nailed hands of Jesus as the price of holding the two sides of every question. If you're an untransformed person you will look for somebody to blame."

Is the Bible a "religious" book? Rohr says not particularly. "The greatest ally of God is reality. Some people don't like that. They want religion. The Bible is not that religious; it's just life. A lot of people want fabricated reality. The Bible is very critical of pious religion. In 30 years as a priest, I've found that 90-95 percent of conversion experiences don't happen in church. Conversion happens in very secular circumstances: the loss of a job, loss of a marriage."

Rohr told the audience not to forget that God is within them: "The suffering and the ecstasy of God is in every one of you. Every one of you is an instance of that. We'd rather be slaves-just give me some commandments to obey- but intimacy is much harder. You're all God's image. God is clearly not threatened by diversity."

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Jubilee for Athletes includes papal Mass, soccer match

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — As Sydney basked in post-Olympics bliss and New York recovered from the excitement of a Subway Series, the Vatican celebrated its own sports extravaganza.

Rome's Olympic Stadium played host to the highlights of the Oct. 28-29 Jubilee for Athletes: an Oct. 29 Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II, followed by a soccer game between the Italian national team and foreign stars who play in Serie A, Italy's premier league.

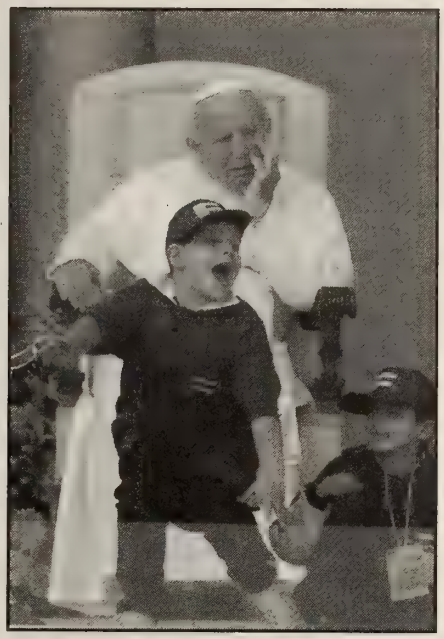
While the Holy Year event marked the first time a pope officially attended a stadium soccer match, one Vatican observer's research found that Pope Sixtus IV sporadically watched a game vaguely resembling the contemporary sport way back in the late 1400s — a violent, all-day affair that brought the pontiff to his window every few hours to check on the teams' progress.

Archbishop Crescenzio Sepe, secretary of the Vatican's jubilee committee, said the last soccer game Pope John Paul saw before the Holy Year face-off was a televised 1982 World Cup match between Poland and Italy.

The pope, a goalkeeper during his boyhood in Poland and an avid skier and hiker throughout much of his 80 years, said the Jubilee for Athletes brought to mind "many memories of my life tied to sporting experiences."

"Today, playing sports takes on great importance, because it can encourage young people to affirm significant values like loyalty, perseverance, friendship, sharing (and) solidarity," he said to a cheering, banner-waving crowd of 70,000.

Sports' positive values, common to all countries of the world, can also overcome "differences between cultures and nations," said the pope.



CNS photo from Reuters

A child reacts in front of Pope John Paul II as Italy nearly scores a goal during an exhibition soccer match in Rome's Olympic stadium Oct. 29. The 80-year-old pope, an avid sportsman earlier in his life, celebrated a Mass and attended the match for the Jubilee for Athletes.

"Sports can, in fact," he said, "make a valid contribution to peaceful understanding (among) peoples and help the worldwide spread of a new civilization of love."

To illustrate sports' cross-cultural message, after lighting the stadium's Olympic flame, athletes released doves, a traditional sign of peace, into the air.

The jubilee event, said the pope, should spur athletes and sports officials to heed Holy Year 2000's call to reflection and conversion.

While promoting the positive aspects of sport, he said, industry leaders also must recognize instances that cloud over sport's educational and spiritual potential. Among those present at the Mass and at an Oct. 28 Vatican-sponsored conference on sports was Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee.

"Every care is necessary for the safeguarding of the human body from every attack on its integrity, from every exploitation, from every idolatry," the pope said.

His comments came amid ongoing controversy over illegal drug use at the Sydney Games. Several athletes were disqualified after testing positive for performance-enhancing substances.

Expressing his hope that the "Sports Manifesto," presented after the Mass, would lead to a "new creative and propelling energy," the pope called on all involved in sports to protect the weak, free young people from apathy, encourage a healthy competitive spirit and work to wipe out intolerance.

The pope's appeal to break down racial, cultural and national barriers through sports appeared directed at Italy, where concern over the trading of racial epithets during soccer matches has mounted in recent months.

Following the Mass, a 100-meter dash by junior sprinters and a 200-meter wheelchair race, representatives of five continents presented the manifesto to the pope.

In the document, athletes, coaches and officials pledged to promote sports' healthy ideals, without falling prey to the "cult of physical perfection" or the inability to accept defeat.

It called for equality in sports among rich and poor nations and respect for the rights of the young, who often lose their childhood in their quest for athletic excellence.

The highly anticipated soccer match took the place of regular Sunday Serie A games, which were postponed to Nov. 1 to allow team members to participate in the jubilee event.

The match turned into a veritable ecumenical and interreligious event, with Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Muslim and Buddhist players participating.

"To play before the pope happens only once in a lifetime. To do it on a team with many religious confessions is exceptional," said Rachid Neqrouz, a Muslim from Morocco who plays defense for Bari, Italy.

Before the Mass, cheers drowned out the official Holy Year 2000 hymn and gospel songs when Italy's national team members, sitting in the stands, were featured on the stadium's two TV screens.

But the biggest roar of the crowd was reserved for the pope's entrance. One banner featured an Italian national team shirt with "Giovanni Paolo" written on it — his honorary number, 22, corresponding to the number of years of his pontificate.

One Italian university student said he appreciated Pope John Paul's stadium appearance as a "tifoso," or fan.

"He's done so much at the human level," said Roberto La Carbonara, 19. "And I think maybe soccer lacks this human aspect," he said, noting that the sport often emphasizes profit over the thrill of the game.

"Sports can, in fact," the pope said, "make a valid contribution to peaceful understanding (among) peoples and help the worldwide spread of a new civilization of love."

The whistle blew, and La Carbonara fell silent, content to fix his eyes on the Italian national team, the pope watching in the stands.

Italy and the foreigners tied, 0-0.

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Book Review

Columnist's book offers reasonable answers for teens

REVIEWED BY DIMITRA C. BOLGER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

My throat still tightens and my breath still quickens when I recollect the question of some of my former students when I taught high school. "Miss Bolger, how can I prove God exists?" "Why does God allow innocent people to suffer?" "Does it matter if I am Catholic?"

Looking out at the mass of anxious faces, any good schoolteacher knows that teen-agers deserve a logical and convincing answer. Teachers also need the tools of right reason and logic to be able to explain and articulate their beliefs.

Amy Welborn's book, "Prove It!: God," offers logical reasoning in an easy-to-understand manner so that the teen-ager can learn to express and articulate our faith and beliefs.

Welborn, a veteran high school theology teacher and regular columnist for Catholic News Service and Our Sunday Visitor, is no stranger to writing to and for youth.

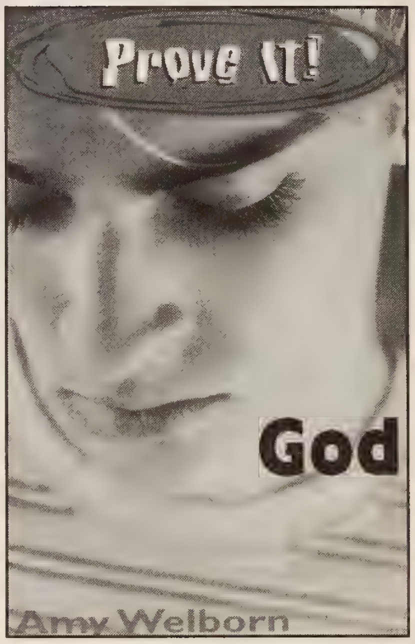
Prove It!: God,
by Amy Welborn.
Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind.). 115 pp., $6.95.

The first book in a series entitled "Prove It!," the book succeeds in teaching and truly driving home the truths of our faith.

After years of religion classes, many youth possess the intellectual knowledge of Catholicism but lack (like many adults) the ability to verbalize and articulate their faith.

By taking some pretty weighty philosophical ideas (such as the principle of excluded middle), some basic logic principles (for example, either a thing is or it is not; God can't both exist for some people and not for others), and lots of examples from everyday life, Welborn successfully addresses 13 of the most common questions about God and religion.

Even more helpful, she follows each chapter with a page entitled "So the point is ..." which summarizes and repeats the key ideas in the chapter.



This repetition of ideas and highlighting of main concepts keeps the book from being overwhelmed by too much information and turns it into an easily accessible learning tool.

Unlike so many authors for teens who really talk to the parents and then the parents anxiously prod their child to listen, Welborn writes to the teen.

She has a real knack for meeting the teens at their own level, respecting their position and then inviting them to a higher level.

Overall, the book would make a great gift and a fantastic textbook for any teen in seventh to 12th grade.

Theologically precise and genuinely funny, the book provides the needed resources for a teen to logically explain and articulate his faith.

Bolger is a staff assistant at the U.S. Catholic Conference and continues her studies of Mariology.

Word to Life

November 5, Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B Readings:
1) Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51
2) Hebrews 7:23-28
3) Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Today's Scripture tells us that the greatest acts of faith are to love God with our whole being and to love our neighbor as ourselves. For the Christian, these "greatest commandments" are practically one and the same.

We can understand what this means, and we may truly desire to do this, but it is difficult actually to put all our love into One we can't see, touch or hear.

On the other hand, Jesus' example and teachings show us we can express this complete love by feeding, nurturing and protecting our neighbor as we naturally do ourselves.

My neighbor Gerald has this kind of love of God. Last November Gerald and his wife Eleanor were counting the days to retirement from his medical practice. I'd see Eleanor out walking, and she'd tell me: 103 days left; then 65; then it was down to weeks.

But before she got down to days, she started telling me about their post-retirement plans: missionary service. Next thing I knew, this gentle couple was excitedly counting down the days to their departure for Nigeria.

In neighborly conversations in the yard, I'd learned that Eleanor and Gerald are deeply committed to their faith community. With the community they had been laying the groundwork for this mission for a long time. They told me their initial stay in Africa would be six months, but after less than three I met Eleanor one day walking outside. Gerald was in the hospital undergoing surgery. Concern was evident in her eyes and the soft quavering of her voice. She would know more about his condition the next day.

Three days later, there's Eleanor again walking down the street — with Gerald! Whatever the prognosis, Gerald was now out walking every day with progressive speed and energy.

But he didn't mind stopping to talk, quickly brushing aside the subject of his own health to tell about the people in his rural Nigerian community. He would return in just three weeks.

He spent his recovery leave looking for extra funding and scouting for "old man-powered" farm implements (which he found and packed up) to serve as models from which his African farming brethren could fashion functional ones.

"This might help. They've got such a hard life," he told me, leaving no doubt that he loved his neighbors as himself, with his whole heart, mind and strength.

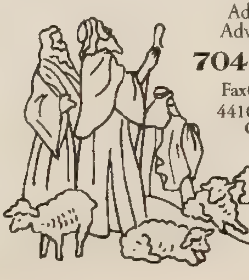
Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 5 - 11, 2000

Sunday, Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 12:28-34; **Monday**, Philippians 2:1-4, Luke 14:12-14; **Tuesday**, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24; **Wednesday**, Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33; **Thursday (Dedication of the Lateran Basilica)**, Isaiah 56:1, 6-7, Ephesians 2:19-22, Matthew 5:23-24; **Friday (St. Leo the Great)**, Philippians 3:17-4.1, Luke 16:1-8; **Saturday (St. Martin of Tours)**, Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15

Readings for the week of Nov. 12 - 18, 2000

Sunday, 1 Kings 17:10-16, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44; **Monday (St. Frances Cabrini)**, Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday**, Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday (St. Albert the Great)**, Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday (St. Margaret of Scotland)**, Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary)**, 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Rose Duchesne)**, 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8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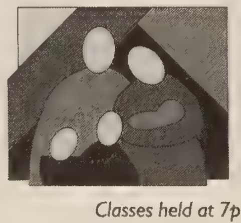
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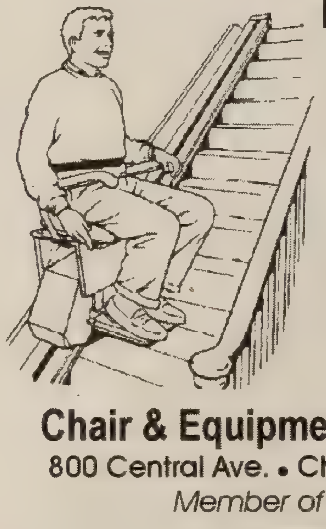
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NBC to feature "In the Beginning"

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Bible is dramatized from Creation to the Ten Commandments in the solemn miniseries, "In the Beginning ...," airing Sunday-Monday, Nov. 12-13, 9-11 p.m. EST each night on NBC.

The lavish production was filmed in Morocco and Budapest and focuses on the books of Genesis and Exodus. Director Kevin Connor ("Mary, Mother of Jesus") details the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses with the proverbial cast of thousands and special effects that Cecil B. DeMille could only have dreamed about.

In the first section, Abraham (a strident Martin Landau) relates the story of Creation to the people and how he came to have two sons, Ishmael by his Egyptian slave, and the favored Isaac by his wife (Jacqueline Bisset). Abraham faces his greatest test of faith when God commands him to offer up Issac (Luke Mably) as a burnt offering.

Isaac's story continues, and on his deathbed he is tricked by his wife into giving his one blessing to son Jacob (Frederick Weller) when it was intended for his twin Esau (Andrew Grainger). Fearing for his life, Jacob travels afar and the two brothers are estranged for many years before a forgiving Esau offers Jacob Abraham's staff of leadership.

The story of Jacob's son Joseph (Eddie Cibrian in a fine portrayal) and his wicked brothers is a high point of the production, sparked with intrigue and exotic visuals as Joseph, betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery in Egypt, rises to power under the Pharaoh. When Joseph is able to help his own people he feels God sent him to Egypt to save them from the famine, and, reuniting with his family, the staff of Abraham is passed on to Joseph.

The second night continues with the stirring and visually handsome story of baby Moses being found in the basket and taken in by Pharaoh's daughter. Years later as a man (Billy Campbell) he hears God's voice command him to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt but the Pharaoh won't let them go.

Following the exodus and parting of the Red Sea, Moses is given the Ten Commandments but must first deal with those among his people who have turned to worshipping a golden idol. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, Moses passes on the staff to Joshua as they are in sight of the Promised Land.

For all the colorful characters who appear in the first half, the second part is more focused and engrossing in relating Joseph's and Moses' tremendous influence on God's chosen people.

The drama wisely eschews a preachy tone in favor of dramatic narrative. However, the role of faith in the one true God comes through in the forceful characters who believe that the Creator is working through them.

Although sometimes slowly paced, the miniseries may interest Bible readers as well as those less familiar with the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus.

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Movie Capsules

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

"Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2"

Putrid sequel in which four young people and their local guide go into the woods where a previous group supposedly vanished only to experience similar paranoia and murderous violence. Director Joe Berlinger's crass attempt to further a "Blair Witch" movie and merchandising franchise is a debasing film whose cop-out ending should disgust anyone unfortunate enough to endure this shrill, pointless mess. Recurring stabbings, violent sexual situations, recreational substance abuse, intermittent nudity and constant rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Lucky Numbers"

Nasty comedy in which two greedy TV station employees (John Travolta and Lisa Kudrow) rig a lottery drawing to win millions but have trouble collecting after their accomplices (Tim Roth and Michael Rapaport) resort to blackmail and murder to avoid exposure. The self-obsessed characters and mean-spirited tone make director Nora Ephron's comedy decidedly unappealing. A sexual encounter, brief violence, recreational drug use, much rough language and intermittent profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas"

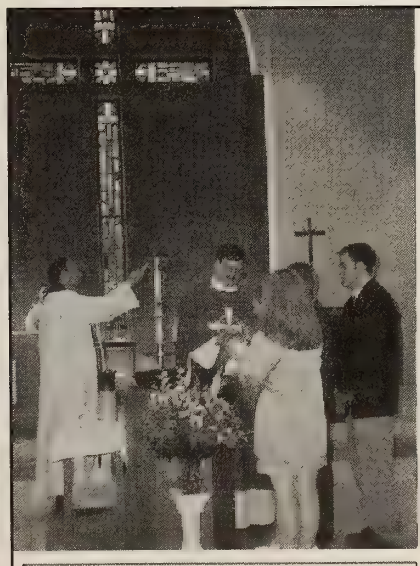
Re-release of the minor fantasy of the macabre with puppet animation telling the tale of Halloweentown's skeleton king replacing the kidnapped Santa Claus to spread Christmas fear with scary toys until stopped by a missile, then returning home to free Santa in time to make his accustomed rounds. Producer Tim Burton's story centers in the dark world of hobgoblins and monsters suddenly intruding on the bright expectations of St. Nick's annual visit, but the narrative proves tiresome in padding out the thin concept, despite all its stylish puppetry and ghoulish humor. Considerable menace and threatening atmosphere. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Stardom"

Satirical look at the meteoric rise of a Canadian teen (Jessica Pare) to international supermodel status with all its attendant media frenzy, rash romances and her inevitable replacement by a younger face. Director Denys Arcand mocks tabloid journalism and the materialistic values they lavish attention on, but such familiar and obvious targets lessen the satire's impact. Implied promiscuity, fleeting sexual encounter with nudity, brief violence and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Yards"

Engrossing crime drama set amid corruption in the New York City subway construction industry in which a newly released ex-con (Mark Wahlberg) hides from a wrongful murder charge that would implicate a volatile friend (Joaquin Phoenix) and family member (James Caan). Director James Gray orchestrates a dark tale of moral dilemmas enhanced by muted performances but undermined by some glaring script implausibilities. Brief violence, much rough language, a sexual situation with fleeting nudity and occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope expresses condolences after Singapore Airlines crash

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed sadness at the deaths in the crash of a Singapore Airlines flight in Taiwan and assured all affected of his "closeness in prayer."

In a telegram of condolence, the pope entrusted the dead to God's "loving mercy" and prayed that God would give the victims' families and those injured in the Oct. 31 crash the "gifts of strength and comfort."

The telegram, released at the Vatican Nov. 2, was sent in the pope's name by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, to Archbishop Joseph Ti-kang of Taipei, Taiwan.

As of Nov. 2 the death toll from the crash, which occurred during a typhoon, reached 81, with 82 people injured and 16 unhurt.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said at a news briefing in Washington Nov. 1 that 10 of the dead were "tentatively identified" as U.S. citizens. Dual nationality was among issues contributing to the uncertainty, he said.

Survivors included 22 Americans, who were among the plane's 47 American passengers.

Investigators were studying whether the Los Angeles-bound Boeing 747-700 struck an object during its takeoff from Taipei international airport, as some of the 159 passengers and 20 crew reported.

U.S. aviation experts were traveling to Taiwan to assist in the investigation.

Pope says protection for Jerusalem gaining wide support

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's diplomatic contacts and work for peace in the Middle East give hope that someday the holy sites in Jerusalem will be protected by an international statute, Pope John Paul II said. Meeting Lebanon's new ambassador to the Vatican Oct. 26, the pope said the international protection of Christian, Jewish and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem, which the Vatican has insisted on for years, was gaining wider support.

Vatican studies possible papal trip to Ukraine in 2001

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is studying the possibility of a trip by Pope John Paul II to Ukraine next year following strong overtures from the Ukrainian government. Because of ecumenical sensitivities in the former Soviet republic, the Vatican is taking extra care before giving the trip a green light, Vatican sources said Oct. 25. Orthodox and Catholic communities in Ukraine have bitterly disagreed in recent years over church property and evangelization issues. "The pope's desire has always been to meet the Orthodox patriarch of Moscow (Alexei II) before visiting Ukraine. But since that meeting has been put off for so long, one can ask whether it's right to penalize a people who have wanted a papal visit for many years," said one church source.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Families' Codes of Thanksgiving Protocol

Ah! It's November. Soon it will be Turkey Time! I love Thanksgiving. And not just because it allows me to eat from the time I wake up until I drop off to sleep with crispy turkey skin on my breath. I appreciate the day's order and discipline.

While families' codes of Thanksgiving protocol vary, many resemble ours:

Aunt Patty's Law of Location: The family whose turn it is to host Thanksgiving has an 80 percent chance of suffering the death of its refrigerator, stove and microwave the day before Thanksgiving.

Corollary: Host families not suffering the loss of a major cooking-related appliance should be prepared for a 100-year flood.

Grandma's Mashed Potatoes Maxim: Persons asked, "Do the mashed potatoes have enough salt and butter?" must answer, "They are perfect."

Aunt Nora's Mashed Potato Mandate: Young males whose voices have changed must put in time stirring the mashed potatoes by hand until all lumps have disappeared.

Mothers' First Law of Television: For every three football games, one ice-skating special must be allowed.

Uncle Trent's Pie Paradox: Even though one has eaten enough to feed a village, pie will help it settle if served with Cool Whip.

Uncle Trent's Law of Pie Lament: The Pilgrims did not have Cool Whip.

Christine's Thanksgiving Music Conundrum: Why are children who are allowed to pound on the piano with their little fists allowed to remain unlocked in the garage?

Milt's Turkey Skin Axiom: If the taste of the crunchy turkey skin chipped out of the grease on the roaster could be patented, he'd be a millionaire.

Paul's Primordial Law of Leftovers: An 11 p.m. dressing-and-cranberry sandwich should be regarded as a sacred item and eaten with one's eyes closed.

Grandpa's Law of Leftover Distribution: No one will say a word when it is suggested that the family with the new car — the family everyone knows is out of work and afraid to open their mail or answer the door — take an extra portion or two home with them.

First Cousins' Rule of Growth: When a child only needs the phone book and two National Geographics to sit high enough to eat from the card table in the kitchen, he or she is eligible for nomination to "The Big People's Table."

Father Kevin's Grace Theorem: Teen-agers cannot resist following a solemn prayer of thanksgiving at Thanksgiving without giggling some version of "Good God, good food, Good God, let's eat."

Father Kevin's Corollary: While food nourishes the body, family nourishes the soul.

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 441 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

The Attention Grieving Children Need

Many books have been written in recent years acknowledging that the loss of a loved one causes a mourning that in some ways never ends. These books and programs on grieving are filling a void. They teach that the process of dealing with grief is highly individual.

Yet one group of people has been largely ignored when this subject is brought up. Children have been forgotten. It is as if we simply can't believe they feel loss as deeply as an adult does. This is a myth, and it is wrong.

I learned this once firsthand from a student, who began to cry when she talked about losing an older sister. Oddly enough, she had never met this sister because she had died before my student was born. But watching her mother cry year after year as she talked about the daughter who had died, this girl had become attached to the sister she never knew, enough to mourn her loss. No one could understand her pain, and she felt the loneliness of grieving, without getting respect or help.

Earlier this year I met a couple who have faced head-on this need to understand grieving children. James and Mary Ann Emswiler, members of St. Rita's Church in Hamden, Conn., had invited me to speak in a program they were sponsoring on "healing our hurts." They underscored the need to reach out to hurting children.

Jim Emswiler told me his very touching story, which began in June 1989 when his then wife, Mary, died suddenly at age 39, leaving him and their three young children devastated. From his own pain, Emswiler understood the trauma his children would undergo to grow up without their mother.

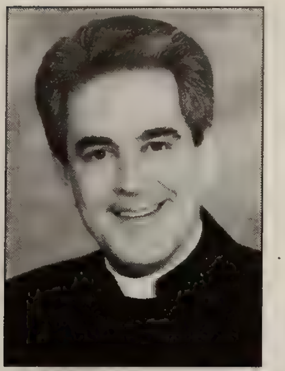
He found that bereavement counseling was available for him, but he kept asking: "What about my kids? Do you have anything that will help them?"

When he met silence, Emswiler acted. He founded what he called the New England Center for Loss and Transition, and set up a special program in his hometown of Guilford, Conn., called The Cove, geared specifically to helping children who are grieving.

Almost immediately this became a model program, picked up by mental health professionals in other parts of the state. Now, Emswiler said, he really understood the need for such programs. He discovered that in his state alone, 38,000 children under 18 had experienced the loss of a parent. "Nationwide, an estimated 3.5 million grieving children are struggling to make sense of the frightening new world created by the loss of a parent" or another loved one, he said.

Now Emswiler and the fine woman he met and married a few years ago have written a book they have accurately titled "Guiding Your Child Through Grief" (Bantam). It is rock solid in its wisdom and information, a must resource for counselors, family members, spiritual guides and older relatives trying to learn how to help a grieving child heal.

Our job, Emswiler says, is "to teach them how to choose hope over despair — to choose life in the face of death." The Emswilers' book provides the map for leading grieving children on this all important journey.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

A Promise Kept

A priest I know used one of his recent homilies to tell a story so moving in its gentle simplicity that I want to pass it along to you. The story was all about Matthew and Kathleen, who came to this country from Ireland years ago, when they were still very young. In many respects, I suppose, their tale wasn't all that different from that of thousands of others. They met here, were married, and Matthew, following so many of his Irish-American countrymen, became a fireman. Kathleen stayed at home to raise a growing family.

They prospered. Their riches came not so much from money (although they were certainly comfortable) as it did from their faith and the love they shared with their children. There were grandchildren too, as the years went on. And one day, incredibly enough, it was time for Matthew — that same strapping young man who had come to America so many years before — to call it a day at work. He and Kathleen moved to a smaller retirement home, sharing more fully what they had treasured for so long: each other's company. They were as devoted to each other in their seventies as they had been fifty years earlier. Their love was truly here to stay.

Gradually, infirmities of age began disrupting their lives. Illnesses, some of them serious, posed further problems. But even in the midst of these trials, God was good to them. When one was sick, the other was hale and hearty, able to provide care that was needed — loving as always, even as they entered their nineties.

But dealing with illness so constantly left Kathleen unsettled. "What will I do when you're gone?" she asked Matthew, confined to bed with the illness that would be his last. "Don't worry, Kathleen," he replied. "I'll take you with me."

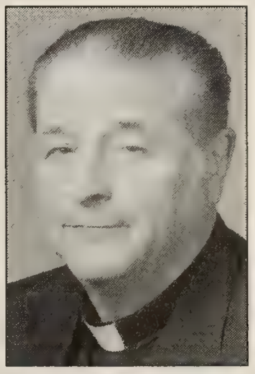
Not long after that, the inevitable happened. Matthew died a peaceful death. Kathleen was inconsolable, of course, all through the wake and the day of the funeral itself. Not only was she grieving for her husband of more than 60 years; she was wondering why he had not kept his promise. Back at home, after the funeral lunch, she tried to busy herself with plans to move in with a daughter and her family. Time after time she reminded her daughter, "He promised, 'I'll take you with me.'"

"You can't worry about that, Mom," the daughter said. "Let me fix you a cup of tea."

Kathleen never tasted the tea. When her daughter returned with it, she found her mother slumped over the table, all breathing stopped. God had called her home. She was joining Matthew, as for yet one more time, they were starting a new life together, life in eternity. Matthew, faithful as always, had kept his promise after all.

End of story. But what a tender story it is . . . and, I suspect, one that has a familiar ring to it for many people. So many of us have had couples like Matthew and Kathleen go before us, as parents or grandparents, even great-grandparents. We're indebted to them beyond measure — for the powerful examples of their lives, to be sure, but also for the lessons they taught us in death.

On All Souls' Day, when we remember our own loved ones, we can remember these lessons too. In life Matthew and Kathleen taught their children and grandchildren about abiding love; in death they taught that a new life, rich beyond our wildest dreams, awaits us all.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Church's Response to Suicide

Q. Last year our 22-year-old son committed suicide. He seemed to be happy, was an altar server, helped around church, and had a good job and a lady friend. Needless to say, we miss him dearly. I go to Mass daily and offer my Communion for him.

When he died many of our priests comforted us with the assurance that our Lord would welcome Michael home.

He must have been very troubled over something, but some people say the sin of suicide is never forgiven. That would be more than I could bear.

How is suicide treated in the Catholic faith? Is Catholic burial always permitted? Will he be allowed to go home to our Father? I pray every day that he has found the peace he couldn't find on this earth.

A. First, I am pleased that you had priests who supported you and your faith in such a good way. I hope you take faith and confidence in what they told you.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reflects this same good theology when it says we each have responsibility for our lives, but we should not despair of the salvation of persons who take their own lives.

By ways known to him alone, God has ways of providing for them spiritually, and the church always holds them (as it does all the departed) in its prayers (No. 2283).

Much of the Catholic Church's beliefs on the subject are reflected in its funeral policies. Canon law lists very briefly those who are to be deprived of Catholic rites. Among these are "manifest sinners for whom ecclesiastical funeral rites cannot be granted without public scandal" (Canon 1184).

Insofar as they are covered at all, people who commit suicide would be part of that group. Are such people really open "sinners" whose Christian burial would give scandal? Particularly today, bishops and other pastors generally believe just the opposite. The scandal would be if a Christian burial were refused. They rightly act with great awareness of our limitations in knowing what really happened spiritually and with particular care for those left behind. Surely taking one's own life is a serious matter. But how much was the individual capable of genuine reflection on what he or she was doing? How much true consent of the will was there?

I have had the sad experience of dealing with suicide many times in my 46 years as a priest. Circumstances surrounding these deaths gave strong hints to everyone who knew them that the deceased were hampered mentally or emotionally, often to a highly serious degree, at the time of death.

Sometimes those hints are positive, with obviously erratic behavior pointing to some crippling psychological dysfunction.

Sometimes they are negative, when such a self-destructive action contradicts our every experience with that person. There is no evidence of any plans or reflection beforehand. To all appearances, something inside just cracked, and we likely will never know what that might have been.

In offering Christian burial rites, we make no judgment on the individual's relationship with God. Again, as it does for all of us, the church simply begs God's mercy for the deceased and for those who have been hurt by the death. As I said, it seems to me the encouragement your priests gave you was based on solid Catholic belief about God and on what we understand today about such suicides as your son's.

Bishop's Corner

MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
Bishop of Charlotte

Editor's note: Recently, Bishop William G. Curlin shared a letter he'd written to Bishop Michael McDaniel, retired bishop of the Lutheran Synod. The Lutheran bishop has fallen quite ill, and Bishop Curlin took an opportunity to reflect on the friendship formed with his ecumenical brother in Christ:

My dear Friend,

News of your recent illness is the source of prayerful concern for all who treasure your friendship. I am mindful of the great esteem in which you are held by Bishop Begley and Archbishop Donoghue and many of the faithful in the Diocese of Charlotte. I share their sentiments with brotherly affection.

Your words of welcome and pledge of support, when I was appointed by Pope John Paul II as Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, remain a source of inspiration and encouragement in my ministry. As the former Bishop of the North Carolina Lutheran Synod, you have rich experience in the challenges and responsibilities in a bishop's ministry. Cardinal Bernardin wrote that more is required of a bishop's ministry than Episcopal ordination; it requires "a day-by-day recommitment of one's life to Jesus Christ." Your ministry reveals this commitment, for you live by Gospel values.

God has blessed you with many personal and spiritual gifts. They are very evident in your dedication to Ecumenism that was recognized by the Holy Father when he bestowed on you his pectoral cross. You zealously and tirelessly promoted the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant in North Carolina and strengthened it by establishing the Aquinas/Luther Conference annually held in Lenoir-Rhyne College. Bishop Bolick, as your successor in the North Carolina Lutheran Synod, brings to his ministry a dedication akin to your own for the cause of Ecumenism. It is a privilege to work with him for this holy purpose. You, Bishop Bolick and I know that important theological, scriptural and historical issues must yet be addressed before achieving the unity that Jesus prayed for: "That they all may be one." Yet, no division exists in the love that unites all who "have been justified by faith in Baptism and incorporated into Christ." May that love continue to guide all who pray and work for the day when all of God's children will together celebrate His love in the Eucharist.

Again, I assure you of my prayers and ask the kindness of your own. I am with sentiments of deep esteem and affection, Your devoted brother in the Lord.

The above letter is published with the permission of Bishop McDaniel. I invite you to join with me in praying God's healing grace upon my brother in Christ.

Commission members criticize, urge caution about Pius XII

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Although a Catholic-Jewish commission's report on the Vatican's World War II documents stopped far short of passing judgment on Pope Pius XII, several members expressed individual opinions on the wartime pontiff.

At an Oct. 26 news conference to present the commission's findings, a Catholic and a Jewish member of the scholarly team called Pope Pius XII's efforts against Nazi Germany inadequate, while other historians urged caution in interpreting the pope's actions.

Eva Fleischner, a Catholic theologian from Montclair State University, said Pope Pius' training as a diplomat and his emphasis on personal prayer left him unprepared for battling the Holocaust.

While the pope "saw diplomacy as the main tool for saving the situation," she said, diplomacy "simply did not work when you were confronted with the Nazi machinery."

Pope Pius' recourse to prayer could not help against the Holocaust, either, she said. Speaking as a "believing and practicing Catholic," Fleischner said Pope Pius' belief in prayer as a solution to problems was "utterly inadequate" in combating the Nazi regime.

Robert Wistrich, a Jewish member of the commission from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said the 11 volumes of documentation that the commission studied raised serious questions about whether Pope Pius did enough to stem the tide of Nazi bloodshed.

"I'm not among those who would attribute to (Pope Pius) some kind of deep-rooted anti-Semitism or indifference or complicity in any way in the murder of the Jews," he said.

"However," Wistrich asked, "did he do enough? Was his relative silence adequate to the event? I have to tell you frankly and unequivocally, I don't think it was adequate," he said.

Other scholars from the commission struck a more cautious note.

Bernard Suchecky, a Jewish historian at the Free University of Brussels, said scholars had to be careful of injecting anachronisms into their viewpoints and pointed out that the Vatican's World War II stance "must be seen in the framework" of the Europe-wide anti-Semitism of the time.

Similarly, Jesuit Father Gerald P. Fogarty of the University of Virginia said historians could not look back on the wartime period through the eyes of Pope John Paul II, who has greatly advanced Catholic-Jewish relations.

Pointing out that Pope Pius XII's election came just 10 years after the Lateran Treaty formally recognized the independence of Italy and the Vatican, Father Fogarty said the wartime pope was used to handling problems with other countries through concordats, or official agreements.

While the church's tacit approval of Jewish ghettoes in Europe as long as no torture or killing was involved was an "insensitive" position, Father Fogarty said the Vatican's stance derived from Pope Pius' attempts to "preserve the rights of the church and of Catholics guaranteed by concordats" above all else.

"So that's the issue, part of the ambiguity," he said.

Asked if the report would have any impact on Pope Pius' sainthood cause, Eugene Fisher, director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the U.S. bishops' conference, said, "That kind of question is in a different category than the historical scholarship that's going on here."

Assessing the pope's personal holiness, he said, is the task of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, "and they've got an entirely different set of criteria than either myself or this group would have."

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Development, from page 4

A visit to her sister Sue in Charlotte led to the diocesan position, and the job blended well with the couple's plans. "We knew we would leave the Midwest, and we wanted a change," she said. "I wanted to live near the ocean, and my husband wanted to live near the Appalachian Trail."

Gray helps to raise money for the schools by working with communications for the schools, the MACS Education Foundation and the Annual Giving Campaign. One of her biggest goals is to increase parental feedback and responses and to provide more effective communications, especially through "Partners in Learning," the MACS monthly newsletter.

"Faith has played a big role in my life in deciding to work in non-profits and has helped me to really find what I wanted to do," said Gray. "It has guided me toward working with people who have a strong moral fortitude."

Gina Rhodes

Before coming to the diocese to work as director of planned giving, Gina Rhodes was "all she could be"— as the famous slogan goes. She interned in high school and worked in various areas of the Army as a civilian at Fort Belvoir in Virginia.

Rhodes, the youngest of three children, grew up in Virginia and graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College with a bachelor's degree in communications. While in high school, she had an internship in the Army in the Department of Planning, Training, Mobilization and Security and helped with the soldiers' training schools.

During college and after graduation, she also worked in the service in print communications, public affairs, human resources, and other areas during school breaks and then full-time.

"I received excellent training working for the Army and got a great sense of what I wanted to do when I graduated from college," said Rhodes. "I worked with great mentors, and I fit in well with the structure of the Army. I liked working there."

Between her Army stints, she worked in a radio station as a promotions assistant fulfilling her one-time dream of working in broadcasting.

However, Rhodes wanted to do more with her talents; she wanted to "make a difference."

This desire led her to the United Way of America to the area of Emergency Food and Shelter as an associate, auditing packages for Federal Emergency Management Association, or FEMA.

"I liked getting into non-profits and seeing how donations can help others in need. I really enjoyed the work."

Work with the United Way sent her to Charlotte about five years ago to the United Way of Central Carolinas, where she could gather the experience that she was looking for in local fieldwork through campaigning.

To branch out into the area of campaigning, Rhodes began working for Wingate University as the director of annual giving. She was responsible for annual unrestricted gifts to the school from alumni and parents.

She probably would have continued working full-time had it not been for the arrival of Alex.

Her son Alex, now seven months old, is her and husband Adam's pride and joy. She wanted to spend more time with her baby, and after finding out about the open part-time position of director of planned giving through affiliation with the local chapter of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, she felt the job was right for her.

"I feel strongly that I was helped out along the way by a higher being. My little man is very important to me, and it seems like this will be a good balance between my professional and family lives," said Rhodes, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe.

Her job is to help people within the diocese make planned gifts to the Foundation, the diocese, schools, agencies or churches.

A planned gift is money left for a specific purpose either through a will, an insurance policy, real estate or other avenues.

"It is exciting to read about some of the endowments established to help people," said Rhodes. I am looking forward to learning more and helping people with their decisions and to guide them through planning for their future, the future of their loved ones and the church."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Boston disc jockeys air purported confessions

By BRIAN SMITH
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON (CNS) — Two disc jockeys on a Boston radio station who aired what they claimed were authentic confessions secretly taped in a local Catholic church were taken off the air before their regular shift ended when they refused to stop using the material.

But the DJs were back on the air three days after they broadcast the bit, and no other action was planned by the station, WAAF-FM.

General Manager Julie Kahn told the Boston Herald Oct. 31 that no further action would be taken against the station's radio team "Rocko and Birdsey" because "management 'kind of' knew about the scam in advance."

On Oct. 27, the radio team aired what they claimed were actual confessions from a local parish taped by, and supplied to them by, a listener named "Lou," who allegedly worked for a cleaning company that serves a couple of local churches.

Dave Douglas, program director for WAAF, told the Herald that the confessions were not real, and that station management was "in on the scam."

When asked by The Pilot, Boston archdiocesan newspaper, if there would be any apology forthcoming in the matter, Douglas said that it was still being considered, but that there was no deadline set for such a decision.

Douglas said he tried to stop the bit after a call from a priest in the middle of the show "made him realize that a number of people were upset and offended."

When Rocko and Birdsey refused to stop the bit, they were taken off the air 90 minutes before their regular shift ended. The duo was back on the air again Oct. 30.

In a statement to the Herald, John Walsh, spokesman for the Boston Archdiocese, said anyone who would "violate the sanctity, confidentiality, and intimacy of the confessional ... would be beneath contempt."

"How far have we gone where we're even discussing the possibility that someone would play something like this as a joke?" he asked.

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Activist priest pleads for closing of School of the Americas

By WENDY MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — What inspires one man to spend months in prison, live in poverty, travel relentlessly around the United States lecturing, risking his own health and safety? In one word, injustice.

Father Roy Bourgeois, a Maryknoll missionary and founder of School of the Americas Watch, visited western North Carolina recently and presided at Mass for parishioners at St. Eugene Church. In an address, he spoke out on what he called "irresponsible stewardship of God's creations."

In his central message at St. Eugene Church, he made his appeal. "Why should people of faith be involved?" he asked. "As followers of Jesus, we must do something about the violence and men with guns. We are called to be healers and peacemakers. As Catholics, we have a mission to heal the poor by connecting our lives to them.

"It's a moral issue to do something about the suffering and death. We must work for peace and justice. We are being empowered by our faith, and God wants us to take on the responsibility to fight terrorism and crimes against humanity."

As a Vietnam veteran and later working as a Catholic priest in the slums of Bolivia, Father Bourgeois has witnessed exploitation, violence and crimes against humanity. He has spent the last 20 years as an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America.

In 1990, he founded School of the Americas Watch, an office that does research on the U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Ga. Each year, the SOA trains hundreds of soldiers from Latin America in combat skills, financed through U.S. tax dollars. "Twenty million American dollars is spent in our name," said Father Bourgeois.

Hundreds of the school's 57,000 graduates since it was founded in 1940s have been implicated in some of Latin America's most notorious crimes and human rights abuses, particularly during Central America's civil wars of the 1970s and 1980s. Its alumni include the officers responsible for the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, for the rape and murder of four U.S. churchwomen and for the El Mozote massacre of 900 civilians in El Salvador.

The tens of thousands of people who have rallied in Georgia, Washington, D.C., and across the country against the school say it should be closed both because of what was and wasn't taught there in the past and because previous efforts to add human rights training have not been taken seriously.

Father Bourgeois became involved in El Salvador after the four U.S. churchwomen were raped and killed by Salvador soldiers. Two of the nuns were his friends. In 1989, six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter were murdered, lying face down.

Nineteen of the 27 Salvadoran officers whom a U.N. Truth Commission report implicated in the Jesuit murders were graduates of the School of the Americas. In El Mozote, over 900 unarmed civilians were killed, their bodies mutilated and burned or left to rot. Twelve officers were cited; 10 were SOA-trained.

Transformed forever by his work with the poor, Father Bourgeois dared to speak on their behalf. In his first act of civil disobedience, Father Bourgeois dressed as a high-ranking military official and climbed a tree at Fort Benning, blasting the last sermon of Archbishop Romero. That earned him 18 months in a federal prison.

Yet Father Bourgeois was undaunted, learning early on "they can't silence us."

Ten years ago, 10 people showed up at Fort Benning to protest. In 1999, the demonstration swelled to 12,000, and this year's protest is scheduled for Nov. 17-19.

Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

Photo by Wendy Murray

Father Roy Bourgeois celebrated Mass and addressed parishioners at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 10, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 10

Inside

Black Catholic History Month
Mass honors faith, culture
...PAGE 7

New president will struggle for power, say analysts
...PAGE 9

American flag meant much to war veteran
...PAGE 15

Local News

Theology on Tap
Program geared for young adult Catholics
...PAGE 3

Bishop exercises caution, cancels pilgrimage
...PAGE 5

Every Week

Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11
Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 12-13

November 12 is the Jubilee Day for Agricultural Workers in the United States

Ministry program extends helping hand to diocesan leaders

By ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

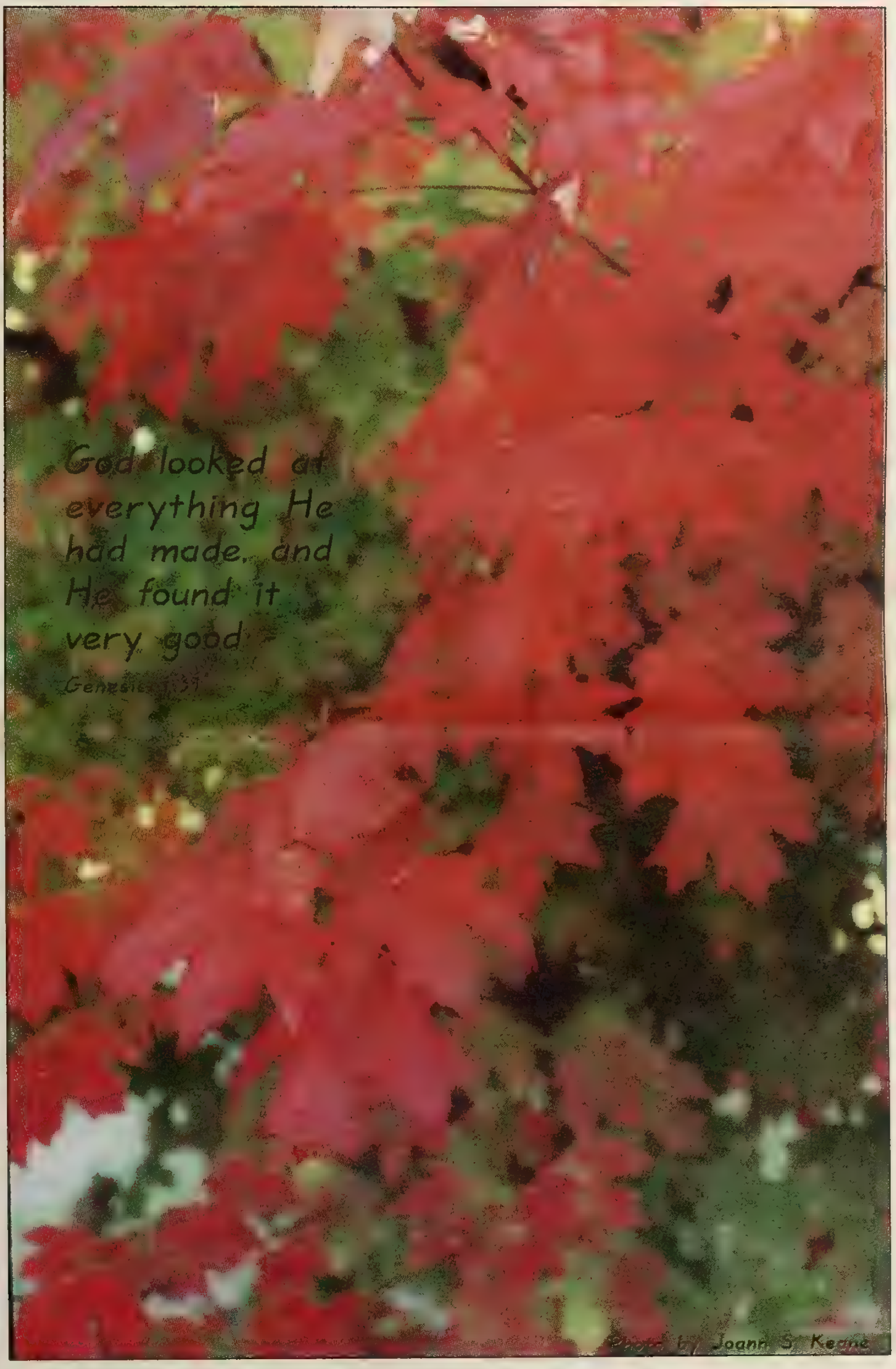
God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good
Genesis 1:31

Photo by Joann S. Keane

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan pastoral center bustled with activity as people from the Charlotte Vicariate and surrounding vicariates gathered on Nov. 3 and 4 to discuss their roles as leaders in the diocese, share experiences and develop action plans for their parish communities. The leadership training program for lay ministers, sponsored by the education vicariate, is the first of its kind in the diocese. The two-day program; consisting of interactive sessions that included encouraging feedback, questions and group work and centered around ways for attendants to become more effective parish and community leaders.

Father Jim Hawker, vicar for education, said, "I want to praise the dedicated professionals who developed and presented the sessions and congratulate the participants for their enthusiasm and commitment to cultivating their talents and skills as leaders."

This pilot program, so well received by the attendees, will be replicated in another area of the diocese next fall," continued Father Hawker.

Committee members and diocesan officials presented the weekend program, which included two different tracks. Track one consisted of three parts, while track two was comprised of four sessions on various topics.

Using the theme "Leading the Way" as a guide, the goals set for the track one participants were: understanding how leadership affects ministry, understanding how one leads and developing a plan for being an effective leader. Those goals were displayed and reiterated throughout the weekend. The volunteer leadership team of seven from different ministries and local businesses based their presentations on books and writings about leadership in a religious setting and their own education and personal experiences.

"This is the first of two programs to help develop leadership to better utilize managerial skills," said presenter Katharin Brink, who has a doctorate in organizational behavior with a concentration in leadership. "We wanted them to think more about their roles as leaders, their relationship with their followers and to build more leaders.

"On Friday, we discussed how leaders have to sometimes bring order to chaos and gave the participants the opportunity to think about the qualities of leadership. On Saturday, we moved into putting structure on their goals and discussing the importance of shared vision between the leader and the group and considering community skills," continued Brink, a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

The group had to create an action plan for something they want to enact in their own parishes. Moreover, the attendants will work to implement this plan, and in March, they will come back for the second half of the leadership program to discuss their findings and receive suggestions. Until that time, they can contact any of the presenters for aid in making their plans come to fruition.

Alicia Verdun, a track one participant, is helping to coordinate an adult bible study program at her church, Our Lady of Consolation in Charlotte. She said that she enjoyed working with people who shared some of her ideas. "Being there with other lay leaders added a value of

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE 8

Vatican confirms papal trip to Ukraine in June

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit Ukraine in June, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said. The spokesman confirmed the trip in a Nov. 6 statement after months of Vatican evaluation of a trip's potential impact on ecumenical relations. As soon as Ukraine gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Catholics in the country began asking for a papal visit. Initially it was hoped the pope would travel to Ukraine to mark the 400th anniversary of the 1595-96 Union of Brest, which re-established full communion between Rome and the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Zimbabwe crisis harms pastoral work, says archbishop

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Zimbabwe's economic crisis is severely damaging the church's pastoral work, said Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo. "I often have more than 20 people outside my office begging for money for food, clothes and school fees," the archbishop said in a Nov. 1 telephone interview from Bulawayo. "We cannot cope," he said, noting that the country's bishops "don't know how to meet our pastoral obligations in these conditions." Prices in the southern African country jumped by an average one-third in October, and official inflation is running at an annual rate of 62 percent. Less than half the work force is employed.

Immigrants in society, church on bishops' agenda

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With separate statements for civic and pastoral use, the U.S. bishops this November will consider reiterating their support for immigrants in society and the church. At their Nov. 13-16 meeting in Washington, the bishops will be asked to approve a resolution calling for immigration reform by the U.S. government and a separate pastoral statement encouraging Catholics to open their hearts and parishes to immigrants. In the draft resolution on immigration reform, the bishops' Migration Committee outlined principles for reforming U.S. immigration laws and policies. The draft said the bishops "wish to call upon our federal policy-makers to re-examine our immigration laws and enact reforms which uphold the basic dignity and human rights of immigrants among us and preserve the unity of the immigrant family."

CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

Catholic school student casts mock vote

David Rodriquez, a third-grader at St. Stanislaus School in East Chicago, Ind., casts his vote for president during a mock election Nov. 7. Students at the school studied candidates, the voting process and issues prior to the election. In the end, 214 students chose Al Gore for president; 21 voted for George W. Bush.

El Paso Diocese studies water crisis

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — El Paso faces a water crisis that demands prompt action, said the El Paso diocesan Peace and Justice Ministry. El Paso's Bishop Armando X. Ochoa urged residents to read and act on the ministry's 5,800-word "A Pastoral Reflection on the Water Crisis." It called particular attention to issues of stewardship of resources and care for the poor which are raised by the water shortage. It noted Pope John Paul II's warning earlier this year, "The lack of water might well be the principal question that humanity will have to address in the future."

Catholic-Methodist dialogue to focus on what church is

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United Methodist-Roman Catholic dialogue met in Washington Oct. 26-28 to plan its sixth round of consultations, on the theme "The Church in Each Place and in All Places." The participants' goal is to help move their churches closer to full communion by developing a common statement on the church, its unity, its structures, its local and global dimensions and its mission in the world. The U.S. Catholic-Methodist Dialogue began in 1966 and generally meets twice yearly. The group's five-year fifth round of dialogue focused on bringing dialogue between Catholics and Methodists to the grass roots.

Catholic, Lutheran leaders praise Jewish statement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Key U.S. Catholic and Lutheran leaders have publicly thanked a group of Jewish scholars and religious leaders for issuing "Dabru Emet: A Jewish Statement on Christians and Christianity." A group of Catholic bishops said they welcome the "gesture of reconciliation" and "urge Catholics throughout the United States to read it with care and loving respect." Lutheran representatives called the document a "bold step" and thanked the Jewish scholars for their efforts. "Dabru emet," Hebrew for "speak the truth," is an instruction from the Lord in the Book of Zechariah. The Jewish statement, signed by 170 scholars and religious leaders, was issued Sept. 10 as a full-page ad in The New York Times and The (Baltimore) Sun. It said that "Christianity has changed dramatically" in its views of Jews and Judaism, and it urged Jews to respond in kind with a new attitude toward Christians.

Shooting reaches Bethlehem University; official voices concern

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — The vice chancellor of Catholic-run Bethlehem University expressed "grave concern" after an Israeli bullet shot through a university residence. Christian Brother David Scarpa had just gotten up from the chair next to the window Nov. 1, when the bullet tore through the window and, after ricocheting around his front office, landed on the floor next to his computer. Another bullet was found near the Social Cultural Center of the university the following day, and a classroom was hit by gunfire during a confrontation Oct. 25. The university is less than a mile from Rachel's Tomb, where clashes between Israelis and Palestinians occur.

Lutheran, Catholic bishops in Ohio sign historic covenant

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (CNS) — Catholic Bishop Thomas J. Tobin of Youngstown and Lutheran Bishop Marcus J. Miller signed a historic covenant Oct. 29 between the Catholic diocese and the Northeast Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The document is expected to have far-reaching implications in terms of prayer, study, and action involving the two Christian faith traditions. It is a local embodiment of the historic joint statement on justification signed at Augsburg, Germany, in 1999 that ended nearly 500 years of official disagreement between the denominations. Calling it a "happy, holy, and historic night," Bishop Tobin welcomed the Lutherans who helped to fill St. Columba Cathedral and said the initiative "is good for our community in northeast Ohio" because of its commitment to ongoing prayer, study, and action.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 13-16
National Catholic Bishops' Conference
Washington. D.C.

November 15 — 1 p.m.
Televised bishops' panel concerning poultry industry and Hispanic community
Washington, D.C.

November 16 — 6:30 a.m.
Celebrant and homilist for bishops' Mass
National Catholic Bishops' Conference
Washington, D.C.

November 18 — 2 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

Thanksgiving Ball
House of Mercy, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

November

13 CHARLOTTE — A support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent is being held tonight and Nov. 27 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Ruth Posey, who may be reached at (704) 370-3238, is the facilitator for both dates.

GREENSBORO — Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, is the guest speaker at the noontime information gathering at the Franciscan Center, 233 N. Greene St., today from 12:10-1 p.m. The topic is "November and the Communion of Saints: Death and Beyond," and a love offering is being taken before the meal. For more information, call the center at (336) 273-2554.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, Mecklenburg County Division, is hosting an open membership meeting for all area Catholic men of Irish ancestry tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Room C of the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd. For details, call Mike Callinan at (704) 841-9195 or e-mail Tim Lawson at NCAOH@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — Room at the Inn is having its annual banquet to support single, homeless women facing a crisis pregnancy at the Charlotte Convention Center with guest speaker Ambassador Alan Keyes. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. For reservations, call Kim Grady at (704) 525-1199.

GREENSBORO — All are welcome to join the Greensboro Council of Catholic Women for their annual Mass of remembrance for deceased members, family and friends this morning at 11 a.m. with lunch following the Mass. Yearly dues are being collected this morning or can be sent in at any time. For further details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

18 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., is holding its annual Holiday Bazaar today from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. and Nov. 19 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Featured events and items include a Sat. cookie walk, craft sale, raffles, silent auction and food. For more

Young adults tap into faith, spirituality with new program

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Food, discussions and a time for reflection sprinkled with spiritual themes have replaced regular evening outings for many Catholics around Charlotte. Young adults have been attending the Theology on Tap program, sponsored by Campus and Young Adult Ministry.

An average of 75 to 80 participants have attended the alternating 7 p.m. Tuesday and Sunday gatherings at Southend Brewery and area churches thus far, and many have attended more than one or all of the sessions.

"About half of the people are new to the area including a few people where this was their first contact with Catholics in Charlotte," said Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry. "A few of the people I have talked to said that they hadn't chosen a church yet, and this is a way for them to come back into the church and to ease them into the Diocese of Charlotte."

People have had the opportunity to listen to clergy, women religious and lay people from across the diocese speak about various topics including vocations, prayer and discernment of one's personal call.

"We have had a good variety of speakers, a wide range of people, including Sister Larretta who shared her spirituality through poetry and Father Matthew Kauth who used the repetitive litany of the Our Father, which sounded almost like a Baptist sermon," said McDermott.

Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, director of faith formation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, publicly read poems from her personal journal for the first time at the Oct. 24 gathering at Southend Brewery. After reading, people asked questions about her life as a woman religious and how one can be sure of the path that God wants one to follow.

"We can't get by without prayer and contemplation. The more our faith increases, the more we are able to live in the present moment," said Sister Larretta. "My theology is of the church, and we have to personalize some things, as I do with my poetry, from a theological perspective in order to understand God."

Sister Larretta's support section, her Sisters of Mercy, also added unscheduled responses to questions about their vocations and how they responded to their call to religious life. Sister Larretta said that her faith journey is constant, and it is something that she works on even after nearly twenty years in the religious life.

"I love it that the women religious talked about how they came to a vocation and how today that so few people are challenged with the question of vocations," said Will Esser, who recently moved to Charlotte and has been visiting various churches in the diocese. "It is a real benefit to have young Catholics get together on a religious basis and be able to challenge each other with their faith. It is great to feel that it is OK to be Catholic and to live your faith."

Newlyweds Chris and Kelly Haver have also enjoyed the sessions. "I like interacting with people our own age and being able to meet people from other churches," said Mrs. Haver, who is now going through the RCIA process. "It has helped me learn more about Catholicism."

"It has been educational, and we are getting to know people on a personal level in a relaxed setting," said Mr. Haver.

Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar at St. Gabriel Church, is speaking at his parish on Nov. 12, and Julie Ostergaard, associate campus minister at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem is speaking at Southend on Nov. 21. Bishop Curlin is the guest speaker on Dec. 3 at St. Peter Church.

"People are getting something out of it. Some are getting more from hearing the speakers than others, while some are happy to meet other young Catholics," said Jennifer Rupp, the diocesan program coordinator for youth and young adult ministry. "Everyone appreciates that it is being done."

Theology on Tap is a program that originally began in Chicago as a way for people in their late teens through their thirties to connect and share their faith through discussions, music and dialogue, said McDermott.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 10, 2000

Dear Friends in Christ,

Three years have passed since Bishop Gossman of the Raleigh Diocese and I issued our first Joint Pastoral, "Of One Heart and One Mind." In the letter, we stated: "Our Faith tradition as Catholics calls us to put the needs of the poor and the vulnerable before all else. In our job-oriented economy, this tradition is expressed in the security of gainful employment."

We pleaded on behalf of those in our communities who have been "left out and left behind" in a prosperous and growing economy. And especially, we found it unacceptable in a nation that has sufficient resources to care for all of its people, that the economic recovery "...has generated a wider income and benefit gulf between the upper and lower ends of the work force." And finally, we confirmed in the Pastoral that we must shape the world of work so that the God-given dignity of each human being is acknowledged, respected and protected.

The Annual Bishops' collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development on the weekend of November 18th and 19th is an effective way to raise our voices on behalf of the poor and the powerless. In honoring CCHD for its thirty years of bringing justice and charity into the workplace and marketplace, the neighborhoods and our rural areas, we are recognizing and implementing the Biblical call to see and to serve the poorest among us. In the CCHD tradition, we empower people to control their own lives and to develop their potential; we are getting at the root causes of their poverty and empowering them to be a partner in their own development.

With these realities in mind, please join me in supporting the work of the Campaign. It gives all of us an opportunity to practice a modern-day version of Christ's Beatitudes.

Prayerfully yours in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin

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information, call Maryellen or Jim at (704) 599-0781 or (704) 549-1607 or e-mail stabazaar.home.att.net.

19 CHARLOTTE — Join the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Stateville Ave., for their 20th anniversary celebration concert this afternoon at 5 p.m. "It's Time" is the theme as they commemorate 20 years as a choir. For more information, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

20 CHARLOTTE — All are invited to join the St. Matthew Church's "Alive in the Spirit" prayer group for a Mass to gain the special jubilee indulgence at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7 p.m. with Monsignor John McSweeney. For more information about the Mass or about the celebration of reconciliation prior to the Mass, call Barbara Gardner at (704) 846-8133.

21 CHARLOTTE — Theology on Tap is a program for young adults in their late teens, 20s and 30s to reintroduce them to the church and to refresh or strengthen their involvement in their religion. The sessions continue tonight at 7 p.m. at Southend Brewery, 2100 South Blvd., with Julie Ostergaard, associate campus minister at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. Bishop Curlin will be the speaker on Dec. 3 at St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St. For details, call Jen Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church,2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Father Eric Kowalski is presenting "Hey, That Wasn't in the Brochure," a session about theology, the practice of priesthood and the life of a priest. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

22 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

24 CONYERS, Ga. — The Holy Spirit Trappist-Cistercian Monastery for men in Conyers, Ga., and the Our Lady of the Angels Trappist-Cistercian Monastery for women in Crozet, Va., are hosting two live-in experiences this weekend through Nov. 28 and Jan. 3-7 with personal testimonies and conferences given by the monks. The retreats are free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 340-5705 or e-mail deserttraveler@aol.com.

27 CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the meeting or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Ongoing

BOONVILLE — All are invited to make a private retreat in the woods at New Creation Monastery, 1433 Richmond Hill Rd. Prayerful and reflective weekends can be planned for up to six people. For scheduling and other details, call the monastery at (336) 699-4005

CHARLOTTE — Catholic Singles of Charlotte is a non-denominational, social group for singles over 21. Events include Mass and brunch, weekend trips, movies, dinners and much more. For more information and a calendar, call Donna at (704) 549-4590 or Gina at (704) 679-9614. Call Donald Howard with any questions at (704) 521-2790.

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Guilford County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, has celebrated its first year as a division and are looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them. Meetings are evenings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Also, a ladies' division is forming, and members are needed. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Welch brings tears and laughter to Bernardin Lectures

By PAUL A. BARRA
FOR THE MISCELLANY

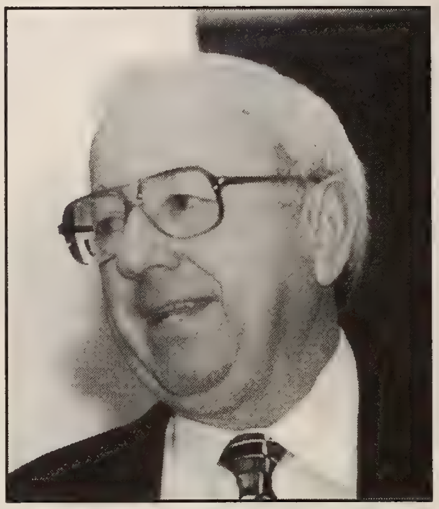

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MISCELLANY

Bud Welch's only daughter was killed in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995. He will be in Charlotte next month as part of a restorative justice program.

COLUMBIA — Bud Welch lived every parent's worst nightmare and he went crazy. His only daughter was blown up in the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 in her first year out of college, two hours before he was to meet her for lunch. For months the rage he felt surfaced in a severe drinking problem and what he called temporary insanity, but he turned his life around and came to South Carolina to tell people how he came to be a fighter against the death penalty for the killer of his girl.

Emmett E. "Bud" Welch was the featured speaker at the second annual Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Lectures on the campus of the University of South Carolina on Oct. 9. He drew a capacity audience to the Lumpkin Auditorium.

"I can remember the morning Julie was killed," Welch told the silent crowd. "She had gone to 7 a.m. Mass before work."

The young woman was a daily communicant, her father said, a graduate of Marquette University and in love with a second lieutenant. She worked for the federal government as a linguist. She was at work when Timothy McVeigh blew up the Murrah Federal Building, killing her and 167 other people. Welch wanted McVeigh "fried."

That was before he met Bill McVeigh, father of the mass murderer. When he first saw him on television, he recognized something familiar in the older McVeigh.

"I saw the pain in his eyes," Welch said.

A nun friend of the Oklahoma gas station owner arranged a visit between the two Irish Catholic men in western New York. Welch was already in demand nationally as a speaker against the death penalty. Still, he felt unsettled and unsure of his emotions, he said, sitting in the kitchen of the McVeigh family home with the father of the man who killed his daughter and with McVeigh's own daughter. He discovered that he was inexplicably moved by the grief apparent in the killer's kin.

"I found a bigger victim of the Oklahoma City bombing than me. Every morning Bill McVeigh has to face the awful truth that his son killed 168 innocent people," Welch said.

Welch promised to work to keep Tim McVeigh from being executed for his crime. That promise was cathartic.

"I felt as if a great weight had been lifted from my shoulders. I never felt closer to God."

He said that some people "get a feel-good over killing a caged human being, but if Jesus Christ was to come here to South Carolina today, he would go straight to Death Row — because he was on it himself."

Bud Welch was a good speaker, but it was his message that drew Catholics and others opposed to capital punishment. Paula Loehr, for instance, a prison ministry worker from St. James in Conway, said that Welch had earned credibility.

"It (the abolition message) needs to come from people who have lived the experience. He's lived it, so it means something," Loehr said.

Father Joe Wahl of The Oratory came to the talk to support USC for sponsoring the Bernardin Lectures. He thinks that public opinion about the death penalty is gradually changing.

"I hear in the prayers of the faithful (during Mass), more and more people praying for an end to the death penalty," Father Wahl said. "There's a change of heart here, and there should be. If you remove all the adjectives, then a life is a life."

Mariano LaVia, a native Roman who is a member of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, said that his adopted country is the only civilized one in the western world that still practices capital punishment. But, he said, civility is but one aspect of the controversy.

"It's a moral issue," LaVia said. "We must give a person a chance to repent before we end his life."

He thought that the Welch talk was appropriate for a lecture series named after the late cardinal archbishop of Chicago, since Bernardin espoused a "seamless garment of life" philosophy. President John Palms of USC agreed with LaVia on the appropriateness of the university's invitation to Welch, especially in light of the impending elections.

"I hope that the electorate will be enlightened this evening," he said.

Palms' institution sponsors the Bernardin Lectures to "honor the life and legacy of the cardinal." USC is raising money now for a Bernardin Chair in ethical, moral and religious studies, which will be held by a scholar and teacher of national stature when it is fully funded. The chairholder will specialize in Catholicism or ecumenism or American religious history.

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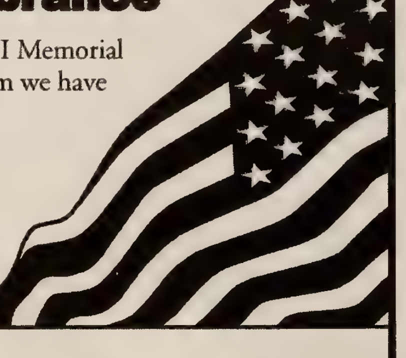

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We are making donations to the new WWII Memorial in memory of each WWII veteran for whom we have provided funeral services during this year.
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Bishop exercises caution, cancels Holy Land pilgrimage as violence continues

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — As violence escalates in the Middle East, Bishop William G. Curlin has cancelled his Lenten 2001 Holy Land pilgrimage.

Although the pilgrimage, scheduled for a March 2001, departure is months away, "It is impossible at this time to predict how the Middle East situation will evolve in the immediate future," said Bishop Curlin. "We are very concerned, and certainly would not conduct a pilgrimage as the situation is now. We can just watch, pray and wait," he said.

The United States State Department issued a travel warning Oct. 24, asking U.S. citizens to defer all travel to Israel. While this is not a ban on travel, the strongly worded statement urges Americans to be mindful of a 'heightened threat of terrorist incidents in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

Among major sites for Christianity located within the Old City of Jerusalem are the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where Jesus was crucified and buried, and along the Via Dolorosa, the route Jesus took in carrying his cross to Calvary. Bethlehem, where Jesus was born and the Mount of Temptation, where he was tempted by the devil, are in the West Bank.

"Violent clashes and confrontations continue to take place throughout the West Bank and Gaza, warns the U.S. State Department. "Private citizens should avoid travel to these areas at this time."

More than a month of protests have left more than 165 dead, mostly Palestinians and Israeli Arabs.

"The situation in Israel deeply saddens us, and we pray for peace in the Middle East," said Bishop Curlin. "We hope to see a resolution soon, and look forward to a future pilgrimage to the Holy Land, perhaps for the Lenten season in the following year, 2002."

Alternately, Bishop Curlin will lead a Lenten pilgrimage to Italy. This pilgrimage will depart Charlotte on March 13, and return on the 22nd.

Time on this Italian trip will be spent in Florence, Assisi and Rome, with day trips to outlying towns and villages. With several days in each location, more reflection time will be available.

The pilgrimage will be in Rome for the Wednesday audience with Pope John Paul II.

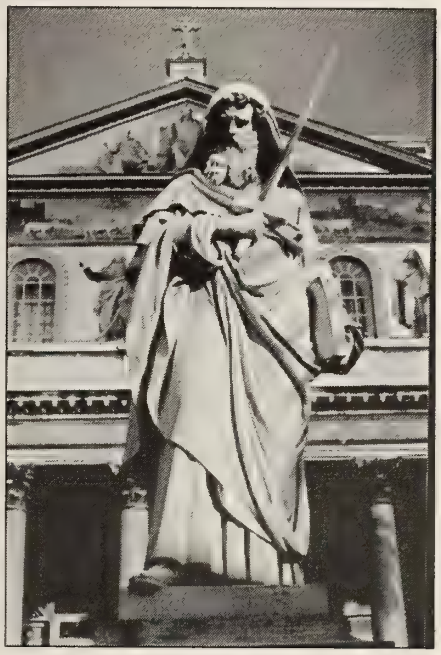

Photo By Joann S. Keane

St. Paul Outside-the-Walls basilica is the largest church in Rome after St. Peter's. The basilica is one of the five patriarchal basilicas of Rome. The statue of St. Paul holds the inscription, "To the preacher of truth, the teacher of nations." St. Paul Outside-the-Walls will be among the churches visited during the pilgrimage with Bishop William G. Curlin in March.

For more information on the Italian Lenten pilgrimage with Bishop Curlin, send your name, address and phone number to: Joann S. Keane, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203,or email jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Jerusalem patriarch meets Arafat, expresses solidarity

By Catholic News Service

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem met with Palestinian National Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza and expressed Christian solidarity with the Palestinian leadership.

During the hourlong meeting Nov. 6, Patriarch Sabbah told Arafat he supported efforts to end the current violence and reach a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Patriarch Sabbah, who initiated the meeting, was accompanied by small delegation of priests, including Father Manuel Musallam, a parish priest in Gaza; Father Maroun Laham, director of Beit Jalla Seminary; and Father William Shomaly, general administrator at the Latin Patriarchate.

The patriarch also extended greetings from Pope John Paul II and noted the pontiff's concern about the ongoing situation.

Father Raed Abusahlia, chancellor of the Latin Patriarchate, declined to give further comment about the content of the meeting, calling it a "private visit" and a "courtesy call," noting that it was "friendly."

The patriarch meets occasionally with the Palestinian leader, Father Abusahlia said.

Some 5,000 Christians, mainly Greek Orthodox, live among Gaza's 1 million residents. The Latin-rite Catholic parish in Gaza has about 500 parishioners; 1,000 children attend the parish school, and a new school is under construction. In addition, the Rosary Sisters opened one of their own schools in Gaza this year.

Many Catholic social welfare organizations and religious orders are active in Gaza, including Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency; the Pontifical Mission for Palestine; the Little Sisters of Jesus and the Missionary Sisters of Charity.

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Cardinal Law lauds debt relief, shift on Cuba embargo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee, has praised congressional action on debt relief for poor countries. He also welcomed "the fact that, for the first time in many years, the majority of the members of Congress have expressed their clear will that the outmoded Cuban embargo must, sooner rather than later, be abandoned." He said those two international issues "have been of particular concern to the U.S. Catholic bishops."

Argentine priest, 72, calls off hunger strike after 56 days

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (CNS) — After 56 days without food, Argentine Father Antonio Puigjane bowed to the insistence of his doctors and fellow protesters and called off a hunger strike that had brought his health to a severely weakened state. After ending his strike Oct. 30, the tenacious 72-year-old member of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars vowed to continue with the struggle for a retrial, or pardon, for himself and others convicted more than a decade ago of trying to overthrow the Argentine state. "I will go on fighting; it was an injustice that they did to us. We all feel aggrieved. The sentences must be commuted," he said.

Head of Caritas to visit North Korea to bolster aid projects

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Seeking to bolster humanitarian projects in North Korea, the head of Caritas Internationalis announced a visit to the communist country. Duncan MacLaren, secretary general of the umbrella Catholic aid organization, was to depart Nov. 2 for a two-week tour of Hong Kong, Macau, Beijing, North Korea and South Korea. Speaking to the Vatican's missionary news agency Fides Oct. 31, MacLaren said his trip to North Korea "hopefully will result in a deepened commitment from the Caritas confederation to continue its solidarity at an exciting time in Korea's history."

CNS PHOTO BY EDGAR ROMERO

Portraits of slain churchwomen held at service

Portraits of Maryknoll Sister Ita Ford, Jean Donovan, Maryknoll Sister Maura Clarke and Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel are held up during a Mass in San Salvador Oct. 21, while a civil trial against two former Salvadoran military men suspected of involvement their murders continued in Florida. The women were kidnapped, raped and shot dead Dec. 2, 1980, along a roadside in central El Salvador.

New York bishops urge reform of criminal justice system

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — The criminal justice system's "almost exclusive dependence on incarceration" must be rejected in favor of an approach that emphasizes "healing for the victim, rehabilitation and reintegration for the offender, and safety and stability for society," the bishops of New York state said. The bishops' statement, called "Restoring All to the Fullness of Life: A Pastoral Statement on Criminal Justice for the Jubilee Year," was released Oct. 30 by the New York State Catholic Conference in Albany. The bishops called for a moratorium on executions leading to an eventual repeal of the death penalty in the state; modification of the mandatory sentencing provisions of the state's Rockefeller drug laws; and reconsideration of the use of "special housing units" which give inmates no human contact for 23 hours a day.

At Vatican, Jerusalem patriarch leads prayers for Mideast peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jerusalem's Latin-rite patriarch led prayers for Middle East peace during an evening service in St. Peter's Square with thousands of jubilee pilgrims. Giving the Oct. 31 gathering special weight, Pope John Paul II made a rare appearance from his studio window above the square to address participants at the prayer's close. Patriarch Michel Sabbah, the pope said, "brought to our prayer this evening the reminder of the dramatic situation of that population which is so dear to me." In a brief homily during the prayer service, Patriarch Sabbah said the Holy Land is today "the land of violence, of death, of hate and of destruction, and cries to the Lord, demanding justice."

Knights of Columbus Council 10505 celebrates 10th anniversary

CHARLOTTE - More than 165 people were present for the St. Thomas Aquinas Knights of Columbus Council 10505 10th anniversary Mass and celebration on Nov. 4 at the Aquinas Hall at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. The evening started with a Mass, complete with an honor guard and knights performing the usher, lector and Eucharistic minister duties. Capuchin Father Martin Schratz, chaplain of the council and the parish's parochial vicar, was the celebrant. The banquet following the Mass included B.J. Taylor, State Warden; Greg Kent, District Deputy; Terry Reed, 10505 Grand Knight and Capuchin Father Ignatius Zampino, pastor, as guests.

Debt relief bill signed into law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A global effort for debt relief prompted by Pope John Paul II bore fruit Nov. 6 as President Clinton signed a bill setting aside $435 million to forgive debts owed by the world's poorest countries. At a White House ceremony celebrating approval of the legislation, Clinton praised the bipartisan political effort responsible for the bill's approval in Congress. "I believe this is one of the most important moments of the last eight years for the United States of America," Clinton said.

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Campus ministry community, Greensboro parish celebrate Black Catholic History Month

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — In a setting filled with gospel music, preaching and fervent prayer, a celebration of faith and culture elevated the spirit of a Mass observing Black Catholic History Month at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro.

"Celebrating the Church in the African Diaspora" was the theme of the Nov. 4 Mass, sponsored by the Catholic Campus Ministry for North Carolina A & T University and Bennett College, St. Pius X Church and the Ladies Friendship Club of St. Mary Catholic Church, all in Greensboro.

The state university and private college serve predominately black student bodies.

Defined, a diaspora is a migration, a scattering of an originally homogenous people. In music and word, the congregation at the liturgy honored the spread of faith through the world while remembering the often-turbulent global migration of African peoples through the centuries.

"Tonight we are celebrating so beautifully," said Bishop William G. Curlin, who presided at the Mass. To the members of the black Catholic community assembled, he added, "We gave your ancestors tears and humiliation and suffering, and you took the stones off our hearts."

Bishop Curlin referred to the strong faith of African Americans he has encountered in his life and ministry, particularly recalling two elderly women who worshipped at a Washington, D.C., church where he once served as pastor.

"They gave me a whole new vision of what life was really like," he said of Miss Hattie and Miss Rebecca, who shared with a young Father Curlin stories about prejudice, poverty and, most of all, faith.

"They opened our hearts to what the Gospel is all about: the Jesus in each one of us. With all the prejudice and ... history of suffering that brought their ancestors to this country in chains, they knew that freedom was in your heart. They knew that the spirit of Jesus is what really makes the nobility, not birth into some rich family."

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Alberta Hairston, pictured center, said the annual Gospel Mass at St. Pius X is an educational and spiritual opportunity for all those assembled.

They changed his life, he said, giving him the heart to be a compassionate priest.

The Mass featured the music of the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, one of a handful of black Catholic parishes in the diocese. Banners representing the spread of native African peoples across the world into the Americas, the Caribbean, Europe and elsewhere decorated the sanctuary.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, the diocese's vice chancellor and vicar for its African American Affairs Ministry, read the Gospel.

A roll call honoring blacks active in spreading the faith and those who provided outreach to them began the liturgy. Among those included were:

- St. Augustine, who converted from a life of sin and later wrote thousands of letters, sermons and books to instruct the early church, who became the first doctor of the church from North Africa and whose teaching continues to influence the church today.
- St. Josephine Bakhita, a former Sudanese slave who gained freedom, became a Daughter of Charity and, decades after her death, was canonized last month by Pope John Paul II.
- St. Benedict the Moor, a Sicily-born son of African-slave parents who later became a devout Franciscan brother.
- Pierre Toussaint, a Haitian who later settled in New York and became a well-known supporter of orphans, the poor, the homeless and the sick.
- St. Katherine Drexel, a wealthy Philadelphia-born heiress whose concern for the poor — especially black and Indian needy — led her to religious life, during which time she donated much money to churches and schools, including here in North Carolina. Like St. Josephine Bakhita, she was canonized in October 2000.
- Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration Thea Bowman, a convert to the faith who became a respected teacher, preacher and evangelizer while inspiring the faith among the African American Catholic community before her death in 1990. Thea House, the Catholic campus ministry center serving N.C. A & T and Bennett College, is named in her memory.

The Mass offered the congregation the chance to celebrate, to learn and to remember — not as a community of people divided by color, but as a community of believers united in a common bond of faith.

Father Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church, thanked Alberta Hairston, Catholic campus minister at N.C. A & T and Bennett College, for her devoted ministry in Greensboro and noted that the college experience itself is a diaspora that brings many people of different places and backgrounds together.

"Wherever you come from, this is your home, especially during those four — maybe five — years which we call college," a smiling Father Marcaccio told the students, who worship at St. Pius X Church.

Hairston said the annual Mass gives the students and the parish the chance to reflect on what it means to be members of the universal church.

"For us as African American Catholics, it's an opportunity to really celebrate who we are within our culture and our tradition," she said. "In this particular area, where Catholics are a minority and African American Catholics are a minority within a minority, there's a lot of teaching and education that must go on.

See GOSPEL MASS, page 14

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Leadership, from page 1

Photo by Alesha M. Price

From left to right, Donna Rayle from St. John Neumann Church, Judy Devlin and Joe Vagnone from Our Lady of Assumption Church, John Kopfle from St. Vincent Church and Terry Aiken, one of the presenters at the Leadership for Lay Ministers Training Worskshop, discuss Aiken's presentation about race and diversity on Nov. 4 at the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte.

having other resources outside of the parish. Having come from a corporate environment, I am using those same skills and talents and applying them to a religious environment. You as a leader have to know where God is calling you and what he is calling you to do," said Verdun.

The people who chose track two could attend two of the four sessions. Richard Lucey, diocesan attorney, presented "Civil Law and Legal Concerns: Affecting Lay Ministers."

"We discussed the make-up of civil law including statutory enactments and case law developments with particular emphasis on matters that have resulted in litigation involving the diocese over the last twenty years," said Lucey. "Also included was discussion of the Diocese of Charlotte Loss Prevention and Safety Manual with its varied forms."

Joanna Case, who works with Catechetical Initiation Ministry and conducts workshops for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate, talked about "Facilitating Faith Experience: Skills for Spiritual Growth and Companioning." "We used a method of theological reflection and discussed how to use that method as a pattern to help people understand their own spiritual growth," said Case.

Judicial Vicar Father Peter Jugis' session "Canon Law: Affecting Lay Ministers" concerned an analysis of the view of the church since Vatican II and its expression in the code of canon law. "We have canon laws; which encompass the church's liturgy, sacraments and the organization of the church on a parish, diocesan and universal church level; to create order within the church so that we can grow in faith and also carry out the church's mission of salvation in the world," said Father Jugis. "We also discussed the role and place of the lay person in carrying out the mission of Christ's salvation in the world."

Terry Aiken, a Guilford County juvenile court counselor, facilitated a session about "Issues of Inculturation: Skills for Multi-Cultural Sensitivities," which included exercises, where participants gave a list of assumptions about the speaker based on little previous information and discussed their own experiences with race and ethnicity.

"My role was to make certain participants are aware of who they are and that they understand they should challenge the assumptions they may have had prior to coming into this workshop. I hope that they take that information back to their communities, churches and neighborhoods, where they can be messengers of hope and truly foster the appreciation of differences," said Aiken.

The program resulted from an initial group of diocesan volunteers who reviewed surveys sent in by parish catechetical leaders, campus and youth ministers, religious education directors and other parish leaders. They designed a program which would address areas of concern raised by the lay ministers in their surveys.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Agency says Clinton Vietnam visit could help religious freedom

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's upcoming trip to Vietnam could usher in greater religious freedom in the communist country, said the Vatican's missionary news service, Fides.

During his Nov. 17-18 visit, Clinton was scheduled to meet with Christian leaders, including Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man of Ho Chi Minh City. He was also expected to attend Mass in Ho Chi Minh City's Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

Local Catholics hope the meetings with Catholic and Protestant representatives will result in a forceful human rights appeal by Clinton to the Vietnamese government, said Fides.

A September U.S. State Department report on religious freedom around the world listed Vietnam among countries that control religious belief or practice using authoritarian measures.

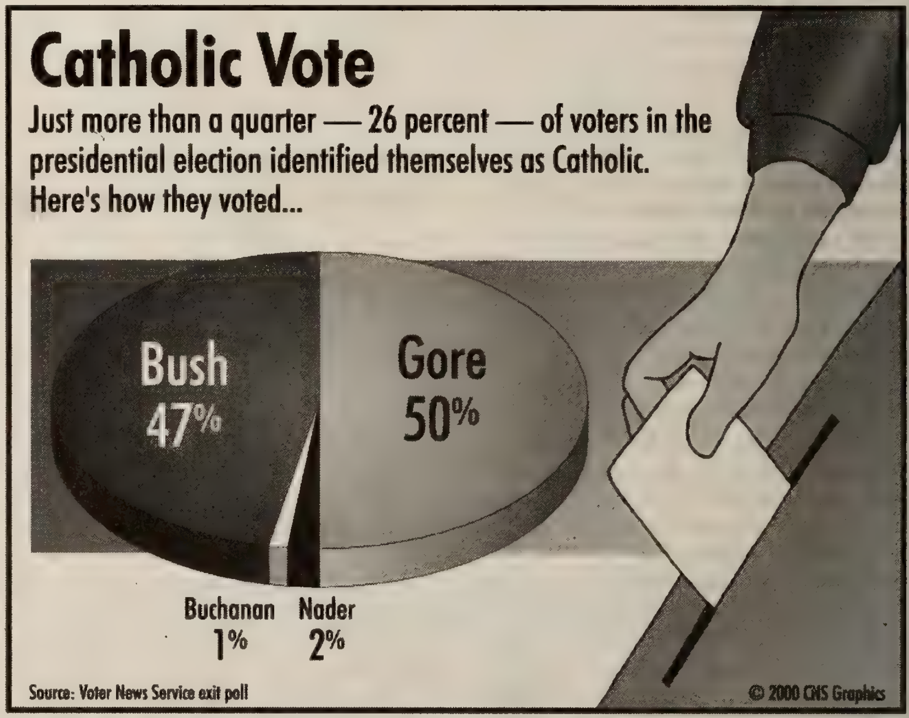
Fides quoted an unnamed member of the Archdiocese of Ho Chi Minh City as saying he hoped Clinton "will speak not only of economy and business contracts but also of human and religious rights."

But one Vatican source pointed to Clinton's support of China's entry into the World Trade Organization despite human rights abuses as reason to doubt the outgoing president's trip would harbinger any real changes.

He said that while Clinton began his presidency touting human rights as central to his platform, the issue has "practically turned into an appendix."

Fides reported that Vietnamese Catholics suggested Clinton also meet with Bishop Nicholas Hyunh Van Nghi of Phan Thiet, who works closely with flood victims in the Mekong Delta region.

The Vatican source said Bishop Nghi is more "outspoken" than Archbishop Man and might be more forthcoming with the president on the subject of the need for religious liberty in Vietnam.



Catholic Vote

Just more than a quarter — 26 percent — of voters in the presidential election identified themselves as Catholic. Here's how they voted...

Source: Voter News Service exit poll

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Jubilee for Farmers calls for care of Earth, says Vatican

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Jubilee for Farmers will be celebrated on the Vatican's Day of Thanksgiving for the Gifts of Creation, underlining the importance of agriculture but also the need to care for the earth.

The Nov. 11-12 celebrations express "the lordship of God over the Earth and, at the same time, the gift of the Earth given to humanity to cultivate," said Msgr. Fernando Charrier, the Vatican organizer.

No other Holy Year celebration is tied more closely to the Old Testament jubilee, a year when fields were left to rest and injustices were addressed by restoring property to its original owners, freeing slaves and forgiving debts, he said.

"The social aspects of the Old Testament jubilee have important repercussions for us today: We must recognize the gifts of the Earth, protect them, recognize the injustices which continue and commit ourselves to correcting them," Msgr. Charrier said at a Nov. 7 Vatican press conference.

Tens of thousands of farmers from Italy and representatives of Catholic rural life organizations from around the world were scheduled to attend a special jubilee Mass Nov. 12 celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

In addition, the leaders, staff members and ambassador's to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Program and International Fund for Agricultural Development — all based in Rome — were expected to participate.

While fewer than 100,000 people were expected at the jubilee Mass, its focus on rural life is a focus on more than half of the world's population, said the Vatican's representative to FAO, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto.

According to U.N. statistics, of the world's 5.8 billion people, 3.5 billion live in rural areas and 2.5 billion of them work in the agricultural sector.

The participation of the U.N. organizations, the archbishop said, "will demonstrate the unity of all men and women of good will on behalf of the jubilee cause of liberation, including from hunger."

The archbishop said hunger is "a tremendous slavery," which oppresses 800 million of the world's people.

"As regards our relationship with Mother Earth, it must be affirmed that she is not to be exploited, but cultivated," Archbishop Marchetto said. "We must transform into a relationship of communion that which until now has been mainly a relationship of exploitation, becoming aware of the fact that the goods which nature offers to all must be respected because they are the heritage of the whole human family."

Archbishop Marchetto said the world needs a true form of global governance, an institution which not only would suggest common policies, but could activate them to guarantee a coordinated production of food to feed everyone while protecting the environment for future generations.

Agriculture, forests and fishing are all tied to environmental conditions and impact them, he said. Therefore, caring for the environment is not an end in itself, but a condition for guaranteeing human life.

Msgr. Charrier's committee planning the jubilee published "God's Earth, Mankind's Earth" to help people reflect on Christian principles of environmentalism.

The document said that among the many factors impacting the global environment is "the run-away planetary population growth and the need to provide ever greater quantities of food."

Msgr. Charrier said some developed countries have tried to tie foreign assistance to population-control programs in the Third World, an unjust practice that denies the rights of individual couples to determine the size of their families.

"Experts say the world can feed 10 billion or even 12 billion people if we share and cooperate in production and distribution," he said. "Rich countries cannot seek shortcuts by limiting the number of children the poor can have."

The Vatican document said, "Human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, have a unique place as the crowning of creation," and their rights must have precedence in any project to protect the environment.

Cardinal Roger Etchegary, president of the Vatican's jubilee committee, said the Nov. 12 events celebrate one of the first articles of the Christian creed: the belief in God as creator of heaven and earth.

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New president will struggle for power, say analysts

By Catholic News Service

Editor's note: As of press time, the general election for the presidency had not yet been decided. The Catholic News & Herald will run coverage of the election in next week's issue.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Though the result of the presidential race was still unclear the day after the election, whoever moves into the Oval Office in January should expect slow progress on his agenda, analysts said.

Americans woke up Nov. 8 to hear that the outcome of the race between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush was perhaps less certain than it was when they went to bed.

A margin of less than 2,000 votes separated Gore and Bush in Florida, where absentee ballots and a legally required recount dragged the result of one of the closest races in history into at least the next day.

The razor-thin nationwide margin between victor and loser means "there is no national mandate for either candidate," said Joe Grieboski, president of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy.

"That will be the big effect, no matter who wins, both politically and in day-to-day governing," he told Catholic News Service the morning after Election Day. "We're going to see a very different first 100 days of the presidency than we have in a while."

Stephen Wayne, a government professor at Jesuit-run Georgetown University, said the close outcome of the presidential race as well as the narrow majorities Republicans still reportedly held in the House and Senate mean that whoever wins will find it hard to do "anything dramatic" as president.

"The name of the game is compromise, it's moderation, it's incremental victories," Wayne said.

Exit poll data that breaks down how specific groups of people voted also was still being analyzed the day after the election.

Preliminary results of Voter News Service's exit poll for The Associated Press and the major television networks said that nationwide, 47 percent of Catholics voted for Bush and 50 percent voted for Gore.

People who said they attend religious services at least once a week were more likely to support Bush. Sixty-three percent of those who said they attend services more than once a week voted for Bush, compared to 36 percent who said they voted for Gore.

Among those who said they go to religious services once a week, 57 percent voted for Bush, and 40 percent voted for Gore.

The razor-thin nationwide margin between victor and loser means "there is no national mandate for either candidate," said Joe Grieboski, president of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy. "That will be the big effect, no matter who wins, both politically and in day-to-day governing," he told Catholic News Service the morning after Election Day. "We're going to see a very different first 100 days of the presidency than we have in a while."

One conclusion Wayne drew from the statistic that Bush was favored by white Catholics nationwide — by 52 percent to 47 percent — is that "Bush overcame the anti-Catholic allegations from early in the campaign."

Bush was dogged for a while early this year by charges of being anti-Catholic after he spoke at Bob Jones University, an evangelical Protestant school in South Carolina. The school's leaders have long been known for their anti-Catholic rhetoric. Bush later apologized for not clearly disassociating himself from the anti-Catholic allegations.

Grieboski, who hadn't yet seen the exit poll data, said that other preliminary information the Institute on Religion and Public Policy had received seemed to show that some Catholics were willing to vote for Bush over Gore primarily over the issue of abortion. But when it came to voting for House and Senate races, abortion was not the deciding factor for many Catholics.

He said he thinks that is because "both campaigns doing a good job of scaring people about the impact of abortion and the Supreme Court."

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The Catholic News & Herald

Book Reviews

Books of interest to Catholic readers now on the shelves

By LOU PANARALE
Catholic News Service

Here is a list of recent books of particular interest to Catholic readers.

"God's Name in Vain." By Stephen L. Carter, Basic Books, $26.00, 288 pp.

Carter argues that American politics is unimaginable without America's religious voices. Using contemporary and historical examples, from abolitionist sermons to presidential candidates' confessions, he illustrates ways in which religion and politics do and do not mix.

"The Aquinas Prescription," by Gerald Vann, Sophia Institute Press, $14.95, 224 pp.

Vann's book offers a new view of St. Thomas to dispel the saint's undeserved reputation for dispensing dry and formidable rationalism. The author uses plain language to show how Aquinas' life and thought are an antidote for today's ailing Western culture plagued with materialism and self-obsession.

"I like being Catholic: Treasures, Traditions, Rituals and Stories," by Michael Leach and Therese J. Borchard, Doubleday, $19.95, 159 pp.

This is not about theology. It is about the good things that come with being Catholic.

Everyone from famous Catholics like Father Andrew Greeley and Martin Scorsese, to ordinary parishioners offer reasons why they like being Catholic.

"Growing up Catholic" (updated and expanded), by Jane Cavolina, Jeff Stone, Maureen Kelly and Richard Davis, Broadway Books, $12.00, 119 pp.

Who says Catholics don't know how to poke a little fun at themselves regarding some of their religious practices?

For Catholics of all ages, here is a funny and sublime side of day-today Catholic life.

"Healing the Culture," by Robert J. Spitzer, S.J., Ignatius Press, $16.95, 343 pp.

The book is both a guidebook for living a good and happy life, and a handbook for thinking through some of the most troubling issues afflicting our society, particularly respect for human life.

"To Live as Francis Lived: A Guide for Secular Franciscans," by Leonard Foley OFM; Jovian Weigel, OFM; and Patti Normile, SFO, St. Anthony Messenger Press, $10.95, 209 pp.

The authors offer a process of study, prayer and action to help the reader learn more about living the Christian life in the 21st century the way Francis lived it in his time.

"The Spirit of the Liturgy," by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Ignatius Press, $17.95, 232 pp.

Cardinal Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, offers insights to help readers discover the hidden spiritual wealth and grandeur of the liturgy and to better understand the Second Vatican Council's intentions for liturgical renewal.

"The New World of Faith," by Avery Dulles, SJ, Our Sunday Visitor, $14.95, 175 pp.

A convert to Catholicism, the noted Jesuit scholar writes, "In order to meet the challenges of our time we must see the world of faith as a new and enduring order, established by God and capable of regenerating every human life and society."

"Goodbye to Catholic Ireland: How the Irish Lost the Civilization they Created," (first U.S. edition), by Mary Kenny, Templegate Publishers, $19.95, 376 pp.

Widely acclaimed on its publication a few years ago in Ireland, Kenny has written a well-researched history of the Emerald Isle and convincingly debunks traditional views of a staunchly Catholic Ireland.

Panarale is book review coordinator for Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

November 12, Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
Cycle B Readings:
1) 1 Kings 17:10-16
Psalm 146:7-10
2) Hebrews 9:24-28
3) Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

It's been my privilege to know a small number of saints. I'm not seeking canonization for them, nor am I denying the holiness of dozens and hundreds of other good Christians I have known. But these few seem to have God's ear in a special way. Perhaps it is because they share his heart.

Margaret and her husband Dick have been involved for the past several years in equitherapy programs, Margaret directly and Dick more peripherally, due to her commitment. These programs use the gentle swaying motion of horseback riding to give joy and increased muscle strength, coordination and confidence to children severely restricted by a variety of handicapping conditions.

To do equitherapy, you need lots of resources, including a huge volunteer base, a covered riding area, horse barns and, of course, horses.

At a point in their program's development, it became necessary to build a new facility. Margaret, after much prayer, began, with Dick and others who shared the vision, to put together all the elements needed to build Wings of Hope's new home. It was at this point that Dick's background as a civil engineer brought him directly into their now-conjoined ministry.

One breakthrough financial gift came to them because of hospitality they offered a young woman, a friend of another friend of theirs. Their hospitality and the beauty of the vision Margaret shared with her made a lasting impression. The young woman died unexpectedly only a few months later. Not long afterward, Margaret received a phone call from relatives of their new friend, now deceased. She had willed a sizable amount of money to them for use in building their new equitherapy pavilion.

Dick and Margaret are radically open to the Holy Spirit and to the call of hospitality on their time and their home. They are much like the widow in today's reading in Kings, who put the request of the prophet Elijah for a small cake before her own needs and those of her son.

A statuette depicting a young girl clinging to the mane of a running horse — horse and girl having become one — is the symbol of the nonprofit organization. But knowing its roots in prayer, their symbol could as easily be a circle of believing friends, praying. For the gift of joy and development they are able to offer these special children and their parents has been brought to life through prayer — and on Wings of Hope.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 12 - 18, 2000

Sunday, 1 Kings 17:10-16, Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44; **Monday (St. Frances Cabrini),** Titus 1:1-9, Luke 17:1-6; **Tuesday,** Titus 2:1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10; **Wednesday (St. Albert the Great),** Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17:11-19; **Thursday (St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude),** Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25; **Friday (St. Elizabeth of Hungary),** 2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37; **Saturday (St. Rose Duchesne),** 3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8

Readings for the week of Nov. 19 - 25, 2000

Sunday, Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, 18, Mark 13:24-32; **Monday,** Revelation 1:1-4; 2:15, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (Presentation of Our Lady),** Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (St. Cecilia),** Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (Thanksgiving Day),** Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions),** Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday,** Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40

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What's in a name? Don't ask this actress

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Don't blame Irene Molloy if she has an identity crisis.

In Molloy's first prime-time series, "Grosse Pointe," a spoof of the "Beverly Hills 90210" teen soap-opera genre, she plays a Shannen Doherty type who's sweet on screen but a schemer off camera.

But she's not playing Shannen, or Shannen's "90210" character, Brenda. Molloy's character on the spoof is instead named Hunter Fallow. And Hunter's character on the teen soaper, which is also called "Grosse Pointe," is Becky Johnson.

Now, if that isn't head-spinning enough, when Molloy acted in the musical "Hello, Dolly" at Archbishop Wood High School in the Philadelphia suburb of Warminster, Pa., she played a character named, ah, Irene Molloy.

"Yeah, it's confusing," Molloy told Catholic News Service.

She got her performing start by singing at Presentation-BVM Church in Cheltenham, Pa., another Philadelphia suburb.

At Archbishop Wood, where one of her sisters is still a student, she had the lead female roles in the musicals "Oklahoma" and "Bye Bye Birdie."

For "Hello, Dolly," Molloy wanted to play the title character, Dolly Levi. " Of course you want to be Dolly," she told CNS. She added that her mother, a "Hello, Dolly" fan, chose her name at birth. "I'm glad my mom named me Irene Molloy over Dolly Levi," said Molloy, the eldest of five girls.

"Grosse Pointe" was one of eight new shows this season that "holds promise," according to Anne Navarro of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"All the essential elements are there: spoiled child stars who drive Humvees, girls with eating disorders and self-esteem problems, and plain old obnoxious teens willing to do most anything to get ahead in the business," said Navarro in her review of the debut episode.

"It's a behind-the-scenes look at one of television's hottest teen dramas that follows the six young actors starring in the prime-time soap opera," she added, "yet the program still needs to work out some kinks."

Molloy told TV writers that she was "just starting to get" some of the "ridiculous" things her character — or is that characters? — must do and say on the show.

"The funny thing is that a lot of scenes that the young actors who are on those shows have to play are scenes like that, that are very dramatic and serious, but not very realistic," she said.

Molloy addressed the teen-soaper phenomenon for CNS. "Me and my friends, we don't like to say that we watch 'Dawson's Creek,' but we do (watch it). You enjoy that stuff, but you enjoy making fun of it," she said.

There's still a good-sized audience to watch teen soaps, Molloy added, but "there's also just as many people who have got to a point with all of those shows like, 'Wait a minute. I can't see so-and-so almost hook up with so-and-so one more time.' I think there are people who, just like we would — just like you would — just get to the point where, 'Ooh, my God, one more teen drama,' even if you watch them."

Perhaps "Grosse Pointe" tipped the scales of being "one more teen drama," even if it is a spoof. Because of low ratings — it's tied for 110th out of 112 prime-time shows that have aired this fall — the WB network shifted it to 9:30-10 p.m. EST Sundays in hopes of the show finding a larger audience.

CNS photo from DreamWorks

"Legend of Bagger Vance"

Will Smith and Matt Damon star in the film "The Legend of Bagger Vance." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"West Wing" actor Martin Sheen lends voice to video about Marianists' founder

By Catholic News Service

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Actor Martin Sheen, star of the award-winning NBC television series "The West Wing," can be heard on a video about the life and legacy of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, a French priest who founded the Marianists.

The actor taped 10 minutes of narration at a Malibu, Calif., studio for the half-hour video, which was developed by the University of Dayton's Center for Business and Economic Research.

Sheen volunteered out of gratitude to the Marianist priests who educated him at Dayton's Chaminade High School, he said.

"I was largely formed in that Marianist community," said Sheen, who grew up in Dayton as Ramon Estevez, one of 10 children in a Catholic immigrant family.

"The Marianists are very close to me, and I feel very close to them. I still have contact with some of them," he added in a statement.

Father Chaminade was beatified in September by Pope John Paul II. To recognize that event, celebrations are being planned in 100 cities in 34 countries where Marianists work in secondary and primary schools, universities and technological schools, parishes, renewal centers, missions and social justice ministries.

The Chaminade video is not the first time Sheen has loaned his voice to a Marianist cause. Three years ago he recorded narration for a nearly five-minute film about the Marinaist-run University of Dayton.

"I'm so connected to Dayton. I love that town," Sheen said, pointing out that his brother John, a Vietnam veteran, sings in the choir at Holy Trinity Catholic Church there.

The video "William Joseph Chaminade: His Life and His Legacy," is available for $10 plus postage and handing. To order contact Brother Donald Boccardi via e-mail at boccardi@flyernet.udayton.edu or by calling (937) 429-0794.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Eucharist is source of church unity, love

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Eucharist is the sacrament and source of church unity and fraternal love, Pope John Paul II said.

Celebrating the Eucharist without charity therefore denies the sacrament's deepest meaning, he said during the weekly general audience Nov. 8.

Some 35,000 pilgrims were gathered in St. Peter's Square in chilly fall sunshine to hear the pope, whose white hair and clothing were buffeted by a stiff breeze blowing across the stage.

Continuing a series of audience talks on the Eucharist, the pope said Christians are brought closer by the sacrament's celebration because it brings them closer to Christ.

"Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body — the church," he said, quoting the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

Communion with Christ generates another communion among believers which is "ecclesial, fraternal, able to unite all the participants at the same table in a bond of love," he said.

Correct celebration of the sacrament therefore requires a spirit of brotherly love, said the pope.

"One rejects the profound meaning of the Eucharist when one celebrates it without taking into account the need for charity and communion," he said.

"St. Paul is severe with the Corinthians (in his epistle) because their gathering together 'is not to eat the Lord's supper,' because of the divisions, the injustices, the egoisms," the pope said.

He said when divisions reign, the Eucharist is no longer "an expression and source of love."

"Whoever participates unworthily, without letting it blossom into fraternal charity, 'eats and drinks judgment on himself,'" said the pope, quoting St. Paul.

Human rights violations in Europe must be addressed, says pope

ROME (CNS) — Praising Europe's long-standing commitment to human rights, Pope John Paul II said violations — including of the right to life — persist and must be addressed. In a Nov. 3 speech to participants in a Council of Europe ministerial conference marking the 50th anniversary of the signing of the European Convention on Human Rights, the pope said the celebrations were a "time to give thanks for what has been achieved." But a half-century after the document's signing, he said, Europeans need to "recognize clearly the problems that must be addressed" if the continent's commitment to human rights intends to move forward.

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

Jesus and the children

I often wonder why Jesus was fascinated by the children. The undiscovered world of children, still a mystery for some psychologists, magnetized Jesus' attention. My presumption is that children are unpredictable, vulnerable, fragile, lovable, and creatures in the process of learning. Are we not all in the same boat?

In Jesus' time, the above qualities placed the children in the third class category, after men and women being first and second. The apostles and disciples of Jesus were not different from the general understanding that children "don't come first in the hierarchical scale."

Well, the skilled and talented writer Saint Mark tells us a different story about Jesus: "And they came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, 'What were you discussing on the way?' But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. And sitting down, he called the twelve and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all.' And taking a child, he set him before them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever receives one child like this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, does not receive me, but Him who sent Me." (Mark 9:33-37)

Probably, we understand the beautiful world of children, when we grow older and everything seems to fade away, except learning, vulnerability, fragility, and love. As we get older, we yearn to return to the simpler, less complicated days of our childhood, to recapture that sense of wonder at how remarkable and good our world is and that inquisitiveness as to why things cannot be right and good for everyone. It is that childlike simplicity and integrity of faith that Jesus calls his disciples to embrace, that simple, uncomplicated way of looking at life that deflates the most convoluted adult logic and the intricacies of compromises.

I still don't know who wrote the following "resignation, but I like it.

"I hereby tender my resignation as an adult. I have decided to accept the responsibilities of an eight-year-old once again. ...

"I want to think that the world is fair. That everyone is honest and good. I want to believe that anything is possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things again. I want to be simple. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, or how to survive doctors' bills, more days in the month than money in the bank, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones. I want to believe in the power of hugs, smiles, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, and making angels in the snow. ...

"So, here is my checkbook, car keys, credit cards, home equity loans and mortgage. I am officially resigning from 'adulthood.' ... and don't ask me how to spell it."

Now, you know why Jesus loved children and adults who become children.

Capuchin Father John Aurilia is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Coming of Age

By AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

What's a teen to do as the holidays approach?

As the holidays approach, not all teens' lives are filled with warmth, cheer and joy. The reasons are as varied as young people themselves.

For some, divorce makes the holidays a painful time. There's likely to be tension and guilt hanging in the air no matter which parent's house you end up at, and especially if the divorce is recently minted. The holidays only serve to reinforce the sadness you feel.

But even if your parents are married to each other, you've no guarantee of a smooth Thanksgiving dinner or, a few weeks later, Christmas Eve. Intense preparations are a part of many families' holidays, and tension tends to go right along with the intensity.

Then there's the rest of the family — either descending on your house or welcoming you to theirs. Everyone's together, and it's supposed to be great. But isn't it strange how often it isn't?

Simmering resentments come right up to the surface, unspoken questions about absent family members hang heavily in the air and perhaps even a recent loss puts a pall on the day. At some point, unfortunately, someone might even end up loudly, unpleasantly drunk.

No, the holidays don't always live up to their reputation for family closeness and cheer.

If this has been the case with your family in the past, I've no doubt that you're dreading the next sixweeks just a little.

What's a teen to do?

First, you have to realize that you're not alone. Perfect families only exist on television commercials and in storybooks. Every family, and therefore every family gathering, is bound to have some tension.

Your family's imperfections may sadden you, but you shouldn't let them. Every family is imperfect, and every family member contributes to the imperfection. Including you. So try to be more accepting and less judgmental.

Second, don't add to the tension. If you know that your mom and your grandmother don't get along, and that having your grandmother's critical eye roving her house for three hours solid on Thanksgiving Day is pure torture for your mom, don't make her life any more difficult. Don't fight having to make time for the family. Don't cop an attitude. Be helpful without being asked.

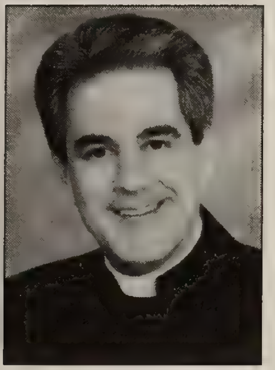
Finally, try to be positive. Hey, remember what this season is about? Those little things called "thanksgiving," "grace" and "love"?

Believe it or not, God put you in your family. He put you there for a reason, too. Instead of spending your holidays griping about how goofy your family is or what a pain it is to spend time with them, focus on the good things about them.

Take time each day to thank God for a particular gift that you have because your family gave it to you: your granddad's sense of humor, your mom's patience, your father's creativity. I'm sure your list could be endless if you just thought about it for a minute.

Thank God for all your family members have taught you — even if it's a lesson that has been painful — like the harm that irresponsible drinking can do to a family. There's no use in simply sitting around being disgusted at difficult relations. Try to learn and grow from your interaction from them.

And pray, finally, for a sense of humility. Your family is not perfect, and neither are you. You're dreading spending the day with cousin Al. How do you know he's not dreading spending the day with you too!



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
Guest Columnist

Deserving of Praise

Mark Twain had a way with words. Any reader of "Huckleberry Finn" or "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" would agree. So when he said, "I could live for two months on a good compliment," I think it was more than hyperbole. In a real sense, I think it was the truth.

Perhaps that's because a really "good compliment" is truthful. The person singing someone else's praises is sincere, because the recipient has earned the kind words through accomplishment, often hard-won.

The very people who are quickest to shrug off the applause of others are the ones most likely to appreciate sincere compliments and to value the encouragement they offer.

Recently, The Christophers were reminded of the importance of such encouragement when we heard about the death of a friend. Her name was Sister Laurentia Gettings, 88 years old, a Sister of St. Joseph. She was a nurse, and in her traditional white habit, got the nickname "Salt." With her partner, the still very busy Sister Mary Daniel Singer (aka "Pepper"), she ran the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center in Wheeling, West Virginia, for three decades. It was a place where folks with the most basic and pressing needs were welcomed and helped to food, clothing, shelter. These roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-to-work women knew what people needed and how to give it to them. When a flood forced families from their homes, they arranged housing. One elderly husband and wife were upset after being told that their beloved dog could not go to the shelter with them. So the Sisters cared for the pet themselves.

In 1995, to celebrate its 50th anniversary, The Christophers presented special Spirit Awards to fifty people whose lives exemplified the belief that one person can make a difference. "Salt" and "Pepper" were among those honored.

Sister Laurentia lived her life with a deeply held conviction about what was good and merciful. She did not need anyone to tell her what was right or how to do it. But The Christophers' recognition still mattered to her and those around her. It was mentioned in her obituary and in a newspaper editorial about this woman who was simply the "Salt of the earth."

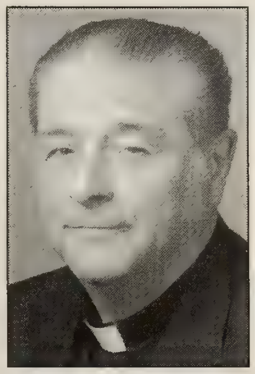
"You have no idea what that award meant," friends said. And that's true, too.

Generally, when we pay a compliment, whatever form it takes, we don't completely realize its potential for encouragement. Most folks spend their lives trying to do the best they can. An occasional pat on the back can be what it takes to keep going in tough times.

Quite a while back, a teacher asked her young students to write down their classmates' good points. Years later all of them still had and treasured those now dog-eared lists. And it isn't only "everyday people" who are grateful to feel appreciated. Abraham Lincoln carried newspaper clippings in his wallet which praised his patriotism and singleness of purpose. They were in his pocket the night he died.

Yet people often hold back rather than let others know that their fine qualities and valuable contributions are noticed. That's too bad. When it comes to sharing a little well-deserved praise, there's no time like the present.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Apocryphal Books of the Bible

Q. Could you answer a question from our Scripture study group? When were the Apocryphal books (those in Catholic Bibles but not in Protestant Bibles) removed from the Scriptures?

It is our understanding that they were omitted in some of the very early English translations, like the King James Version. Can you help?

A. For those who may not be as familiar with the subject as you are, we should explain that the Apocryphal books, in the sense you speak of, are all or part of a number of books in the Old Testament which have not traditionally been included in Protestant Bibles.

These include Tobit, Judith, Baruch, First and Second Maccabees, Ben Sirach (Ecclesiastics), Wisdom, and parts of Daniel and Esther.

For reasons we cannot explore here, Bible scholars refer to these as deutero-canonical ("second canon") books, because of differing beliefs ancient Jewish scholars had about their authenticity or canonicity.

As you note, following the Reformation, the custom developed of placing these parts of Scripture in a separate section or sometimes omitting them entirely. While they were honored as sacred writings, they were not considered equal to the rest of the Bible as the word of God.

Catholic faith, of course, is that the Apocryphal books are a genuine part of Scripture, on equal footing with the rest of the Bible.

To answer your question, all early English Bible translations, including the King James Version, contained the Apocrypha. The Coverdale Bible (1535), the Great Bible (1539) and the Geneva Bible (1560) all included the Apocrypha in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments.

The same was true of the King James Version in 1611. Only in 1644, under Puritan influence, were these books excluded. The first Bible printed in the New World, in 1783, also omits the Apocrypha.

Interestingly, the Geneva Bible also accepted these nine books, even though the thoroughgoing Protestants who published it added marginal notes identifying the bishop of Rome with the scarlet woman in Revelation.

King James abhorred such comments, which was one reason he commissioned a new translation by some of the leading Scripture scholars of his day. This new translation is what we know as the King James Bible.

Incense at Mass

Q. You have written in the past about the reasons for using incense at Mass and other ceremonies. Is it possible to do away with incense since it bothers so many people?

I myself have asthmatic bronchitis. I start coughing, my throat gets dry and sometimes I have to leave church because of it. Others tell me their reactions are worse than mine.

A. I guessed that incense manufacturers would have tried to address that problem with some sort of nonallergic incense. After checking with them, however, I learned that, though one or two have tried, there is no such product that works decently.

They all use natural resins (frankincense, myrrh and others) which, according to their experts, cannot be synthesized or modified without ending up with some not very happy odors.

One manufacturing official told me the only answer is to use good incense, but use less of it. The less smoke, the less harmful effects for people like yourself. Maybe your priest would be helped by knowing the severity of the problem you have.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

By FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS Columnist

Part IV: The Principle of Preferential Protection for the Poor and Vulnerable

Luke's Gospel frequently highlights Jesus' preferential posture toward the poor. In Chapter 6:20, Jesus says, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

Later (14:13) Luke has Jesus telling his dinner host to "invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind," and then "blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you."

And who could miss the point of the famous parable of the rich man Dives and the poor man Lazarus (16:19-26)?

The poor seem to attract the preferential love of the Lord because they tend more readily to accept his message.

Why is a preference for the poor so hard for modern Catholics to accept as part of their faith? Even at Christmastime most contemporary Catholics are charmed by the poetry of Mary's Magnificat but fail to grasp the implications of her praise for a Lord who "has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty" (Lk 1:52-53).

The story of the Last Judgment in Matthew (25:31-46) is, all would agree, an important part of our faith tradition. From its earliest days, the church taught that we will be judged for what we chose to do or not do regarding the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger seeking shelter and the naked needing clothes. We will be judged for our success or failure in visiting the sick and prisoners.

Faith tells us that we touch Christ when we touch the needy. Our Catholic faith instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes this in words taken directly from an instruction issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF, "Libertatis Conscientia," 68):

"In its various forms ... human misery is the obvious sign of the inherited condition of frailty and need for salvation in which man finds himself as a consequence of original sin. This misery elicited the compassion of Christ the Savior, who willingly took it upon himself and identified himself with the least of his brethren. Hence, those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a preferential love on the part of the church, which since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members has not ceased to work for their relief, defense and liberation through numerous works of charity which remain indispensable."

Why preferential love? Because the common good requires it. If the good of all, the common good, is to prevail, preferential protection must move toward those affected adversely by the absence of power and the presence of privation. Otherwise the balance needed to keep society in one piece will be broken to the detriment of the whole.

The church is asking nothing unusual, unfamiliar or extraordinary when it calls for preferential love of the poor and vulnerable.

Those who happen not to be poor should never make the mistake of thinking that the Lord doesn't love them dearly. They should simply make the commitment to show their gratitude to God for all their good fortune by using their gifts to do what they can to reduce the scourge of poverty in the world.

British pro-lifers criticize legal system after twin's death following separation surgery

By PAULINUS BARNES
Catholic News Service

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — British Catholic pro-life activists criticized the legal system that permitted an operation to separate Siamese twins, resulting in the death of the weaker twin.

Dr. Tony Cole, chairman of the Joint Ethico-Medical Committee of the Catholic Union of Great Britain, warned that a fault had entered the British legal system and it would spread "like a computer virus."

The union is a nonpolitical lay Catholic association that monitors political and legal issues.

Cole, a former master of the Guild of Catholic Doctors, told Catholic News Service that the outcome of the surgery should not be measured solely by the life of the survivor. He said the appeal court judgment, which finally gave the go-ahead for surgery, had shown the lack of protection in British law for the weak and the vulnerable.

"This was a case of illegitimate means being used toward an otherwise acceptable end," he said Nov 7.

"No one wishes the parents, who refused more than one offer of abortion, anything but prayers and support. Their ordeal, away from their own country and crushed by the power of a foreign law, was truly terrible. We can only wish Jodie a good future. The real losers are conscientious parents, the weak, the dying and the very disabled," said Cole.

"Why, we ask, did this ever go to law when the palliative option was still open to all parties? It can only be that a decision based on love and faith was incomprehensible and somehow intolerable to a secular society," he said.

The 20-hour operation that began the morning of Nov. 6 at St. Mary's Hospital in Manchester followed a series of court battles in which the parents of the 3-month-old twin girls had opposed the hospital's plans to operate.

The parents, devout Catholic from the Maltese island of Gozo, had said they did not want one of their daughters to die to save the life of the other.

Doctors had warned that both girls — known only as "Jodie" and "Mary" — would die unless the operation went ahead. The twins were joined at the abdomen with arms and legs at right angles to their joined upper bodies, while their spines were fused.

A hospital spokeswoman confirmed Nov. 7 that the marathon operation had gone ahead, and that Mary, the weaker twin, had died. Jodie was said to be critically ill but making good progress.

On Nov. 3 the Pro-Life Alliance failed in two court attempts to halt the operation.

Josephine Quintaville, spokeswoman for the group, told British Broadcasting Corp. News Nov. 7 that Pro-Life Alliance members were "personally devastated" by Mary's death.

"We are quite scandalized by the quote from the hospital that everything was done by the surgical team to save Mary's life. They went into the operation knowing full well that it would kill Mary. They even went to court to get permission to kill her and now that has been achieved," she said.

"The fact that the operation went ahead does no credit to the English medical or judicial system," said Quintaville.

Gospel Mass,

from page 7

"People tend to not know that we are a part of the church's history, and they tend to consider that anything that is not part of the European worship style is not appropriate within the Catholic Church."

"This Mass allows people to come together and celebrate who they are within the broader church community," Hairston said. "It serves a dual purpose. There are people who will attend the liturgy who have never experienced gospel music in the Mass, so it's a new experience for them.

"For our students, this gives them an opportunity to worship as they are accustomed and provides another way of finding out that they are accepted within the broader church community."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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American flag meant much to Korean War vet

By MIKE LATONA
Catholic News Service

GREECE, N.Y. (CNS) — The American flag meant a lot of things to Steve Salerno.

He displayed the flag so often outside his apartment building in Greece, a Rochester suburb, that when it wasn't flying, his neighbors wondered why.

Salerno, a soldier in the Korean War who spent nearly two and a half years as a POW, did not get to join his fellow Korean War veterans in late June to mark the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the war at an area monument.

Nor did he get to dedicate a bench in honor of POWs, as he was scheduled to do, because he died of congestive heart failure in his sleep a week before the ceremony.

But in an interview with the Catholic Courier, newspaper of the Rochester Diocese, just 48 hours before his death, he recalled how much his service in Korea meant and how his faith got him through the physical and mental suffering he endured in prison — lessons that survive him.

"He was going to put all his medals and badges on his shirt for the commemoration," a close friend, Peter Fantigrossi, told the Courier. "Steve was so proud that this was going to be his day."

Salerno's office walls were covered with newspaper articles from the 1950s, detailing his experience as a POW. One framed item exhibited his citations and medals, including the Purple Heart.

Salerno, who grew up in Rochester, joined the Army at age 17. He was part of the 24th Infantry Division, 5th Regiment combat team, A Company.

He arrived in Korea within months after North Korean communist forces first crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea on June 25, 1950. Two days after that invasion, President Truman ordered the U.S. military into action. U.S. troops were eventually joined by military from 20 other countries, fighting under U.N. auspices.

"A lot of us were gung-ho about going to war. But once you were there, you realized what could happen to you," Salerno recalled.

On April 23, 1951, Salerno was captured, and he spent the next 28 months as a prisoner of war.

> **Salerno found comfort in reading daily from a Bible, the only valuable item he was allowed to keep. "The one thing I needed, they left it with me," he remarked. "I had a lot of faith in God; I still do. You have to have something to believe in."**

He contracted beriberi, which is caused by malnutrition and often results in permanent heart damage, as it did for him, according to Salerno's wife, Angela.

Rations usually consisted of rotten sorghum and pig's feet. "We got no milk, bread or fruit. We missed all our nutrition," he said.

But despite the poor diet, Salerno fared better than many fellow POWs, who died from malnutrition and lack of treatment for injuries.

"We saw (dead) guys taken out every day," he said. Survivors endured both physical and mental suffering, and "some guys would crack up," he added.

Salerno found comfort in reading daily from a Bible, the only valuable item he was allowed to keep.

"The one thing I needed, they left it with me," he remarked. "I had a lot of faith in God; I still do. You have to have something to believe in."

An armistice was reached between North Korea and the United Nations on the morning of July 27, 1953. The cease-fire took effect that night.

Salerno was released Aug. 15, 1953, at Kaesong.

"What a feeling that was, seeing the American flag up there," Salerno said. "That was the happiest day of my life. You don't know freedom until you're deprived of it."

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the Korean War involved more than 1.5 million American soldiers. More than 33,500 U.S. troops died.

The Korean War did not yield a clear-cut victory. In fact, after three years of battle, the DMZ — the demilitarized zone that separates North and South Korea — was established near the 38th parallel, roughly the same border that existed at the war's beginning.

After returning home in 1953, Salerno suffered physical and psychological difficulties. He married three years later, and had three children. It was only in the late 1980s that his life began to improve, according to wife Angela.

"He fought and fought, until he finally got the right help," she said. "He led a good life and did a lot for his family."

The Korean War is commonly referred to as "The Forgotten War." Some historians refer to it as the Korean Conflict or a police occupation, because a war was never officially declared.

"I get angry. Where I was, women and children were killed. That's a war," Steve Salerno told the Courier. "If you talked to parents (of a U.S. soldier) whose son was lost and you said it was a conflict, I'll bet they'd get angry."

Army chaplain makes service pitch to seminarians

By ROBERT DYLAK
Catholic News Service

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — "The Army has a critical need for chaplains," according to Maj. Gen. Gaylord Gunhus, a Lutheran minister who is the U.S. Army's chief of chaplains.

The general was at Immaculate Conception Seminary on the campus of Seton Hall University in South Orange to encourage seminarians to consider some service as Army chaplains.

He said that "Vocation Sabbath 2000" will be observed at military installations around the United States Nov. 10-12, as Army chaplains present programs to help soldiers and their families reflect on the possibility of a call to religious life.

"The Vocation Sabbath reminds our chaplains to teach and preach on vocation — God's call in the lives of our soldiers," the general said.

Although about 25 percent of those serving in the Army are Catholic, only about 8 percent of Army chaplains are Catholic priests. Gunhus said the Army has about half the number of priests it needs.

"These (military personnel) are Catholics from dioceses around the United States and many will return to those dioceses when they complete their service," he said.

The general noted that most of those serving in the military are between the ages of 18 and 25, and face important decisions about their future. "They need guidance from their religion," he said.

Gunhus praised the Archdiocese of Newark and Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick for providing a substantial number of military chaplains. During evening prayers at the seminary Oct. 30, the general presented the archbishop with an award in recognition of his assistance.

Archbishop McCarrick said he had served as secretary to the late Cardinal Terence J. Cooke, who as archbishop of New York, 1968-83, had responsibility for the U.S. Military Vicariate before it became the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.

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Bible scholar gives prisoners Bibles, human connection

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a ministry that "just kind of happened" over the last six years, the executive secretary of the Catholic Biblical Association of America has corresponded with more than 300 prisoners nationwide and sent Bibles to many of them.

Benedictine Father Joseph Jensen, who teaches at The Catholic University of America in Washington, said he has learned from prisoners' letters that many feel "totally abandoned in prison," that "nobody knows they are there," that "people think they're animals."

So when prisoners request a Bible or "Catechism of the Catholic Church," he said, he always writes back and inscribes each book "to the person, saying 'prayers and best wishes,' and signing my name and position."

"I try to make it a bit personal," he said in a November interview with Catholic News Service.

Father Jensen said he initially got requests for the scholarly "Textual Notes on the New American Bible," a booklet mentioned in the preface to that translation.

This booklet would be intelligible only to someone who knows Hebrew and Greek, he said. So he began sending copies of its pages to prisoners, asking, "Do you really want this?"

At the same time," he added, "I would let them know that if they wanted the NAB and didn't have that, I'd send them that."

Father Jensen said his offer spread by word of mouth among prisoners and chaplains. However, he doesn't send Bibles in quantity.

"I occasionally get such requests, and my response always is that I only send them to individual prisoners in response to individual requests," he said. "If a person doesn't want the Bible enough to do that, they are not all that likely to read it."

Most of the priest's prison correspondents are Catholic men, who write or print their letters on legal pads. "Many of them are quite literate," he said, "but some are barely literate."

One wrote: "I see and can fathom the evil in the world. It is only a step away from each one of us."

Another, who credited Christ with saving him, said he spends his whole life now in thanksgiving to God, Father Jensen recalled.

The letters are touching, he said, "but the ones that really break my heart are the ones that say they're in for their natural life, because it means they'll never get out."

Prisoners "usually are rather reticent about saying what they're in for," the priest continued. Sometimes they protest their innocence or say their crime was nonviolent.

But most often, he noted, "they'll express sincere repentance, that they had been living a good life and then went astray and got into trouble."

The biblical scholar has corresponded with one prisoner more than a dozen times. The man recently was up for parole and asked Father Jensen to write a letter of recommendation, which he did.

The prisoner later wrote that he was "turned down for another five years" because he had no family or church willing to sponsor him, and the parole board rejected placement in a commercial setting like a YMCA.

A few years ago, under "Light to Those in Darkness" on the association's Web page, Father Jensen invited members and others to donate Bibles, in English and Spanish, and other religious books for prisoners and to correspond with them.

"The response to that has been very poor, which is surprising," he said, "because you'd think most people would feel compassion for prisoners." But, he said, people worry that prisoners would want help with lawyers or legal problems or would look them up after getting out.

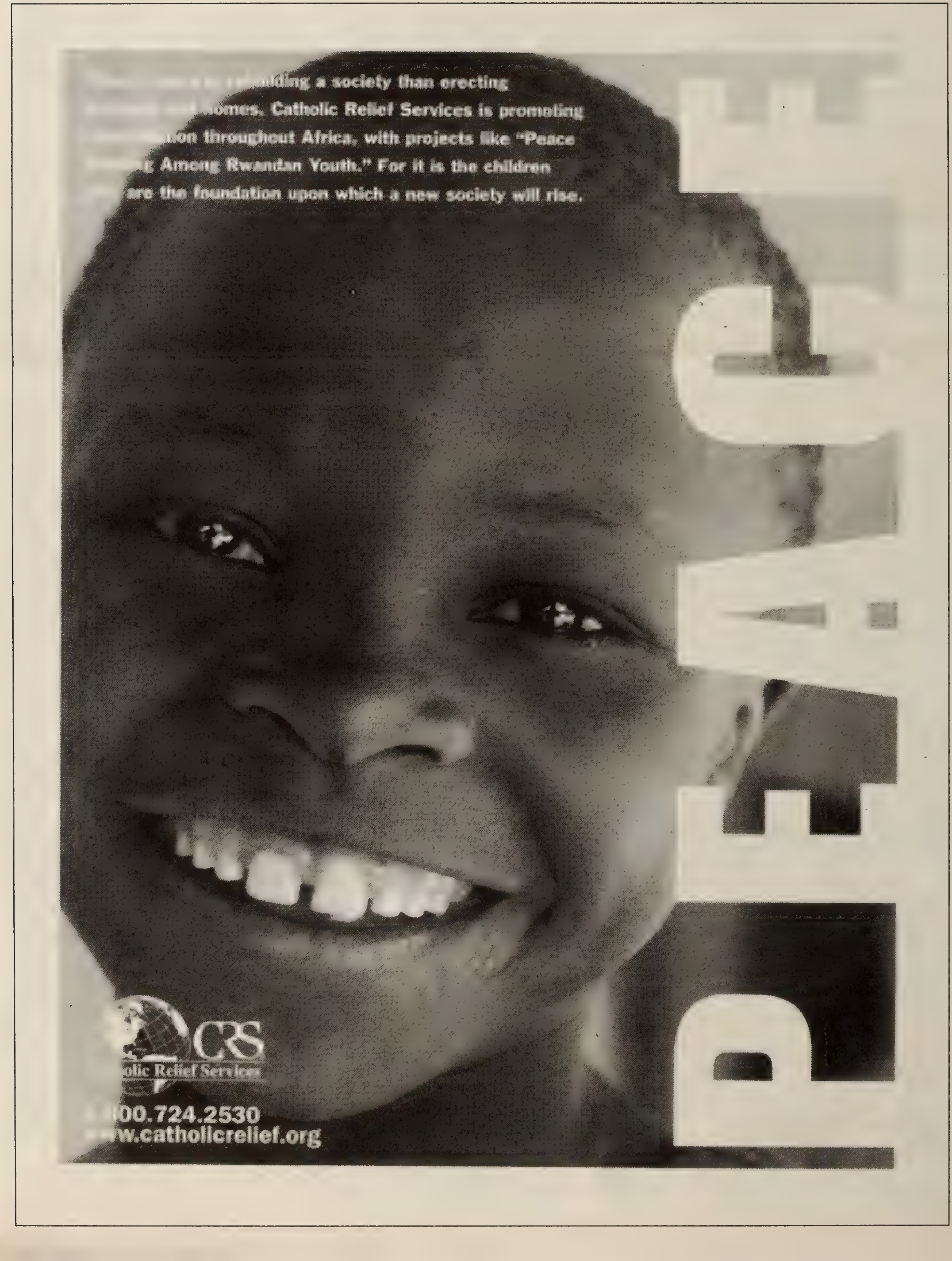
"That simply has not been my experience," said Father Jensen, adding that most of his correspondents are looking for a human connection, or want to learn about the Catholic faith or establish a link with a Catholic community.

He said this ministry — on which the association spends less than $500 a year — has given him "greater compassion for the people in prison" and a better understanding of their difficulties.

For example, he said, some prisons offer job training and opportunities for spiritual growth, while others offer nothing. In some, a Bible is available only in the library.

Some make it hard for prisoners to get mail: they won't accept pillow or bubble bags — even those containing a Bible — for fear of drugs, and they won't forward mail when an inmate is moved to a new prison.

Prisoners also have recounted instances of anti-Catholicism, he said, where they had trouble scheduling Catholic services or where such services were scheduled at the only time during the week when the prison PX was open.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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 17, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 11

Inside

Knights reach out
K of C, public school combine to get operation for student
...PAGE 3

Election saga continues
...PAGE 9

Local News

Asheville conference explores death penalty
...PAGE 5

Aquinas Luther gathering addresses topic of justification
...PAGE 7

Every Week

Readings
...PAGE 10

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 12-13

The Season of Advent begins December 3

Greensboro woman witnesses years of change

By ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — Pearline Thompson has always admired and respected Catholicism. While growing up in Greensboro, she thought that the religion held a special place within the hearts of those who followed the faith. However, Thompson did not grow up Catholic and did not have much exposure to the religion.

"I can remember the priests and nuns when I was growing up, and I thought they were scary with their robes and habits. They were looked upon with suspicion by my people who had very little understanding of the religion," said Thompson. "But they, the *Kaflicks*, as we said in our Southern dialect at the time, were curious to me, and I wanted to know more about them." This initial curiosity prompted her to convert to Catholicism later in her life.

Born in the early 1930s, Thompson grew up in an era of segregation and watched the country and her city change from a place where the races did not mix in all aspects of life to one where her oldest daughter attended the first integrated classes at the same high school she attended.

"Greensboro was very segregated, as were most Southern towns back then, and we grew up taking care of one another. I didn't know the Depression was going on, and I didn't know we were poor because we had the same things as everyone else," remembered Thompson.

She grew up in a predominantly African-American neighborhood as the only child born to a stay-at-home mother and a father who worked in various positions for the railroad. She was raised in the Congregationalist faith, now known as United Church of Christ, and was very active in her birth church. Her parents were able to send her to Lincoln University of Missouri, established as a historically black college and university, or HBCU, where she majored in journalism.

She met many African-American Catholics while at school and wanted to know more about the religion. "They seemed so sincere, caring and steadfast in their faith and sure of what they were doing. I joined the Neumann Club, an organization for

SEE THOMPSON, PAGE 4

May the Lord of the harvest bless your labors and fill you and your families with His peace. —
Pope John Paul II

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Without equal opportunity, there is no economic justice, say development center officials

By JO ANN ALBERTS
CORRESPONDENT

MURPHY — The building up on the hill adjacent to St. William Catholic Church once was the home for a Murphy family. But now it is known as the Bishop Begley Center for Economic Development and is the site for some very important changes for many people who live in western North Carolina.

Melissa Block, Director of the Office for Economic Opportunity, along with the advisory board to the Office, has been diligently working on a number of projects for Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain Counties.

The ever-widening income gap in the United States is no more evident than in this region, where once families could live a decent life on the available industrial jobs. As industries have moved away, communities and working families have been left behind. The Office of Economic Opportunity has, as its purpose, to be a force for positive change — to bring about a diverse economic base and an educated and stable workforce in far western North Carolina.

The office is an outreach of the Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Justice and Peace.

Some months ago, it was decided to dedicate a pool of funds for small grants to support burgeoning economic development activity in these four counties — with priority to be given to projects which promote sustainable economic developmen and systemic change.

And now, the first cycle of grants have been awarded. The Office of Economic Opportunity's Growing Opportunities Small Grants Program has just awarded $18,800 to 12 grantees in the four counties served. Through this program the Diocese of Charlotte hopes to support organizations that are already working toward economic justice for the people of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain Counties.

The programs to be supported are as follows:

Family Resources of Cherokee County received a grant of $2,000 for a project called Family Support Network's Self-Determination Course. The project will serve Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain Counties and will immediately and directly affect 45-50 people. The course provides recipients, including the disabled, with marketable job skills and

SEE GRANTS, PAGE 11

Salvadoran generals face another civil lawsuit in Florida

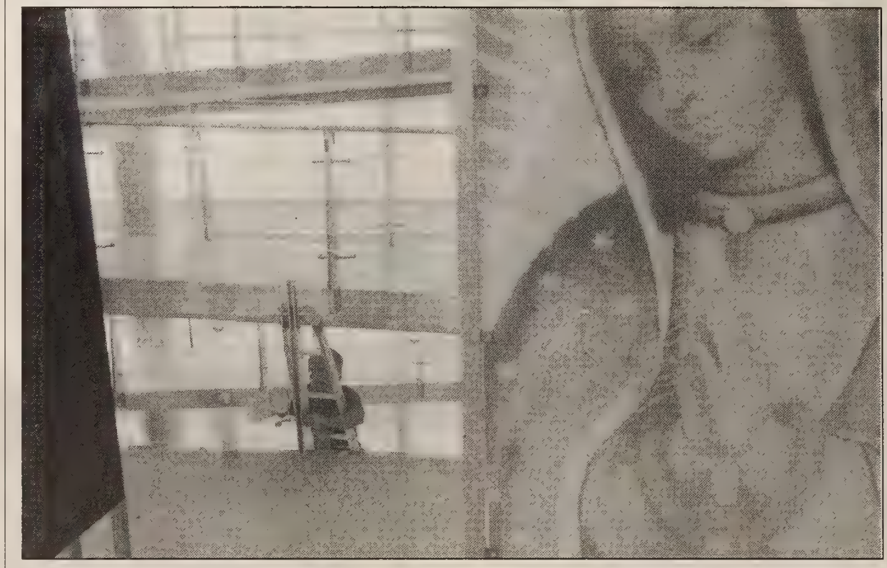
WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — The Salvadoran generals-turned-Florida-retirees found not liable Nov. 3 in the murder of four missionaries in 1980 will face a similar civil lawsuit early next year. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, former Salvadoran director of the National Guard, and former Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia were found not liable in the deaths of the four churchwomen in the recently concluded case of Ford vs. Garcia. Living in Florida since 1989, both men were sued under the 1992 U.S. Torture Victim Protection Act. They now face a second lawsuit being brought under the same federal law — this time by four survivors of the Salvadoran civil war. The same judge, Daniel T.K. Hurley, is expected to hear the case in May.

Debt relief bill signed into law

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A global effort for debt relief prompted by Pope John Paul II bore fruit Nov. 6 as President Clinton signed a bill setting aside $435 million to forgive debts owed by the world's poorest countries. At a White House ceremony celebrating approval of the legislation, Clinton praised the bipartisan political effort responsible for the bill's approval in Congress. "I believe this is one of the most important moments of the last eight years for the United States of America," Clinton said.

NCC seeks closer ties with Catholics, evangelicals

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The National Council of Churches is seeking closer ties with Catholics and evangelicals — even if it means risking its own identity. That's what the Rev. Robert Edgar, NCC general secretary, told The Catholic Free Press, Worcester diocesan newspaper. He was in town for the fall assembly of the Worcester County Ecumenical Council, held at St. John's Episcopal and St. George's Catholic churches Nov. 2. "Years ago we would have invited them to come to our table," he said of churches such as the Catholic Church, which are not members of the NCC. But now, he said, the talk is of building a new table, to which all can come as equals.



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

Worker cleans windows at new Pope Center

A worker cleans windows next to a large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the new Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington Nov. 12. Cardinals, bishops, donors and other guests attended a ribbon-cutting and dedication of the interactive museum and study center, which is due to open to the public in March.

German church starts payments for WWII forced laborers

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — The German Catholic Church has begun paying compensation to people who were used as forced laborers in church institutions during World War II. The chairman of the German bishops' conference, Bishop Karl Lehmann of Mainz, and Hellmut Puschmann, president of German Caritas, the church's charitable agency, announced Nov. 7 in Mainz that within days, payments of $2,500 each would be going to a man living in Poland and a woman living in Germany. Puschmann said it was expected that 10 people would be paid compensation before the end of the year.

Catholic leaders hail assisted suicide defeat in Maine

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Local and national Catholic officials hailed the repudiation of physician-assisted suicide by Maine's voters Nov. 7. Gail Quinn, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, called the vote "an encouraging sign for efforts to respect the life and dignity of vulnerable people." Father Michael D. Place, president of the Catholic Health Association, said, "This vote marks another victory for human dignity and the integrity of the physician-patient relationship." Marc R. Mutty, public affairs director of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, called the campaign to defeat the proposal "a very hard-fought battle" that took "a tremendous educational effort."

Irish Sisters of Mercy sue TV station after program alleges abuse

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Sisters of Mercy are taking legal action against an Irish television station after a program alleged members of the order assisted in ritual sexual assault on a child in their care during the 1960s. The nuns are suing TV3 in the High Court under the 1988 Radio and Television Act on the grounds that the program's producers failed in their statutory duties to be fair and objective. "The program essentially consists of one person making outrageous claims against members of the congregation, some living, some dead," said the order's provincial, Sister Helena O'Donoghue.

SOA foes look for formal support from U.S. bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With nearly 300 U.S. and Latin American bishops urging the School of the Americas be closed, the founder of the movement against the Army school called it "a scandal" that the U.S. bishops' conference has not formally joined the effort. There was some discussion among the U.S. bishops at their national meeting a year ago about such a resolution, but a proposal was not put forward. As opponents of the U.S.-run training program for Latin American militaries at Fort Benning, Ga., prepared for their annual mass demonstration at the school Nov. 18 and 19, Maryknoll Father Roy Bourgeois, said that he is saddened by the bishops' lack of formal support for the grassroots movement. He spoke at a Nov. 9 press conference in Washington.

Catholic, Muslim leaders urge unity

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and Muslim leaders, at a large interreligious gathering Nov. 12 in Washington, said unity is more important than peoples' differences. At least 3,000 Catholics and African-American Muslims attended the final session of the "Faith Communities Together" weekend at the Washington Convention Center. "May our love continue to bring all people together in unity, as it has us Christians and you Muslims today," said Chiara Lubich, founder of the worldwide Catholic Focolare movement, a co-sponsor of the gathering. "Today we are not 'us' and 'you'; we are 'we.'" "Creation is one continuous whole, one creation with one God and Lord," said Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, leader of the Muslim American Society, the gathering's other co-sponsor.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

November 19 — 2 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Matthew, Charlotte

November 27 — 7 p.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte

November 29 — 2 p.m.
Cathedral sesquicentennial
Savannah, Ga.

December 1 — 10 a.m.
Finance Council Meeting

December 3 — 7 p.m.
Theology on Tap Mass and reception
St. Peter, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

November

21 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Father Eric Kowalski is presenting "Hey, That Wasn't in the Brochure," a session about theology, the practice of priesthood and the life of a priest. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

22 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

24 CONYERS, Ga. — The Holy Spirit Trappist-Cistercian Monastery for men in Conyers, Ga., and the Our Lady of the Angels Trappist-Cistercian Monastery for women in Crozet, Va., are hosting two live-in experiences this weekend through Nov. 28 and Jan. 3-7 with personal testimonies and conferences given by the monks. The retreats are free, but space is limited. For reservations and details, call Natalie Smith at (954) 340-5705 or e-mail deserttraveler@aol.com.

26 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

27 CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia today from 2-3:30 p.m. in rooms D and E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being pro-

Knights, public school combine to get sight-saving operation for student

By JOHN STRANGE
NC CATHOLIC STAFF

Carole Klein, a teacher for the visually impaired, and her student, Francisco Salazar, speak with Knights of Columbus State Deputy Bob Singer outside Chapel Hill High School.

PHOTO BY JOHN STRANGE

CHAPEL HILL — Such language is barely allowed in public schools these days, but Carole Klein can hardly contain herself.

"Miracles have been happening on a regular basis," said Klein, a teacher for the visually impaired at Chapel Hill High School. "They've been popping up like Kleenex."

Klein's miracle is that her student, Francisco Salazar, is about to have sight-saving surgery, thanks to the school's students, the Chapel Hill community, and the North Carolina Knights of Columbus.

"The students have taken up the fundraising themselves," Klein said. "This is not something they're being made to do. They're doing it because they want to."

On Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 8, in Klein's office, students were emptying old milk jugs filled with money. That day's count: $208.85.

As of Nov. 8, the school and community had raised $5,687; the Knights' donation of $2,000 put the fund at the $7,000-plus needed for Salazar's surgery, scheduled for Nov. 28 in Nashville, Tenn. Since then, the North Carolina Lions' Club and other organizations have put the fund at about $11,000.

The surgeon, Dr. Ming Wang, is only one of a few doctors in the country who can perform the groundbreaking operation. He is doing the surgery for free, but hospital costs are expected to top $11,000. The Salazars needed 70 percent of the projected costs before the surgery could be performed. They have no health insurance.

Salazar, a junior at the school, has been blind since he was 10 years old when sulfuric acid, which he found in a discarded bottle, splashed into his face and badly damaged his eyes. He was living in his native Mexico at the time; he and his family moved to North Carolina two and a half years ago.

Standard corneal transplants have been nearly useless because of the damage. However, about a year and a half ago, Klein and the Salazar family learned of Dr. Wang's technique of transplanting an amniotic membrane into the eye to aid in healing the newly transplanted cornea. That surgery was performed a year ago in August, giving Salazar vision in his right eye for the first time in years.

Klein stressed that the membrane, as well as the limbal stem cells needed for the next phase later this month, were not from abortions, but rather from donations made from live births.

Sometime after the surgery, Salazar's eye perforated several times. That damage has been repaired, but resulting scarring in the eye is beginning tore-cloud his vision.

This next, and it is hoped, last, surgery will include limbal stem cells and a fresh corneal transplant, which should end the string of operations.

"Everything has just seemed to fall into place," said Klein, a parishioner at the Newman Catholic Student Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. "The good Lord helps people who need help. Whenever there has been a need, there has been a response. And these kids have gotten together to take care of their own."

Klein was a Dominican nun for nine years, and said she can see God working in Salazar's life. "This is all so obviously God's plan," she said. "I know to look for God's plan, but never in my life has it ever been in such bold, neon letters."

"Thank you to all of the people who helped me," said Salazar. "I'm really excited to have the operation."

Salazar is a parishioner at St. Thomas More in Chapel Hill, where he plays guitar as part of the Hispanic choir. "I decided to play guitar because I think it is a way to say thank you to God. I don't know any other way," he said.

To help Francisco Salazar and his family, checks should be made payable to CHHS/FRANCISCO and sent to Carole Klein, Chapel Hill High School; 1709 High School Road; Chapel Hill, NC 27516.

Documents on possible Padre Pio miracle submitted to Vatican

By CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ROME (CNS) — Italian Capuchin priests have submitted documents to the Vatican detailing the healing of an 8-year-old boy which they hope will be the miracle accepted for the canonization of Blessed Padre Pio.

A spokesman for the Capuchins in Foggia, the province to which Padre Pio belonged, said the documentation was delivered to the Congregation for Sainthood Causes in late October.

In conjunction with a Nov. 12-13 television miniseries on the life of Padre Pio broadcast by RAI, the Italian state television, the network and several Italian newspapers reported the priest could be canonized as early as 2001. However, the Capuchin spokesman said there is no way to know how long the Vatican investigation would take.

If the congregation's panel of physicians finds there is no natural explanation for the healing of the boy who had acute meningitis, the documentation will be turned over to a panel of theologians.

The panel studies the connection between the healing and prayers for the intercession of Blessed Padre Pio. If they agree there is a connection, the cardinals and bishops who are members of the congregation vote on whether or not to accept the miracle. If the pope agrees with a positive judgment, a date is set for the canonization.

Matteo Pio, the boy whose last name is being withheld to protect his privacy, lives in San Giovanni Rotondo, the town where Padre Pio built a huge hospital. His father is a urologist at the facility, and he and his wife, along with dozens of staff members, prayed for the boy's healing throughout the 12 days he was in a coma in January.

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vided. For more information about the meeting or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

December

1 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts Eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and Eucharistic holy hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — All are welcome to attend Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., for a Latin Mass at 7 p.m. tonight followed by adoration and benediction. A Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite in Malayalam is being celebrated on Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. For details, call (336) 884-0244.

2 MORGANTON — The St. Charles Borromeo Church Ladies Guild is having their 2nd Annual "Cookie Walk" beginning this morning at 9 a.m. in Murray Hall. A variety of cookies are being sold at the church at 314 W. Union St. Call the church office at (828) 437-3108 for details.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

3 CHARLOTTE — The 40-member Charlotte Harp Society is giving a concert at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., today at 2 p.m. A free-will offering is being taken during the concert. For more information, call Drennan Thompson at (704) 554-7088.

4 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center, St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building and St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the activity center in classroom 5. For more information, call: St. Vincent - Betty Childers at (704) 554-0733, St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CLEMMONS — Father A.J. Gallant is the celebrant at a charismatic Mass at Holy Family Church, 4828 Kinnamon Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The normally scheduled Jan. 1 Mass has been cancelled due to the holiday, but the schedule will resume on Feb. 5. For more information, call (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

7 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, meets tonight in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call Joanne Parcell at (336) 924-9478 or the church at (336) 724-0561 for details.

8 HICKORY — Rachel's Vineyard, an all-weekend post-abortion retreat, sponsored by Transfiguration Ministries and the Respect Life Office, is being held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, this evening through Dec. 10. For more information or to pre-register, make a confidential call to Debbie or Martha at (336) 659-1342.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Thompson, from page 1

the Catholic college community, learned more about Catholicism and decided to convert in 1953," said Thompson.

It was not an easy decision for her because she was leery about some of what she called guidelines and rules. "I had reservations about some of the things I had always heard like Catholics couldn't divorce or remarry, but I thought about it and decided to do it. My parents didn't mind at all," said Thompson. During that time, she had to go through a year's worth of instruction and study at the local church and school in Missouri.

After graduation in 1954, she came back to Greensboro and began working for The Future Outlook, a newspaper specializing in happenings and events of the African-American community. It was a two-person operation; she wrote articles and editorials about the burgeoning civil rights movement, solicited advertisers and helped with the printing and distribution. For a short time, she also worked for The Carolinian, another African-American newspaper in Raleigh.

Within a two-year period, she had become better acquainted with and married her husband Jasper Thompson, a postal worker, had begun attending St. Mary Catholic Church and had the first of four children in 1956.

It was not love at first sight for her because her earliest memories of her husband were peppered with rocks catapulted as she and her friends would walk to the library in his neighborhood. However, true love triumphed over childish antics, and the couple settled in her childhood neighborhood.

Thompson and her family attended St. Mary, originally built for the growing African-American Catholic population in Greensboro in the 1920s.

Her husband attended Mass even though he was not Catholic, and Thompson said that her children "didn't know he wasn't Catholic until they were older because we always went as a family."

"St. Mary's was built because St. Benedict's had two or three benches reserved for black Catholics who were former slaves and descendants of slaves who had accepted the religion of their masters," explained Thompson. "Blacks had to sit in those seats, but if the church filled up, they could not go in. They also had to wait until the white parishioners received Communion before they could receive it."

As the years passed and the country evolved, Thompson watched the civil rights movement unfold in her own hometown with the Woolworth's sit-in demonstration, which she was not allowed to attend because she was pregnant with her second child.

During this time, she also began working in social services and later received her master's degree in social work.

Over time, the makeup of the congregation at St. Mary Church also changed from predominantly African-American to multicultural with the influx of Asians, Hispanics, Caucasians and Africans that began settling in the area and found a home at the church.

Thompson has become a member of the Greensboro Vicariate Network, a host site member for the SHARE food program, a member of the African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte and many other church and community organizations.

This grandmother of three works non-stop, and her husband always tells her to slow down.

"When he asks me why I spend so much time at church, I say that it is because I want to spend a lot of time in heaven," said Thompson with a chuckle.

"I sometimes think that I chose to convert because the Catholic way of worshiping and relating to faith and God seemed so different to what I was accustomed. I realize that Christ has sheep in other flocks, but I think that this is the only way for me."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Hunger Walk COURTESY PHOTO

St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Statesville participated in the annual community Hunger Walk on Oct. 7. Father Peter Fitzgibbons, pastor, led the walkers by running two miles. St. Philip, for the fourth year in a row, was the first in all categories: money raised ($2,545), number of walkers (39), and number of youth participating.

Eagle Scout rank awarded to Clemmons parishioner

CLEMMONS — Gregory Harrison was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by Scoutmaster Denny Boyce of BSA Troop #731 in Clemmons on Nov. 12, 2000. Greg, 16, received his award at a ceremony conducted at Holy Family Catholic Church in Clemmons. Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor of Holy Family, attended.

One of the final steps of achieving Eagle Scout is to complete a project that tests the scout's leadership skills. With the help of other scouts, members of the Columbian Squires Circle #3752, and church members, Greg designed and built 14 Stations of the Cross, along with a gravel path and three benches behind Holy Family Church.

It is a quiet and secluded place where anyone can rest and reflect. The project took more than six months and 300 hours to complete. It entailed designing each station, removing five large trees, grading a path through the heavily wooded area and constructing the stations and benches.

Each station pictures a scene from Jesus' journey through Jerusalem on the way to his crucifixion. A plaque at each station describes each scene in English and Spanish. A 7-foot cross marks the entrance to the trail.

Greg states that some of his friends thought his project was odd — many of them not knowing what the Stations of the Cross are. Greg got the idea for the project while visiting St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church in Raleigh. After receiving the approval of Father O'Rourke, Greg had to raise money for the program. He made a presentation to the Knights of Columbus Council #9499 in Clemmons, and the group decided to support the $700 project.

Harrison is the son of Anne and John Harrison.

Greg is a junior at Bishop McGuinness High School. He attends Holy Family Catholic Church and is an officer in the Columbian Squires, the Catholic young men's organization.

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Asheville PFADP conference explores wealth of death penalty issues

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

ASHEVILLE — At a weekend conference exploring issues surrounding capital punishment, those in attendance were called to action in order to effect justice in a system under increasing scrutiny.

"A Cry for Justice, A Call to Action" was the theme of the first conference of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, an anti-capital punishment alliance sponsored by the North Carolina Council of Churches. From workshops to an awards banquet at First Baptist Church, to a rally that culminated the event at City-County Plaza, the conference's theme rang loudly Nov. 11-12 as participants took a hard look at the death penalty's spiritual, legal and social dimensions.

A group of ministers, attorneys and community organizers facilitated workshops, whose themes ranged from understanding capital punishment law to outreach for victims' families, from issues of race and class to spiritual reflections on supporting death row inmates, from working for a moratorium on the death penalty to working for its abolition altogether.

> **"First comes education, and throughout it all comes prayer," Dear said. "And then we hope people will take action based on what they know and what they feel in their hearts."**

A general session on the abolition movement preceded the workshops.

"The conference involved a mix of perspectives around the death penalty," said Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. "The conference included stories from a man who lived on North Carolina's death row, and from mothers of men on death row and of murder victims. There were people in tears."

Based in Chaepl Hill, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is an interfaith group devoted to the elimination of the death penalty through the mobilization and education of the religious community in North Carolina.

Dear, whose organization founded its Western North Carolina chapter a year ago, said of the Asheville gathering that "people left there uplifted, energized and comforted by the fact that there are a lot of people who are concerned about the death penalty and taking action around it."

Dear said the conference indicates the need for a response to an overwhelming request for information on the death penalty, from people traditionally on various sides of the issue but who seek moral, historical and legal answers to some pretty tough questions surrounding a death penalty system that many accuse of being fraught with injustices.

"First comes education, and throughout it all comes prayer," Dear said. "And then we hope people will take action based on what they know and what they feel in their hearts."

"We've gotten to the point for an organization like ours that the challenge is not convincing people to take action, though of course we want people to do so," he said. "The challenge for a small organization like ours is to keep up with the demands for this growing awareness. People are wanting information. They want speakers; they want moratorium resolutions and petitions. It's a nice problem to have, although it is a challenge."

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty's first conference coincides with a month when two men were slated to die by lethal injection in North Carolina. Convicted in 1991, Michael Sexton was put to death Nov. 9, while Marcus Carter, convicted in 1990, is scheduled to die Nov. 22.

Both were convicted of murder in separate crimes.

Another man, convicted murderer Russell Tucker, is scheduled to be executed Dec. 7 in Raleigh.

Sixteen people have been put to death in North Carolina since the death penalty was reinstated in 1977, after a 10-year unofficial nationwide moratorium on the death penalty. Currently, there are 215 people — 209 men and six women — on North Carolina's death row. All received their death sentences for murder.

Sexton's death, the first execution in North Carolina this year, came at a time of increased scrutiny of the death penalty system nationwide. A growing number of faith communities, social action groups, city councils and other concerned citizens locally and nationally are voicing their wish to see a moratorium, or suspension, on capital punishment to allow for study of increasing allegations and evidence of inequity in the death penalty process.

Those possible injustices include racial and economic bias, courtroom errors and the possibility of sending innocent people to death row.

It is especially the latter that has contributed so greatly to a concern in society about the death penalty system, Dear said.

"A major reason (people are so concerned) is that 89 people have been released from death row because they were proven to be innocent," Dear said, referring to statistics dating to the early 1970s. "Those are 89 people who were brought before juries, tried, convicted and sentence, by local citizens, to die — and then were later proven to be innocent."

Dear said that while that number may fluctuate, sharing these stories brings new awareness — and a growing discomfort.

"People are finding a great distaste in the fact that we're sending people to death row who are later proven to be innocent," he said. "They're asking why this is happening and they're finding out something that has been known for a long time but has not seeped into people's consciousness — that the death penalty system is awash with error and racial and class bias."

More to come

In addition to People of Faith Against the Death Penalty's conference in Asheville, a group called Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now is planning a Dec. 8-10 conference at the Great Aunt Stella Center in Charlotte.

"Restorative Justice: Preparing to Meet the 21st Century" will examine the criminal justice system and focus on potential solutions for its perceived problems.

This "town meeting"-style event will include a presentation by Bud Welsh, the father of one of the Oklahoma City bombing victims.

The conference will look at restorative justice as a community-based approach to criminal justice that proponents say increase victim justice and offender rehabilitation.

Call (704) 944-6000 for details.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Mother of slain student still prays for killers' redemption

By LAURA TROIANO
Catholic News Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — Like most other mothers, Rachel Muha has kissed boo-boos, packed lunches and washed football uniforms.

What makes her different from many other mothers is the fact that she prays for the redemption of the murderers of her child.

On May 31, 1999, according to police, her 18-year-old son, Brian, was awakened from his sleep, beaten and marched up a hill, forced to do humiliating acts and to watch the murder of his friend, and then shot in the head.

Nathan Herring and Terrell Yarbrough, both 19, were convicted of kidnapping, robbing and killing Brian Muha and Aaron Land, 20, of Philadelphia. The two victims were students at Franciscan University in Steubenville.

Herring was sentenced to life in prison without parole in the slayings. Yarbrough, who had Brian's rosary around his neck when he was arrested, received the death penalty.

It has been a year-and-a-half since Brian Muha was murdered, and Rachel Muha understands what it is to suffer.

"People say to me, 'I couldn't do what you're doing,'" she said. "I think that you never really know how powerful God is until you have to go through something like this. God comes to your aid immediately. Don't give up. God will never give up on you. Trust him."

"Doing something for somebody else, you forget yourself," she said. But it's still hard, especially for a mother.

There are times when Rachel Muha can look at her son's pictures and talk about him without crying, and other times, it's not so easy.

She goes to the cemetery every other day. "Sometimes I'm so comforted, and sometimes it's so awful — I want to rip the grass off and bring him home. It's so wonderful to go into his room, and sometimes it's so hard I can't even open the door," she said. "I ask him for help. Now he knows more than I do."

Yet stronger than her own pain is Rachel Muha's faith and her desire for her son's murderers to have a chance at redemption.

But forgiveness is a daily battle. When a police officer informed her that Brian was dead, "It was blackness. I couldn't see anything," she said. "I wanted to hate them so much. There was a terrible conflict inside. I could feel evil wanting to take over.

"The moment that darkness falls, pray," she advises. "Don't forget to pray, or else you could be lost."

Chicago pastor appointed auxiliary bishop

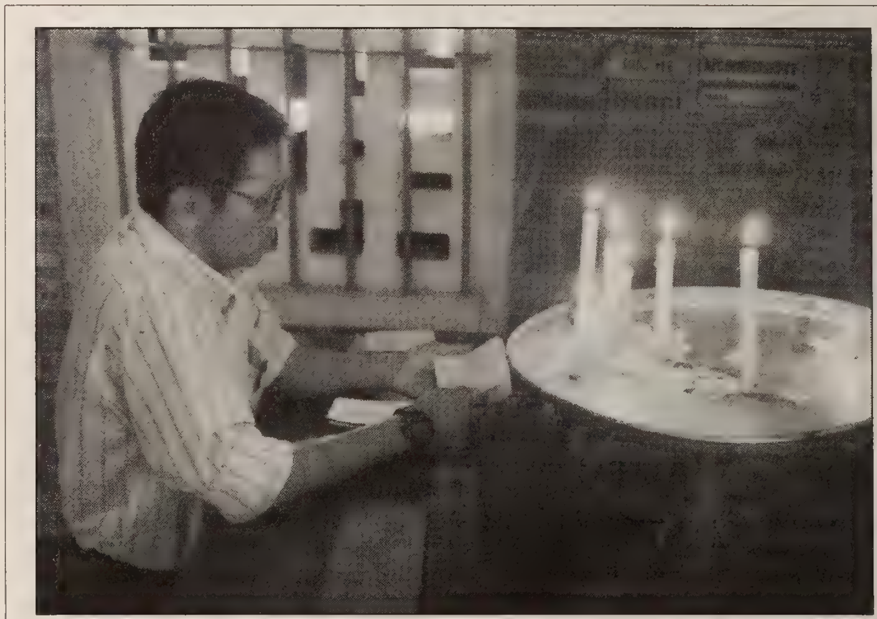
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Jerome E. Listecki, pastor of St. Ignatius Parish in Chicago, has been appointed an auxiliary bishop of Chicago by Pope John Paul II. The appointment was announced Nov. 7 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the papal nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Listecki, ordained 25 years ago, was appointed pastor at St. Ignatius earlier this year. Born March 12, 1949, the Chicago native attended Quigley South High School, Loyola University, both in Chicago, and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Ill. He later earned a law degree at De Paul University College of Law.

Jerusalem patriarch meets Arafat, expresses solidarity

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem met with Palestinian National Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza and expressed Christian solidarity with the Palestinian leadership. During the hourlong meeting Nov. 6, Patriarch Sabbah told Arafat he supported efforts to end the current violence and reach a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Patriarch Sabbah, who initiated the meeting, was accompanied by small delegation of priests.

Montreal church-run agency nominates homeless candidate

MONTREAL (CNS) — To the sound of resonant bass harmonies, a Catholic soup kitchen presented its own candidate for the Nov. 27 Canadian federal elections — a homeless man. "If the homeless have the democratic right to vote, then they also have the right to run for Parliament," said Pierre Anthian, director of the choir of Accueil Bonneau, a project that has helped rehabilitate dozens of homeless men. One of its members, 52-year-old Michel Laporte, plans to vote for himself, candidate of the newly launched Nothing Party (Parti Rien).



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Catholic prays at cathedral in Ho Chi Minh City

A Vietnamese Catholic man prays at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ho Chi Minh City Nov. 12. During his November visit to Vietnam, U.S. President Bill Clinton was expected to raise the issues of human rights and religious freedom with officials of the communist government. Catholics represent between 6 to 8 percent of Vietnam's population.

Armenian Orthodox leader praises pope's return of relic

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Receiving a relic of his church's patron saint from Pope John Paul II, the patriarch of the Armenian Oriental Orthodox Church said the return of the relic is a symbol of ecumenical progress. "In restoring this relic to the Armenians, the Catholic Church bears witness to the brotherhood between our two ancient churches," said Catholicos Karekin II of Etchmiadzin, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Pope John Paul told Catholicos Karekin during a Nov. 9 evening meeting, "Let our prayer together be that the communion which we are experiencing today will open new ways to peace and reconciliation between us."

Ecumenism at heart of church, Vatican official tells bishops

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "The church cannot be true to itself unless it is ecumenical," the pope's chief ecumenist told the U.S. Catholic bishops Nov. 12. "This is a truth too little appreciated by many Catholics," added Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The Australian-born Vatican official spoke at a half-day workshop on the ecumenical role of the bishop before the Nov. 13-16 meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

Bishop Fiorenza reviews jubilee year events in presidential address

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston focused on the church's jubilee year celebrations Nov. 13 in his presidential address opening the fall meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Highlighting the church's ecumenical commitment, the beatification of Pope John XXIII and the canonization of Mother Katharine Drexel, the NCCB president stressed the importance of the Second Vatican Council in preparing the church to enter the new millennium. At the end of the meeting's first session Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, papal nuncio to the United States, also spoke about the jubilee year in his remarks to the bishops.

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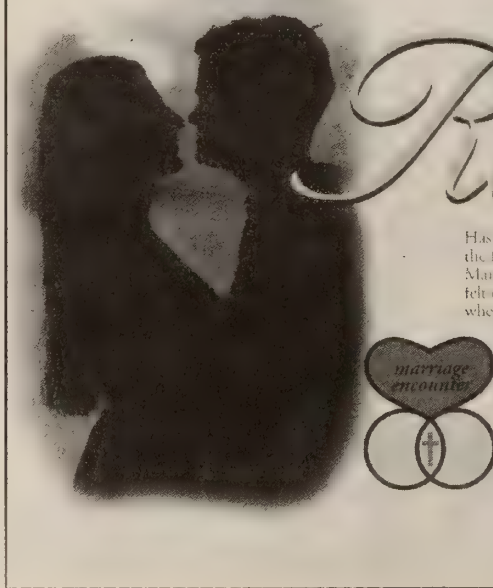

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Luther Aquinas conference addresses topic of justification

BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — At least two of the speakers at this year's Aquinas-Luther Conference held at Lenoir-Rhyne College Nov. 12-14 said that a person's vision or image of God was important in understanding the doctrine of justification — the belief that one attains salvation by faith, and not by works.

Father George Kloster, ecumenical officer for the Diocese of Charlotte and pastor of St. William Catholic Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Hayesville, talked about some of the ways that people view God.

He said that the images of God as a loving parent — specifically that of the forgiving father of the prodigal son in the Bible, and that of an artist making a beautiful creation, loving the people that are being created — are helpful in understanding justification. Father Kloster gave a banquet address entitled "Justification and Lake Wobegone" on Nov. 13.

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Father George Kloster speaks during the banquet with Rev. Dr. Michael McDaniel, far left, and Dr. Larry Yoder looking on.

"Justification as a theological concept might be slow to make it to Lake Wobegone or to Murphy, North Carolina," said Father Kloster, "but justification as God's forgiving, healing, restoring love hopefully is alive and well on Main Street, USA."

Father Kloster said that most people at the "grass-roots level" were not paying much attention when the signing of the Doctrine of Justification took place on Oct. 31, 1999, in Germany. "Nothing, absolutely nothing happened in Murphy, North Carolina," he said, mainly because the doctrine is "more theological than pastoral. I'm not sure that most Catholics would list this as one of their most essential beliefs," he said.

During the conference's keynote address on Nov. 12, entitled "What Kind of God: Martin Luther on Justification Then and Now," Dr. Hans Schwarz, professor of systematic theology at the University of Regensburg, Germany, talked about Christ, who came to earth as a human being and lived without sin.

"He was the only human being to be as God intended a human being to be," he said. Because God was willing to come to humanity in this way, he said, "we can be assured that this kind of God will not leave us in darkness."

"Justification as a theological concept might be slow to make it to Lake Wobegone or to Murphy, North Carolina," said Father Kloster, "but justification as God's forgiving, healing, restoring love hopefully is alive and well on Main Street, USA."

Dr. Schwarz also talked about today's society in which many people try to control their own lives, without turning to God.

"In our modern rat race, we overestimate our own abilities," he said. "Deep down we have the feeling that nobody will save us unless we save ourselves."

"We cannot work our way up to God, but our works are indicators of our faith," he said. "True faith is not lazy."

Before Father Kloster's banquet address Monday evening, Dr. J. Larry Yoder, director of the Center for Theology at Lenoir-Rhyne, had a surprise cooked up for Dr. Michael McDaniel, the director emeritus of the center and former bishop of the NC Synod of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). Several friends and colleagues had written letters to Dr. McDaniel to pay tribute to him and sent the letters to Dr. Yoder. Many of these letters were read out loud during the banquet, including ones from Diocese of Raleigh Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, and the letter from Bishop William G. Curlin that appeared in the Nov. 3, 2000 issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

Bishop Leonard Bolick of the NC Synod of the ELCA gave a personal tribute at the banquet, as did Dr. Yoder and other colleagues of Dr. McDaniel at Lenoir-Rhyne.

The Center for Theology has sponsored the Aquinas-Luther Conference for eight years. This year's theme was "Aquinas & Luther: On Justification."

The event is co-sponsored each year by the Hickory Lutheran-Roman Catholic Covenant Committee, consisting of representatives of St. Aloysius Catholic Church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

Committee members help with conference logistics and planning. The pastors of those congregations and the pastor to Lenoir-Rhyne College alternate in presiding over the opening worship service each year.

Presiding this year were Father Edward Sheridan of St. Aloysius, the Rev. W. Richard Fritz Jr. of St. Andrew's and the Rev. Andrew Weisner of the college. The service also featured music from Lenoir-Rhyne's A Cappella Choir and Brass Ensemble.

Other speakers at this year's event included Dr. George H. Tavard, professor emeritus of theology at Methodist Theological School in Ohio; Dr. Sammeli Juntunen, assistant in ecumenics at the University of Helsinki, Finland; Dr. Paul Hinlicky, professor of religion at Roanoke College, Salem, Va.; and Dr. Susan Wood, SCL, associate professor of theology and associate dean at the school of theology at Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minn.

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Archbishop Marino, first U.S. black archbishop, dead at 66

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Eugene A. Marino, who was the first black archbishop in the United States and whose resignation in 1990 was linked to his affair with a woman, died unexpectedly Nov. 12 at a retreat house in New York. He was 66.

Archbishop Marino, archbishop of Atlanta when he resigned, had been serving for the past five years as spiritual director of an outpatient program for priests with mental illness, substance abuse and sexual behavior problems.

The Clergy Consultation and Treatment Service is a program of St. Vincent's Westchester in Harrison, N.Y., a psychiatric branch of St. Vincent's Medical Center in Manhattan.

The archbishop found that work "very fulfilling," said Father Robert M. Kearns, superior general of the Josephites, the order to which Archbishop Marino was ordained in June 1962.

Father Kearns said Archbishop Marino suffered an apparent heart attack after participating in a weekend retreat at St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, N.Y. The retreat had ended Saturday evening with a Mass of anointing of the sick.

"The priest anointed the archbishop, then the archbishop anointed the priest," said Father Kearns.

Before he went to bed, Archbishop Marino said he was going to leave early to visit his brother in New Jersey, so no one was surprised when he did not appear for breakfast, the Josephite leader said.

Archbishop Marino was discovered dead in bed later that day by a housekeeper, Father Kearns said.

Memorial Masses were scheduled for Nov. 15 at the Salesian High School chapel in New Rochelle, N.Y., and Nov. 16 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Baltimore, with a Mass of Christian burial set for 11 a.m. Nov. 20 at the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Biloxi.

He was expected to be buried alongside his parents at his home church of Our Mother of Sorrows in Biloxi.

Archbishop Marino was the ranking member of the African-American Catholic hierarchy when he admitted in August 1990 that he had been having a two-year affair with Vicki R. Long, a 27-year-old single mother who had earlier claimed that another priest was the father of her daughter.

Archbishop Marino had submitted his resignation as archbishop of Atlanta that June, citing "severe stress" and the need for a long rest, and Pope John Paul II had accepted it that July.

Despite the scandal, black Catholic leaders across the United States rallied to support Archbishop Marino through a campaign called "To Archbishop Marino With Love," whose goal was to send the archbishop at least 25,000 notes of "support and love" during the month of September 1990.

His brother and five sisters said in an open letter later that year that the archbishop had received "hundreds of messages: letters, cards, telegrams and phone calls" offering prayers and support.

In an interview with Catholic News Service as the scandal was unfolding, then-Bishop James P. Lyke, who eventually succeeded Archbishop Marino as archbishop of Atlanta, said he hoped the archbishop's "one unfortunate mistake in his life" would not overshadow "his marvelous history of ministry, life and love in the church over the past 30 years."

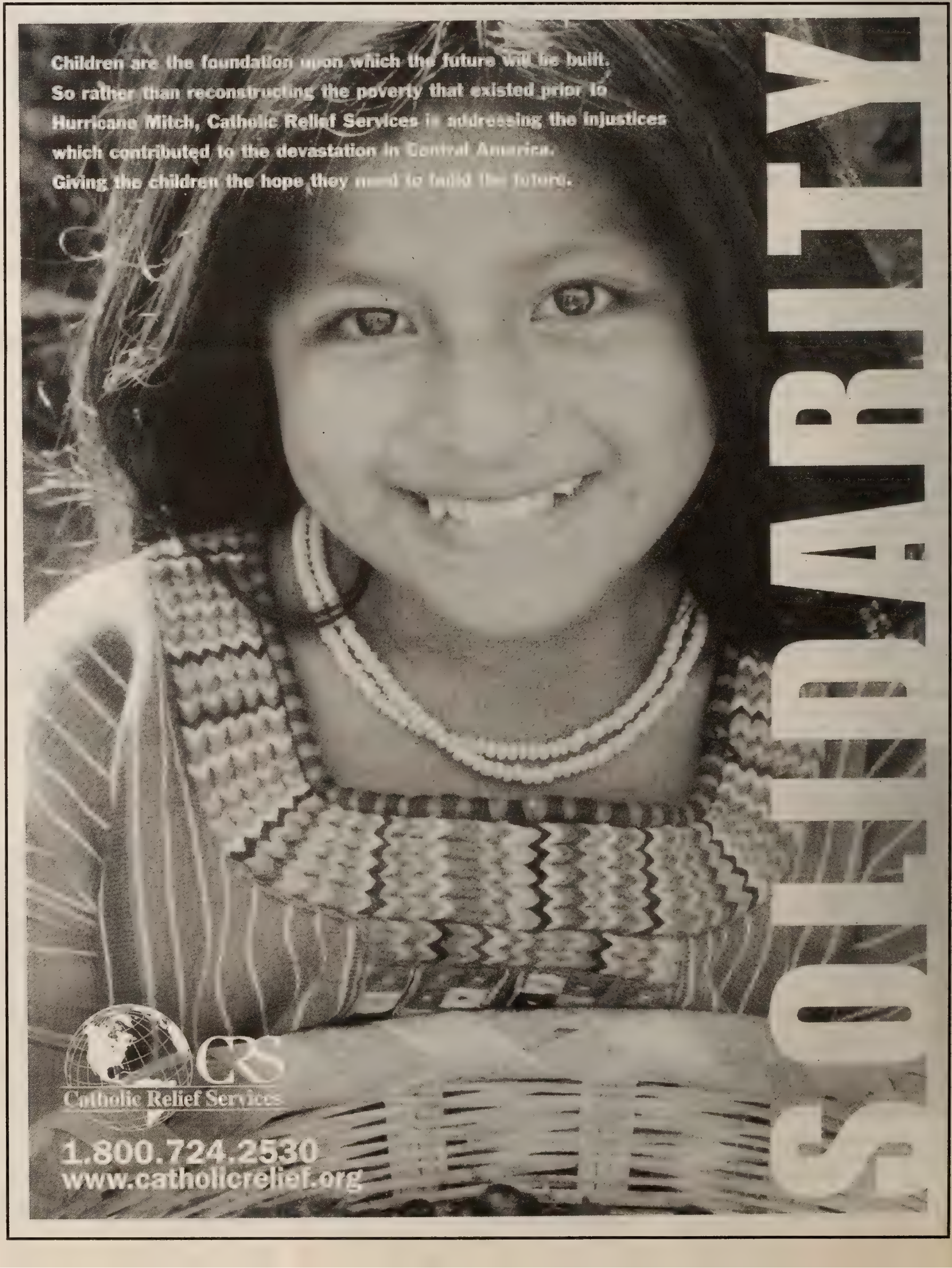
Archbishop Lyke died in 1992.

Born May 29, 1934, in Biloxi, Miss., Eugene Antonio Marino was the sixth of eight children of Jesus Maria Marino, a native of Puerto Rico who had also lived in Liverpool, England, and Lottie Irene Bradford, a native of Biloxi.

Educated through high school at parish schools at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Biloxi, Archbishop Marino also earned a bachelor's degree at St. Joseph's Seminary College in Washington and a master's in religious education at Fordham University in New York.

Ordained a priest of the Society of St. Joseph on June 9, 1962, he taught religion, biology and physical science at Epiphany College in Newburgh, N.Y., in 1962-68 and served as spiritual director of St. Joseph's Seminary in Washington in

See ARCHBISHOP, page 15



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At Vatican, historian says conclaves beat U.S. system

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Unlike the United States, the Vatican has had its share of protracted and deadlocked elections over two millennia of selecting popes.

But papal conclaves have two big advantages over democratic elections, said Msgr. Charles Burns, a Vatican historian.

"Number one, we are not in a hurry. Number two, the voting cardinals are held to secrecy: When the new pope walks through the door, there's no public bickering and no recriminations," Msgr. Burns said Nov. 10 in an interview with Catholic News Service.

"I think those elements make for a certain kind of success," he added.

In a papal election, there are no punch holes. Each cardinal fills out the ballot by hand, in handwriting that can be identified as his own as far as possible.

Msgr. Burns, who recently retired after long service at the Vatican archives, said this year's presidential election in the United States illustrated how an overaggressive media can help create a bitter climate before all the votes are counted.

"To get a scoop, they declared Bush the president. And that is really what has put the cat among the pigeons," he said.

Papal conclaves, on the other hand, have virtually no publicity, no campaigning and no deadline. Up until the 1900s, he said, it was not uncommon for conclaves to last a month or longer, in ballot after ballot until a two-thirds majority was reached by a candidate.

"It's not like a political situation, where you have to have your president installed by January. We're not under a time factor," he said.

A famous conclave in the Italian town of Viterbo in the 1200s lasted more than two years and provoked somewhat of a popular revolt, when local faithful tore the roof off the conclave palace to make life uncomfortable for voting cardinals and speed up the process. But Msgr. Burns said popular resentment was aggravated by the fact that the cardinals in Viterbo spent more time hunting game and feasting than voting.

Any contested ballots in conclave history have been done in private, before the new pope is unveiled, he said. In fact, under the complex Vatican rules that govern voting in conclaves, scrutinizers carefully check the number of ballots against the number of electors and void the vote if the two do not tally.

In a papal election, there are no punch holes. Each cardinal fills out the ballot by hand, in handwriting that can be identified as his own as far as possible. If more than one name is written on a ballot, it is nullified.

Msgr. Burns said the fact that the voting process is shut off from the public gives the conclave result a certain decisiveness.

A new pope may be a compromise candidate, not the first choice of the majority, but in the end he is "the guy who God wanted."

"We don't know what kind of thrust and parry has gone on in the meantime. That is a real advantage," he said.

In papal conclaves, post-election confusion can occur, but it usually lasts only a few minutes. In 1978, the white smoke signifying the successful election of a pope was mistaken for black, and vice-versa.

The smoke signals are one reason a recount has never been held in conclave history — the ballots are burned after each voting session.

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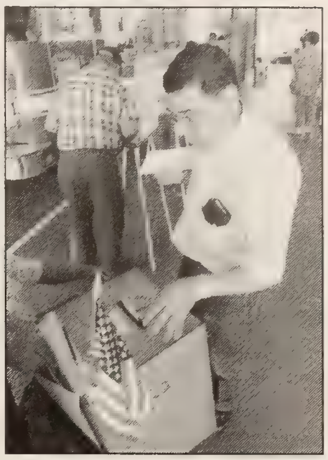
Elections show power of one vote, bishop says

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTER

Alex Canet of Miami drops his vote in a ballot box at a Miami fire station Nov. 7. The race for president between Vice President Al Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush proved to be too close to call by the next morning and hinged on the outcome of voting in Florida.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Like some past situations in U.S. and world history, the 2000 elections show the importance of a single vote, a Catholic bishop said in a post-election commentary.

Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice, Fla., in a column scheduled for the Nov. 16 edition of The Florida Catholic newspaper, said the Continental Congress in 1776 defeated by one vote an effort to make German the official U.S. language and Rutherford Hayes won the presidency in 1876 by one electoral vote.

He was one of several bishops commenting on the election in statements or columns soon afterward.

Bishop Nevins made no direct reference to the U.S. presidential race between Republican Gov. George W. Bush and Democratic Vice President Al Gore. At the time he wrote, the outcome of the election was uncertain, pending a recount of ballots in Florida.

He reminded Catholics, however, that "perhaps the most chilling results" of a one-vote margin were two narrow victories by Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler in elections "marked by widespread apathy."

"Tragically, that initial electoral apathy would provide the first steps in Hitler's career, a career resulting in the Holocaust of 6 million Jews and countless casualties of war throughout the world," he said.

Catholics should not vote only because of "the fear that the angry will prevail amid the apathy of the contented," Bishop Nevins said. "We also have a much more positive reason for making the effort to vote."

As "citizens of the United States, but also citizens of God's realm," Americans of all faiths should "allow God to use our hands, our voices, and, yes, even our votes," the bishop said.

"May we make our political decisions in a spirit of prayer and reverence, and may God's will prevail in our political process," he added.

As "citizens of the United States, but also citizens of God's realm," Americans of all faiths should "allow God to use our hands, our voices, and, yes, even our votes," the bishop said. "May we make our political decisions in a spirit of prayer and reverence, and may God's will prevail in our political process," he added.

Also calling for prayers was Bishop Kenneth A. Angell of Burlington, Vt., who said in a statement that prayer is "what we do best."

"We will pray for the conversion of minds and hearts," he said. "We will pray for a renewed respect for religious values, a renewed respect for life, a renewed appreciation for traditional families.

"We will pray to melt the hearts of our people, win the support of our politicians, and heal the soul of our country," he added. "We have just begun to pray."

On the national level, he said, "we had hoped that the American people would express a much stronger support for respect life issues, family values and religious beliefs."

"What I feel we are actually seeing is a great struggle in our culture over religious values and moral issues," Bishop Angell said. "In a very real sense, it is a battle for the soul of a nation."

Archbishop Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis, in post-election comments to be published Nov. 13 in his archdiocesan newspaper, the St. Louis Review, called on Catholics to "remember in prayer those who are elected" to national, state and local offices and to "appreciate ever more our personal responsibility and the value of each individual vote."

"We should be encouraged that throughout the country, a number of those elected at various levels of government are leaders with a proven track record in defense of human life," he said.

"We continue to pray and rededicate our own efforts to work to extend the protection of the law to the unborn," he added. "We continue to look with hope for determined efforts ... to put an end to capital punishment, to reinforce marriage, family life and parents' primary role in the education of their children."

"Eulogy: A Memoir" a tale about convent life in church

Reviewed by MERCY SISTER HELEN MARIE BURNS
Catholic News Service

"Eulogy: A Memoir" is aptly titled. Author Mary Bergan Blanchard gathers friends, acquaintances and strangers for a viewing and a burial. Memories flow. Stories that are mostly true abound. Praise comes from a variety of quarters. Here and there a word of honest complaint recognizes the humanity of the deceased.

"Eulogy" is a brilliant commendation of an era past and a subtle critique of that which is praised. It is both a robust discourse on a particular way of life and a quiet repudiation of much that was once treasured. Above all, however, it is a good story, a tale about meaning and about mystery.

Blanchard's mother's burial rites frame Blanchard's own journey into the meaning of call, the meaning of fidelity, the meaning of growth and maturity. Meaning and journey unfold in masterful flashbacks through her 20 years as a Sister of Mercy and her more recent years as wife and mother.

These flashbacks unfold in a story that is her "tribute to those I met along the way." All the elements of rich story-telling appear: well-defined characters, deep friendships, intense struggles, antiquated structures, warped personalities, love and loss, upheaval and dislocation.

This is a tale about convent life in the church in the halcyon years of the mid-20th century and the turbulent years of the late-20th century. Through all the drama runs a simple thread of mystery: lives vowed in community and service. While Blanchard implies that the mystery encompasses even those whose lives make up the story, she comes closer than most to an authentic portrayal of its ordinary truth.

Blanchard admits that she has "taken long liberties arranging times, changing names and combining people's characters." In the way of all art, however, her fiction is quite true. A childhood remembered as "a wonderful age" gives way to the "abyss of adolescence" and her choice to become a nun, a "decision that had crept up on me." Blanchard relates the rise and fall of that decision with wit and grace and a sure hand for simple description and engaging dialogue.

The teachings in this vocation tale are many. Perhaps the most important comes late in Mary's life and in the pages of the book. She and her best friend, Jimmy, are struggling with the implications of her growing frustration, strain, and discouragement with her life as a nun.

Mary declares, "I thought this life was my way to do good and that I should do it. I thought I belonged to God!" Jimmy wisely replies, "Don't you think everybody does?"

"Eulogy" offers a gentle read for those who wonder about convent life in former times, a pleasant piece of nostalgia for those whose lives span the decades of the '50s, '60s, and '70s in American Catholicism, and a challenging reflection for those who wish to take time to read between the lines.

Word to Life

November 19, Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:
1) Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16:5, 8-11
2) Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
3) Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

Consider two couples, both expecting their first baby, both looking forward eagerly to the promise of family joy, both hyperbusy — careers, social obligations, church commitments. It's easy to get distracted from the slow and subtle changes which mark the early stages of pregnancy.

One couple fights off distraction and attends carefully to what's happening to them. They resign from committees, refrain from volunteering for new projects, paying attention instead to pamphlets and videos, and classes about pregnancy and labor and childbirth. They observe new stages of fetal development, signals of the nearness of labor, omens of the fateful day when the baby will be born.

The other couple dawdles. They notice some changes of course, but busy with more immediate demands for their attention, they leave the booklets unread, the videos unwatched. They attend classes but halfheartedly, listening more for important phone calls than for the information being communicated.

When the day arrives, one couple is ready, bag packed, hospital route planned, forms completed. The other is awash in panic, frantic at the intensity of the pains, freaked out over arriving at the wrong entrance, unprepared for medical queries.

Happily, all survive, and in the end all become excellent parents. But the couple that paid attention, that looked for signs of what was coming, were quicker to discover the devotion and energy so vital to the demanding work of raising a newborn.

In today's Gospel, Jesus acknowledges that even he does not know when the King of Glory will arrive. But he urges us to note the signs of his arrival, to live a wakeful and attentive life, resisting the distractions of a too-busy world, embracing a more measured and mindful pace.

As the Christmas shopping season swings into high gear, may God bless us with the grace of attention.

QUESTIONS:

What's one way I can pay better attention to what my life is trying to tell me? In preparation for Advent, what's one unnecessary task I can let go of in pursuit of greater peace?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 19 - 25, 2000

Sunday, Daniel 12:1-3, Hebrews 10:11-14, 18, Mark 13:24-32; **Monday, Revelation** 1:1-4; 2:15, Luke 18:35-43; **Tuesday (Presentation of Our Lady),** Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10; **Wednesday (St. Cecilia),** Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28; **Thursday (Thanksgiving Day),** Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44; **Friday (Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions),** Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48; **Saturday,** Revelation 11:4-12, Luke 20:27-40

Readings for the week of Nov. 26 - Dec. 2, 1000

Sunday (Christ the King), Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37; **Monday,** Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday,** Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday,** Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday (St. Andrew),** Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Friday,** Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21.2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday,** Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36

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Grants, from page 1

seeks to get them into the workforce.

Cherokee Co. Chamber of Commerce with Andrews Chamber of Commerce, Mountain Microenterprise Fund, and Murphy Area Business Association received $735 for a project named Cherokee County Buy Local Campaign. The grant money is earmarked for the printing of 500 packets of material, but it is expected that those printed items will reach many families. Through this program, shoppers are encouraged to buy from locally owned businesses, identified by a distinctive "Buy Local" logo, and customers will receive flyers thanking them for keeping their dollars in the community. *(see www.mtnmicro.org)*

Heaven's Helping Hands was awarded $400 for an Outreach Car Ministry. This program purchases cars, makes needed repairs, then gifts them to people in need, either as a means of transportation to work or to escape domestic violence. Beyond the grant award, the Office of Economic Opportunity has offered technical assistance for the further development of this much-needed program.

Appalachian Heritage Crafters received $3,800 for Start-up funding for a craft cooperative which will help approximately 70 crafters at this time. This unusual project was funded by a group of displaced Levi Strauss employees who have worked since January to formalize their organization, as well as to conduct a feasibility study. The goal of the group is to provide a retail outlet for local crafters as well as training in marketing and selling. The grant also helps pay, in part, for an Internet store on-line. The store will not only be a sales outlet for the goods produced by the crafters but will feature live demonstrations of traditional crafting.

The significance for this project is great in that it provides potential financial opportunities for displaced workers, a wise use of a downtown storefront and is culturally appropriate.

The volunteer staff is presently working to establish the retail store.

One Dozen Who Care was given $1,180 for the production of a Tri-County Multicultural Resource Guide. This group of minority women support and promote minority businesses and resources in three counties-Cherokee, Clay and Graham. In May, they held a development conference at the Hinton Rural Life Center. Their grant money will be used to print 500 copies of the Tri-County Multi-Cultural Resource Guide to be made available to the participants of the 2001 development conference as well as to the public.

House Raising Volunteers of Cherokee and Clay Counties was awarded its full request of $190. The grant money will be used to compensate someone who will provide Homebuyer Education to Cherokee and Clay countians who are obtaining a home from this group. The class is open to any others who desire to receive the training.

Industrial Opportunities, Inc. will use their grant money of $1,000 to equip a Make -a-Way Van to transport people with disabilities to work and social opportunities which are presently inaccessible in Cherokee County.

Clay County Community Revitalization Association, in an effort to "Light Up the Square," making it more attractive and safe for evening activities, wrote a grant and received $1,200 which will pay for one vandal-resistant lamp. (Nine more lamps are needed to complete the project.)

Center for Participatory Change will use its award of $2,500 for a partnership with the Heifer Project International to complete the Graham County Agricultural Organizing Project. CPC will work with local farmers to organize and to utilize the Heifer Project program which works with families all over the United States and the world to make a living from livestock. The family gets an animal, in this situation a sheep; and is trained in how to raise the animal and how to make the best use of the products the animal will provide. In many cases, an offspring from the original animal is given to another local family and the program continues. This is a very sustainable project.

Graham County's **Yellow Creek Botanical Institute** designed a plan which they entitled Entrepreneurial Empowerment in the Botanical Market. Some of the same farmers in the above project along with other farmers who would like the opportunity to transition from crops like tobacco and/or timber will now benefit from a $2,500 grant-to fund training in raising natural botanicals indigenous to the area.

Handmade in America has been working with the Stecoah Weavers of Graham County and was awarded a grant in the amount of $2,500 to provide training for 12-15 weavers (at this time) by at least one instructor. This intensive training program will work with local residents to help them become skilled weavers and will assist them in their marketing efforts. Weavers will meet for instruction at the Stecoah Valley Community Center. The training will be ongoing.

Swain/Qualla Habitat for Humanity's grant in the amount of $800 will be applied toward training students from the high school in the existing Habitat for Humanity building program. In this way, the youth will receive needed skills to help others and, eventually, to sustain themselves.

This Growing Opportunities Small Grants Program seeks to develop and/or utilize existing community resources to maximize the cultural and economic health of the region for current and future generations (Sustainable Development) and to permanently alter those structures which perpetuate unjust economic conditions by removing the existing barriers to equal opportunity (Systemic Change).

There will be a second cycle of issuing grants next spring. For complete guidelines and applications, call, (828) 835-3535.

"Founding Fathers" to air Nov. 27-30 on The History Channel

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The names are familiar to anyone who has taken an American history class: George Washington, Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Hancock. But "Founding Fathers," a four-part series to be shown Nov. 27-30, 9-10 p.m. EST on cable's The History Channel, rounds out the picture of these great men by considering the human side of each.

Narrated by Edward Herrmann and featuring the voices of Beau Bridges, Burt Reynolds and James Woods, to name a few, "Founding Fathers" gives only a light overview of history and focuses mainly on 10 flesh-and-blood men who fought for independence and shaped the destiny of the United States. Historians and professors share little-known facts (the Founding Fathers all pitched in to buy Samuel Adams a new suit because they felt his crumpled red one would present a bad image at the Continental Congress) and gossipy tidbits (Jefferson's hatred for Thomas Paine prompted him to encourage people to pray for Paine's death).

The program, although for the most part interesting, teeters on the edge of being a trashy tabloid dishing out the indiscretions of our Founding Fathers with sometimes more gusto than it discusses the struggle for independence. But it nonetheless succeeds in painting a more human picture of the men, foibles as well as strengths. More than the simple facts of the patriotic figures' achievements, the revelations of their personal lives offer a different insight into the fight for American independence and identity.

Though not an in-depth look into history, "Founding Fathers" may spark some interest from adolescents who might garner some historical perspective while finding out the real material of George Washington's teeth.

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Bishop William G. Curlin

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Thanksgiving in jubilee year should focus on Christ

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Thanksgiving takes on a special meaning in the jubilee year, as Christians express gratitude for the created world and for the Savior who redeemed it, Pope John Paul II said.

The pope spoke about Thanksgiving, celebrated on different days around the world, at a Holy Year Mass with farmers Nov. 12.

He said Thanksgiving began as a feast day for those involved in farming, as a way to show that they appreciated the goods of the earth as a "priceless gift of divine providence."

"This year it takes on a higher spiritual value, during the jubilee that celebrates the 2,000 years since the birth of Christ," he said. In the Holy Year, people will give thanks not only for the earth's fruits and resources, but for Christ as "the savior of humanity and, in a certain sense, of the cosmos itself."

In remarks in English, the pope offered a Thanksgiving blessing, especially to those who work in agriculture and rural life.

"In your daily encounter with the beauty of God's creation, may you grow closer to the Lord of life, strengthen your commitment to be good stewards of his bountiful gifts, and grow in solidarity with others, especially our brothers and sisters suffering from poverty and hunger," he said.

"May the Lord of the harvest bless your labors and fill you and your families with his peace," he said.

Pope prays for victims of Austrian mountain ski car disaster

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As relatives awaited identification of victims in a ski car disaster near Salzburg, Austria, Pope John Paul II promised his prayers for those who died and for their families.

In separate telegrams to Salzburg's archbishop and Austria's president, the pope expressed sorrow at the loss of life and his solidarity with the victims' family and friends "in these hours of deep sorrow."

Some 170 people, including eight Americans, died Nov. 11 when a cable-pulled ski car caught fire in a mountain tunnel near Salzburg.

The pope's telegram to Austrian President Thomas Klestil was released at the Vatican Nov. 13. The papal telegram to Archbishop Georg Eder of Salzburg, Austria, signed in the pope's name by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, was released Nov. 12.

Austrian authorities said the cable car caught fire and stopped about 600 yards into a tunnel on the Kitzsteinhorn mountain. As of Nov. 13, the cause of the fire and the total number of dead had not been determined.

Eighteen people survived, mainly by fleeing downwards in the tunnel where the smoke was thinner.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Family Reflections

Talk to anyone married for ten or more years and they'll agree, if they're honest, that things are not quite the same as they had envisioned them to be when the marriage began. Some unanticipated goodness is realized while other dreams are deferred, if not lost. It seems that for every hurdle a couple successfully clears, there is a stumbling block, a detour-something that goes awry, something that dies in them.

With every dream deferred, for every sacrifice of self for the other, there is a sense of dying. Many couples never get beyond that dying experience. They mourn their losses so much that separation is the only remedy that makes any sense.

Kathleen Hughes, in her book, Saying Amen: A Mystagogy of Sacrament, says, "Every loving is a dying-a dying to my own time, comfort, convenience, wants, needs, concerns, interest. [It] is a dying to self-interest and self-aggrandizement in an act of generosity and self-giving . . . and it all happens not just when one or the other feels like it but daily, and for all the days of ordinary time as well as in the high holy seasons of a marriage."

A wife who attended a marriage retreat with her husband phrased it this way: "Sometimes it seems like we have a one-eyed, three-legged dog of a marriage. But we're still making it day by day."

To talk about dying in the same breath as loving calls for conversion-conversion from what is of us to what is of God. Most couples can't fathom this at their weddings. When they make their promises to each other, to the community and to God, they can't know what they are committing themselves to. The notion of dying to anything is so remote from their immediate sense of hope, and their outpouring of love for each other has no casualties in the springtime of their marriage.

Yet even in the vows they speak on their wedding day, there is a foretelling of the rhythm of dying and rising-in good times and bad, in sickness and in health, for better and for worse-that will be intrinsic to their life together.

Marriage that is lived as sacrament has that Paschal Mystery character. We die to self so that our new self-the marriage-may have life. And the relationship that is fashioned by this is by far a more precious work of art than the buried, limited vision from which it began.

Sacramental marriages may not all have, at first glance, that visible glow that is evident at weddings. No marriage is perfect. Some may appear less perfect than others from outward appearances. But before we rush to judgment, we must look deeper to discover the covenant that holds them together. Revealed beneath the surface is the couple's story that parallels the Paschal Mystery-of dying and rising. From their story we experience their covenantal love that is of God-SACRAMENT! Though it may look like a one-eyed, three-legged dog of a marriage, it may be the face of God.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

November: Bleak for a Reason?

If you have asked people, as I have, what is the toughest month of the year, the answer you're likely to get is "November." I have searched to find some good stuff about November, and have to admit that it's definitely skimpy.

The ancient Saxons called November "wind-month," because of the heavy gales that were prevalent at that time of year. Even poets have complained about this 11th month, calling it, in the words of Thomas Hood, "No sun, no morn, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no leaves, no birds, November!"

In past centuries, the belief was prevalent that November was such a monotonous month that it actually had an evil influence on the minds of people. One churchman was said to write in the late 1700s:

"November, the dreadful month, when the little witches drown themselves and the great ones sell themselves to the devil." I haven't the foggiest notion what he meant by all of that.

This poor month is even misnamed. November actually means "nine," coming from the Latin, and it was the ninth month until January and February were added. Some of the Romans tried to change the name, but then some others filibustered and won out with no name change. Politics is, as we know, an old game.

Yet, all the news about November isn't gloomy. In fact, there's much about this month to give us joy. For one thing, November becomes the perfect month to pause, using the excuse, if one wants, of the early dark days and cold nights to justify a change of pace and routine.

Now we have the perfect opportunity to stop the rush of activities and take the time to meditate on what our life is all about, where we're going and who is there to help us. In the stillness of our homes, we can take a great spiritual journey.

Perhaps November is dark so that we can stop long enough to recognize our own responsibility in bringing forth light.

I think it was brilliant that some great ancestors decided to underscore a day in late November to be called Thanksgiving. It was a brilliant idea to get us to stop for a day so that we could consider our lives and all that we have been given — in a sense gambling that this would generate in most of us a total and honest thank you to God.

Years ago a man named Wilferd Petersen thought about all the things that inspired gratitude in his life, and he wrote an essay for This Week magazine that he called "The Art of Thanksgiving." Consider some of his thoughts about this "art":

It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly.

It is thanking God for your talents and abilities by accepting them as obligations to be invested for the common good.

It is thanking God for happiness by striving to make others happy.

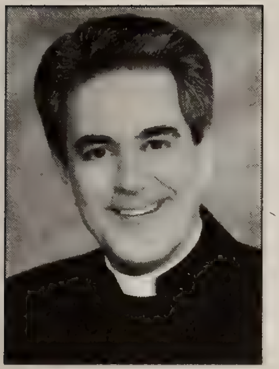
It is thanking God for beauty by helping to make the world more beautiful.

It is thanking God for inspiration by trying to be an inspiration to others.

It is thanking God for each new day by living it to the fullest.

It is adding acts of thanksgiving to your prayers of thanksgiving.

I have joyfully passed on these thoughts as a way of leading to the greeting I so very much want to share with my readers: Thank you for your wonderful letters, and happy Thanksgiving!



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Words Full of Thanks

The mail pouch that arrives each morning at our Manhattan office is almost invariably full - and, just as often, full of pleasant surprises as well. Thanksgiving is an ideal time to tell you about a few of them, since they're usually letters that are full of thanks. And we, in turn, are thankful for our loyal Christopher friends - thankful far beyond my ability to describe!

Here's one note, for example, that came from a long-time friend who lives in New York. "It's been 50 years since I joined The Christophers in my last year at college. I had searched around the professions - law and journalism - until the Christopher movement nudged me in the direction of teaching. Next month I begin my 46th year, most of it in college teaching. The Christophers have been at the center of my whole life, along with six children, four books, and the greatest wife in the world! What luck! Thanks to The Christophers!"

Another friend wrote: "I was away from the Church for half my life. During that time, your Christopher News Notes were my only connection to God, and they kept arriving, from somewhere. Sometimes your motto alone - 'It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness' - kept my head above water. In fact, your message is what brought me back to the Church."

A note from Massachusetts reads: "I truly believe that the Christopher message has had more impact on my life than all the other education I have received. The Christophers taught me that I could make a difference - that I did not have to be the most brilliant or the most successful. It is something I try to do even now in my golden years. I hope when I stand before our God one day, He will say, 'You tried to light the way - you tried to be a Christopher.'"

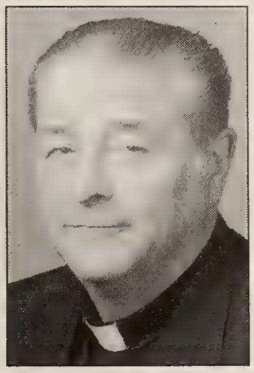
Finally, it's hard to imagine a more touching letter than this one, from a mother who found room to express her thanks even in the midst of a family tragedy.

"I am most grateful to have been introduced to and influenced by the Christopher philosophy since the 1960s, when I first began receiving Christopher News Notes," she wrote. "I am also grateful for the opportunity to have passed Christopher values on to my daughter. She strongly believed in and practiced the Christopher motto. It was a way of life for her. Her ability to find reason to light a candle rather than curse the darkness in the most difficult of circumstances - especially during her final months, when she was enduring much physical pain and discomfort - was a powerful example to all those who knew her.

"When a person is diagnosed with Budd-Chiari Syndrome, the prognosis for life is only three to five years. She lived seven-and-a-half years after her own diagnosis, before her death at age 39. I am overwhelmed with grief over the great loss of this daughter. However, my Catholic Christian faith, reinforced by the Christopher philosophy, is helping me to see her life, particularly her last years of life, as a gift from God. Instead of becoming despondent over her untimely death, I am gradually becoming aware of and accepting that it was by the grace of God and her 'Christopher attitude' that these few but extra years were added to her life. Being able to view my daughter's death from this perspective is truly a blessing."

What an extraordinary expression of faith and thanks! Now you can see some of the reasons that we here at The Christophers have so much to be thankful for. We're thankful, too, for loyal readers just like you - and assure you of our prayers and fondest wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Reader Confused by Vatican Document

Q. Like the writer of a letter in our diocesan paper, I am saddened by the recent Vatican declaration named "Dominus Iesus." Several of my Protestant friends at work have asked me what it is all about, and I don't know what to say. As I understand, it says, among other things, that other churches are not really churches at all, only the Catholic Church is. Also, that people who belong to these other denominations are somehow deficient in their religion and that their salvation is in jeopardy because of it.

Is this really what we are supposed to believe today? At best, such things are very difficult, if not impossible, to explain and defend. Can you help us understand?

A. You're not the only one who is wondering. Many priests and bishops have been trying to put that document, released by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in September, in the context of the remarkable, officially approved, understandings and agreements with other Christian communities over the past few decades.

Even Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, reportedly remarked that "neither the timing nor the language of the document were opportune."

First, a clear major intent of the document is to insist on the Christian belief that all saving grace of God comes to the human family in and through Jesus Christ. There is no salvation outside of him.

This does not mean explicit and conscious faith in Jesus is necessary for salvation. The declaration repeats the long-standing Catholic belief that the Holy Spirit of Jesus is active everywhere, "not only in individuals, but also in society and history, peoples, cultures and religions." "The risen Christ is now at work in human hearts through the strength of his Spirit" (No. 12).

Second, Pope John Paul II has taken the opportunity more than once in recent weeks to alleviate the hurt caused by the language of the document and to explain its meaning. His purpose in approving the declaration, said the pope, was to invite all Christians to renew their fidelity to Jesus the Lord.

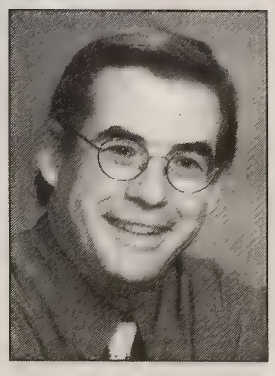
"Dominus Iesus," he continued, "does not deny salvation to non-Christians but points to its ultimate source in Christ," who gives graces for salvation to everyone "in ways known only to himself" (Midday Angelus blessing remarks Oct. 1, 2000).

Above all, the pope seems to wish strongly to emphasize that the ecumenical directions and successes of the past several years are here to stay. As he told Queen Elizabeth when they met in October, "There can be no turning back from the ecumenical goal we have set ourselves."

In other words, the Catholic Church's teaching about salvation of people in other religions of the world, as expressed for example in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Nos. 846-848), has not changed. Nor has its commitment to honest dialogue with other religious communities. We believe as Catholics that the fullest saving gifts of God are present in the spiritual resources of the Catholic faith. But as Pope John Paul wrote in his 1995 encyclical "Ut Unum Sint" ("That They May Be One"), speaking specifically of other Christians, elements of holiness and truth are present and active in these different communities.

"To the extent that these elements are found in other Christian communities, the one Church of Christ is effectively present in them" as well. The Christian life and witness produced over the years in these communities is the ultimate proof that the Spirit is there and accomplishing its saving work.

Coming of Age



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS COLUMNIST

A Teen Relationship Gone Wrong

It all started out normally enough. Mike and Lisa were both sophomores, they went out a few times, then they became a couple.

From the beginning, Lisa made Mike feel special and strong. She was an anxious person, and said again and again that Mike made her feel secure and happy — as nobody else ever had.

How did it get so messed up? By the time I talked to Mike in my office, he felt like a prisoner of Lisa's moods. If he called her late, she'd be frantic that he was with another girl. If he couldn't spend all day with her Saturday or Sunday, she'd get depressed and threaten to break up with him.

Lisa would call Mike, sobbing about how terrible her life was, and more than once he had fights with his parents when he insisted on racing over to see her after 10 at night.

He admitted to me that she'd call up and say she wanted to hurt herself. Frantic, feeling responsible for her well-being, he'd leave the house against his parent's wishes. He wouldn't tell them why.

Lisa threatened suicide. When she got too unhappy, she'd sit in the dark thinking about ways to kill herself. She said she did it when she felt depressed — Mike thought maybe she did it when she felt ignored.

"It scares me to death," said Mike. Whenever they weren't together, he'd worry about what she was doing.

Mike's relationship with his parents fell apart as he lied and sneaked around to be with Lisa. He fell asleep during class because he was up all night talking to Lisa.

Untangling Mike's own emotions took months of therapy and support from his family. He finally broke up with Lisa because he saw that their relationship was too destructive, and he had the courage to tell her parents what was happening. They took her to see her own therapist, and she was getting the help she needed.

What Mike learned — and I hope Lisa eventually learned as well — is that it's entirely possible to love somebody too much. When you make another person responsible for your sense of value, well-being and happiness, you both become prisoners.

Lisa demanded that Mike spend his life taking care of her emotions. That's an unreasonable demand.

There are some warning signals. If a girlfriend or boyfriend says, "You are my world," be careful, because there's no way you can live up to that expectation.

If you feel it's your job to make sure somebody else doesn't get too angry, too sad or too lonely, be suspicious.

Finally, if anyone ever says to you something that translates "I'm going to hurt myself physically because you hurt me emotionally," there is a bigger problem than you can possibly handle by yourself.

That kind of emotional blackmail places you in a terrible trap. If Mike did nothing, and Lisa hurt herself, he'd feel guilty — but if he spent the rest of his life trying to stop her, he'd end up angry and resentful.

If you care about the other person, tell his or her parents or a school counselor exactly what's going on. The person making those threats needs professional help. This isn't a time for doing things on your own.

Tour geared to explore plight of farmers and workers

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Life is sometimes hard and heartless.

Ramira Sarabia, father of seven and a migrant worker for 26 years, recalled the arduous work of harvesting crops for five hours after finishing his eight-hour factory job.

In order to feed his family, he endured low wages, backbreaking work and deplorable living conditions.

Now he is an organizer with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee [FLOC] - AFL-CIO, attempting to orient his people to advocate for decent benefits, fair wages and human dignity.

Joining him in this pursuit were a group of journalists led by Glenmary Father John Rausch.

They toured Tennessee and western North Carolina, in an effort to see first hand the disparity between the food processing companies and the migrant harvester.

Speaking at a gathering at St. Eugene Church, Asheville, Father Rausch, a supporter of FLOC, stated: "Our job is to further the education of journalism in fields of study about agriculture. We need to understand the problems of food production, as they relate to the treatment of migrant workers.

"It is our goal to define these problems in terms of fair labor, the future of family farms, and good treatment of the land.

"We have an opportunity to apply Catholic social teaching as it applies to the dignity of human persons."

Robert Gronski, an Iowa journalist and a policy coordinator with the National Catholic Rural Life Conference serving as a resource person on the tour, stressed the need to create resources to assist in the cause for social justice.

"I was overwhelmed at the number of Latino workers in North Carolina," he said. "We as people of faith need realize how dependent we are on these men and women for food production in our lives."

The NCRLC is expressing its solidarity with farmers at this time of crisis due to low farm prices, weather-related disasters, and that the land, air and water are seriously at risk. Gronski urges Christian leadership to address this urgent, resurging crisis in rural North America through intentional, compassionate outreach and ministry.

Any diminishment of dignity violates Catholic convictions that economy is for the human person, not persons for the economy.

Among many of the stops on the tour, the journalists visited the Monterey Mushroom Farm in Tennessee, a 100-acre farm that produces one-third of the fresh mushrooms in the United States, and the Wayne Scott farm of Unicoi, Tenn., a grower of tomatoes and strawberries. Both use migrant workers.

Recently, Bishop Nicholas DeMarzio, Bishop of Camden, N.J., and chairman of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Committee on Migration, addressed the plight of farm workers in a statement before the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration: "In the view of the Church, all agricultural workers — those both here temporarily or permanently — are entitled to safe working conditions, adequate housing and benefits for themselves and their families. This is paramount; it deserves the support and affirmation of the community and the nation."

Matt Emmick, another organizer for FLOC said that "undocumented" workers pay transporters $1,300 to get across the U.S. border, many loaded into completely enclosed trucks with only a chance to get out at night and subsiding on one hamburger a day.

When they arrive at the farms, their living quarters resemble chicken-coop enclosures.

When asked whether it was worth it for any Latino man, he stated that even though the wage is below minimum standards in North Carolina, migrant workers earn three times more than what they would earn in

See FLOC, next page

Classifieds

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FLOC, from page 14

Mexico.

The Mt. Olive Pickle Company, second producer of pickles in the country, is locked with FLOC in a national boycott over unionization.

FLOC's President Baldemar Velasquez stated in a Raleigh debate, "Our job is to reconcile the conditions of the farm workers and the experiences they have to suffer from, to reconcile the people from the bottom to the people from the top."

Although most workers are scared and intimidated by the growers' association, "workers need their own voice," said Emmick.

When 2000 migrant workers went on strike in Ohio at the Campbell Soup Co., wages were increased for pickle workers from \$3.61/100 lbs. harvested in 1986 to \$5.80/100 lbs in 1996.

In North Carolina, farm workers picking for Mt. Olive Co. make \$1.80/100 lbs of pickles.

The Gospel becomes an anchor for people of faith, and as stewards of the land and the water, the faithful are challenged to look at the common good and encourage individuals and communities to act on the behalf of the good of all.

As those involved in the journalists' tour discovered — and as those they encountered know as a daily reality — eating is a moral act.

Archbishop, from page 8

1968-71.

He was elected vicar general of the Josephites in 1971, serving also as director of spiritual and educational formation for the society.

In 1974, when he was 40, Father Marino was named an auxiliary bishop of Washington, becoming the third black priest in modern times to achieve the rank of bishop in the U.S. Catholic Church.

Preceding him were Auxiliary Bishop Harold R. Perry of New Orleans, who died in 1991, and Bishop Joseph L. Howze, then of Jackson, Miss., and now of Biloxi. There are currently 12 active and one retired black U.S. bishops.

Bishop Marino took an active role in the bishops' conference and in educating the predominantly white U.S. Catholic Church about the evils of racism and the contributions that black Catholics could make.

Citing "two soul-stirring moments" during the 1976 Democratic convention — an address by Rep. Barbara Jordan of Texas and a benediction by the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. — Bishop Marino said, "It is such soul-filling inspiration that black members of the body of Christ can bring with them, for the uplifting of all Christ's members as they gather around the table of the Lord for the breaking of bread."

To a 1976 meeting of religious educators, he said, "It is a mistake ... to assume that children who come from underprivileged situations are lacking in creativity or imagination."

Bishop Marino played a key role in Pope John Paul II's visit with black Catholic leaders in New Orleans in 1987 and was one of the authors of the black bishops' 1984 pastoral on evangelization.

In 1985, Bishop Marino was elected secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, becoming the first black to hold a major NCCB-USCC post.

"I see it as a sign of hope and encouragement and an indication of a serious commitment (on the part of the bishops) to making black people leaders of the church at the highest levels," he said of his election.

In a 1987 talk to black Catholic leaders from around the United States, he said, "Growing up as a young boy in Mississippi, with the double — I was going to say handicap, but I'll say blessing — of being black and Catholic, I never thought I would see the day when I would be standing here preaching God's holy word in this place, as a priest, indeed as a bishop of the church.

"Generations of black Catholics never lived to see a black priest or sister, let alone ever dream that their son or daughter might become one."

Bishop Marino was named archbishop of Atlanta in 1988; he later admitted that his relationship with Long began shortly afterward.

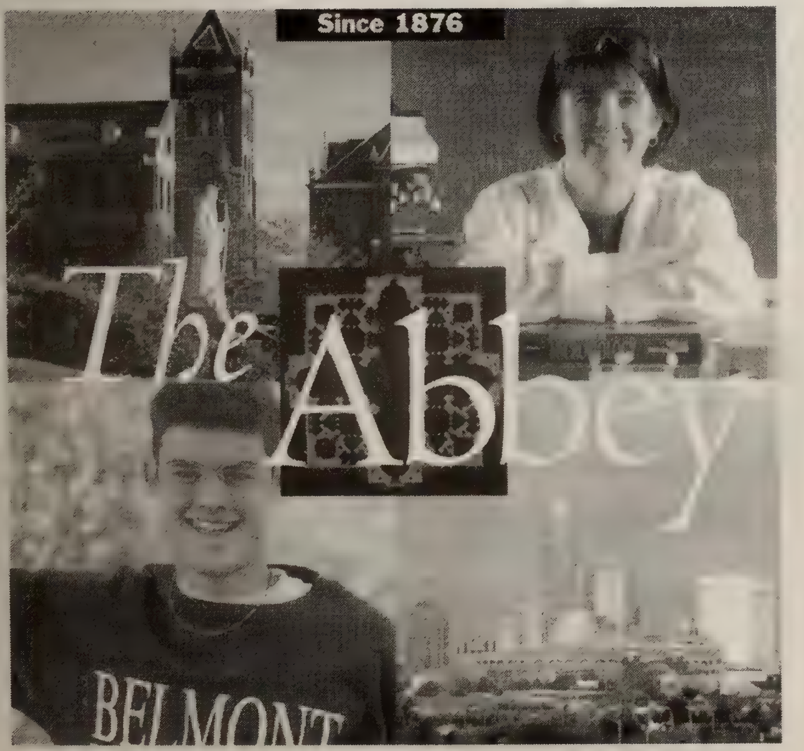
After his resignation, Archbishop Marino went into seclusion, under spiritual direction and psychiatric and medical care for severe stress.

In a 1996 interview with CNS, he said he had been a chaplain for the Sisters of Mercy in Alma, Mich., prior to joining St. Vincent's in July 1995.

In his work in the outpatient program, Archbishop Marino said, he did not draw on his personal experience in any major way when he worked with priests who were patients there.

"It's not about me," he said. "It has to be about them, and how God's grace is working in the process of their lives."

Father Kearns said Archbishop Marino also had been leading two retreats for priests each year. Although he had "many, many requests from bishops" to conduct other retreats, he limited the number to two so as not to interfere with his work, the priest added.



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"Christmas... reveals the full meaning of every human birth,... the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is... the foundation... of joy at every child born into the world."
— John Paul II, The Gospel of Life

Room At The Inn

Jubilee 2000

Our Mission

Responding to the call of Jesus Christ to respect and affirm life from the moment of conception, Room At The Inn is a safe haven for homeless, single, pregnant mothers and their children, born and unborn. Invoking the patronage of Saint Joseph, and guided by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, Room At The Inn seeks to help these young families move toward a new life of hopeful, independent, and healthy living.

From The Hearts of Our Residents...

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"My daughter and I could never have made it without Room At The Inn. I thank God for them every day and for all they did for me while I was there."

Our Credentials

Room At The Inn, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation operating in Charlotte, North Carolina. Incorporated on March 9, 1994 with the Secretary of State, Room At The Inn is a pro-life ministry of the Catholic Church and is listed in the Official Catholic Directory (P.J. Kenedy and Sons). The residence in Charlotte is licensed by the state of North Carolina to provide maternity home care and child care services. Room At The Inn serves single mothers with or without previous children regardless of their economic, social, religious, racial or ethnic backgrounds.

Since Room At The Inn's inception, over 200 single pregnant women and their children born and unborn have benefited from the long-term residential, educational, health and child care services the program provides.

Our Goals

Room At The Inn uses an integral approach of providing the human, intellectual, and spiritual needs of the resident mothers by:

- Providing a safe, peaceful, and Christ-centered environment that includes daily group prayer, guided study, and Sunday attendance at the church of their choice.
- Supplying immediate and long-term shelter in a secure and stable environment for themselves and their children.
- Improving their health and the health of their children by insuring proper prenatal and post-natal care, immunizations, regular check ups, referrals to medical facilities for immediate care, and health education.
- Delivering on-site life skills education in early childhood development, parenting, nutrition, money management, and chastity to assist them in becoming responsible caregivers and providers for themselves and their children.
- Requiring enrollment in a GED or associate degree program to assist in the development of the necessary career and social skills they need to obtain long term employment.
- Offering individual and group counseling to assist them in the development of positive life changes and long term coping skills.

This Christmas, give The Gift of Life by honoring or remembering a loved one with a charitable gift to Room At The Inn. Send your tax-deductible gift to:

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

November 24, 2000
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Inside

Archbishop McCarrick to succeed Cardinal Hickey ...Page 5

U.S. Catholic bishops meet in Washington, D.C. ...Page 8

Local News

Room at the Inn finds generosity abounds ...Page 3

Charlotte teen has reason to smile ...Page 4

Gospel choir celebrates 20 years ...Page 7

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

> "Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.'"
>
> — *Luke 1: 30-31*

House of Mercy honors Bishop Curlin

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — For a man who dedicates his life to the Eucharist, an honor for outreach to people whose lives are affected by AIDS is an affirmation of his concern for the entire body of Christ here on earth.

Bishop William G. Curlin was honored as the 2000 recipient of the Thanks for Giving Award by the House of Mercy, an AIDS outreach facility founded and operated in Belmont by the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina. The annual award recognizes a person who has contributed to direct care, services or general support for people with AIDS and the virus that leads to it, HIV.

"When I think of the House of Mercy and the ministry of Bishop Curlin, the word compassion comes to mind," said Father Mauricio W. West, diocesan vicar general and chancellor, in a video tribute to the 2000 honoree. "For him, no one is left outside the circle of God's love."

The honor was the centerpiece of the House of Mercy's Thanks for Giving Ball, the facility's primary annual fund-raiser, Nov. 18 at the Renaissance Suites Hotel in Charlotte. The black-tie affair included a silent auction, dinner, music and dancing.

The Sisters of Mercy established the House of Mercy in 1991 as a housing and health care facility for people in the advanced stages of AIDS. The center offers medical, physical, psychological and spiritual support to these men and women and does not discriminate based on race, creed, financial status or sexual orientation.

Bishop Curlin is the fifth recipient of the Thanks for Giving Award. The tribute included the House of Mercy's naming a new prayer room in the facility in Bishop Curlin's honor.

"We are very pleased that the bishop would be here for us as a fund-raiser and supporter," said Stan Patterson, House of Mercy's president and chief executive officer. "Bishop Curlin has been very supportive of organizations involved in providing care for those with AIDS, and we appreciate his coming to be a part of the program tonight."

Throughout the evening's program, Bishop Curlin was portrayed as a pastor, a man whose outreach to others is rooted in a profound response to Christ's love.

"At his very core, Bishop Curlin is a priest," said Robert Gallagher, chairman of the board of directors, chief executive officer and treasurer of Good Will Publishers, Inc., and a friend of the bishop. "It is not something he does. It is who he is. He is not a social worker; he is not an administrator. He is first, last and always a priest forever."

Gallagher, who has known Bishop Curlin since the bishop's arrival in Charlotte in 1994, recalled moments in the bishop's life that built a foundation for "what motivates him to such standards of service, self-sacrifice and dedication to others."

Through recounts of past conversations with the bishop, Gallagher recalled glimpses of a young Billy Curlin, whose faith was influenced by

See HOUSE OF MERCY, page 9

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Stan Patterson of House of Mercy presents a clock to Bishop William G. Curlin Nov. 18.

Southern bishops issue pastoral statement on poultry industry

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Forty-one Catholic bishops from 12 Southern states issued a pastoral statement Nov. 15 examining the human, financial and environmental problems associated with the poultry industry.

"Voices and Choices," as the pastoral is called, was a project of the Catholic Committee of the South, which encompasses the territory of the Confederate-era South.

Diocesan bishops from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia signed the poultry pastoral.

In introducing the document — which is being published simultaneously in English and Spanish — at a news conference in Washington Nov. 15, bishops from the South voiced their individual concerns about the poultry industry as it is organized today.

They listed among their concerns the squeeze felt by family farmers under contract to poultry companies, the increasing vertical integration of the industry, consolidation of firms within the industry, low wages and poor treatment of an increasingly immigrant workforce.

Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., decried the "depersonalization in food production" as a result of the pressure chicken processing companies put on family farmers who raise poultry.

"From a pastoral point of view, it's of great concern," he said.

The document points out that contracts with poultry growers leave most of the major decisions in the hands of the company, from decisions on what facilities are used for raising the poultry to what growers will be paid less the cost for feed and supplies.

Regarding workplace concerns, Bishop William G. Curlin told of going this summer to a Tyson's chicken factory in the diocese to meet with the Hispanic workers.

"I was just appalled with the stories they told about firings and unsanitary conditions," Bishop Curlin said.

One man told the bishop he had been fired because he had spent three minutes in the bathroom, and a woman who contracted a skin disease

See PASTORAL, page 15

Philippine archbishop resigns from government peace panel

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — An archbishop on a Philippine government peace panel has quit his post, while a religious brother serving as education secretary is standing firm amid the crisis plaguing President Joseph Estrada. Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao and three other members of the National Peace Forum resigned from the body, saying that "the storm clouds" hovering over the presidency have created "unpeace," reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Meanwhile, De La Salle Brother Andrew Gonzalez told members of his community that he would leave his post as secretary of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports "only when Estrada goes."

Vatican official criticizes early U.S. election calls by networks

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The premature and mistaken announcement of Florida's presidential winner by U.S. television networks on election night was "unconscionable," said the Vatican's top expert in media ethics. Not only did the early calls violate ethical requirements for accuracy, but they may have discouraged potential voters in the state from casting ballots, Archbishop John P. Foley, an American who is president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, told Catholic News Service Nov. 16. "To base an alleged winner or loser on the basis of exit polls or of incomplete returns I think is unconscionable, especially when such an announcement can have an effect in areas where polls remain open," he said.

Bishops of England, Wales decry human cloning as immoral

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Research on cloned human embryos is "unnecessary and immoral," said the bishops of England and Wales, who urged people to call for the government not to legalize human cloning. The bishops discussed the issue of human cloning at their fall meeting in Leeds, northern England, Nov. 13-17, and issued a joint statement Nov. 15. "We are greatly concerned by the implications of allowing the cloning of human embryos for research purposes, soon to be decided by Parliament. The government has undertaken to allow a free vote on the new regulations to be put forward following the report of the Chief Medical Officer, Professor (Liam) Donaldson. We urge all who are concerned about the profound ethical implications to write to their member of Parliament," they said.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Vietnamese Catholic at Shrine

A Vietnamese Catholic woman lights a candle to the Virgin Mary at a Catholic religious shrine in Ho Chi Minh City. U.S. President Bill Clinton raised the issue of human rights, including religious freedom, during his Nov. 16-19 visit to Vietnam.

New Roman Missal instruction to take effect with missal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican's new General Instruction on the Roman Missal will take effect the day the new Roman Missal is issued in Latin, Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., told the U.S. bishops Nov. 13. He urged them, however, "not to precipitously implement any provisions ... which might be changed by particular law" — that is, by special U.S. rules for which the bishops could apply. Archbishop Lipscomb, chairman of the Committee on the Liturgy, made his comments during the fall meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, held in Washington Nov. 13-16.

Global 'Navidad' virus hits Vatican computers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Computers in the Vatican's jubilee office were hit by a Christmas-themed e-mail virus as it made it's way around the globe in mid-November. But the virus cause little damage at the Central Committee for the Great Jubilee, a spokesman said, because staff members were quickly alerted not to open the e-mail attachment carrying it. Angelo Scelzo, director of the committee's press office, said only one out of dozens of office computers was infected Nov. 14 by the bug, which propagates through an attached executable file called "NAVIDAD.EXE."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 3 — 7 p.m.
Theology on Tap Mass and reception
St. Peter, Charlotte

December 8 — 7:30 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 9 — 9 a.m.
Day of Reflection with adult church members
St. Mark, Huntersville

Diocesan planner

December

3 CHARLOTTE — The Our Lady of Assumption Church African American Affairs Ministry invites everyone to attend the first performance of the Gospel Choir this afternoon at 4:30 p.m. at 4225 Shamrock Dr. in the school gym. Admission is free, but a free will offering is being taken during the event to support the parish debt reduction fund. Complimentary beverages are being served, and a raffle is also taking place. For ticket and other information, call Dr. Jude Mbanuzue at (704) 567-5835 or 375-9865.

4 CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse meets from 6-7 p.m. tonight and Dec. 18 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

7 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, meets tonight in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call Joanne Parcell at (336) 924-9478 or the church at (336) 724-0561 for details.

8 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now is sponsoring "The Restorative Conference" today through Dec. 10 at the Great Aunt Stella Center on Elizabeth Ave. The purpose is to examine current problems in the criminal justice system and potential solutions, and the topics range from juvenile justice to the death penalty and mandatory minimum sentencing to victims' rights. For more details, call Ted Frazer at (704) 563-9550.

HICKORY — Rachel's Vineyard, an all-weekend post-abortion retreat, sponsored by Transfiguration Minis-

Lay leaders to try to reawaken 'sleeping giant'

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican-convened gathering of lay leaders in late November aims to reawaken the church's "sleeping giant" — its laity — by tackling the modern crisis of faith, laity officials said.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity invited some 600 lay leaders from around the world to participate in a Nov. 25-30 Congress of Catholic Laity under the theme, "Witnesses to Christ in the Third Millennium." Pope John Paul II was scheduled to attend a Congress Mass Nov. 26.

At a Nov. 20 press conference, organizers said the church's future rests with lay people rediscovering and living their Christian vocation.

"It's said that the world of the laity is a giant, but a sleeping giant," said Bishop Stanislaw Rylko, secretary of the laity council. "It needs today to be reawakened."

He said congress organizers "propose to exit from the discussion of tangential questions and to look at the nucleus of the problem," which he said was a crisis of faith.

He said among the questions to be discussed was, "How does one believe today, and how does one communicate that faith today in a world which is commonly defined as secularized, and even as a post-Christian world?"

Among lay Catholics today, he said, "there is such a need to re-live, in a truly fresh way, amazement at the greatness and beauty of the Christian vocation — a vocation rooted in baptism."

U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, laity council president, told Catholic News Service, "The task of bringing the expression of God's love to the world rests primarily with the lay person in the church.

"That's very important, that the lay person is now perceived since the Second Vatican Council as integrally involved — integrally a part of — the very mission of the church; not an appendage, not a recipient, but an actual, active disciple of Christ," he said Nov. 16.

The congress' invitees included delegates from bishops' conferences and nearly 175 lay movements and communities, lay members of other Christian communities, and some 150 high-profile lay Catholics, like Harvard law professor Mary Ann Glendon and papal biographer George Weigel.

"It's said that the world of the laity is a giant, but a sleeping giant," said Bishop Stanislaw Rylko, secretary of the laity council. "It needs today to be reawakened."

Each day the congress was scheduled to open with a talk by a bishop or cardinal, followed by a panel discussion led by five lay people. Organizers said large segments of time had also been set aside for free discussion.

Boston's Cardinal Bernard F. Law was to lead the last day's discussion with a talk titled, "What Sort of Lay People for the Third Millennium?"

Though the congress was to be closed to the public, laity council officials said they planned to publish a concluding message and eventually the full acts of the congress.

The laity council was to meet in plenary session the day after the congress finished to evaluate and incorporate its conclusions and suggestions.

Room at the Inn finds generosity abounds

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — As fundraisers go, Room at the Inn may have an inside edge on unique approaches. A dinner invitation is extended to join Room at the Inn as their guest. *Gratis.*

Their hope: To share the message of their mission. Their goal: Once the message is heard, that people will open their hearts as well as their wallets for the betterment of their distinctively different pro-life home.

It's a Christ-centered rehabilitation program at Room at the Inn, explained Brown.

Room at the Inn is a safe haven for homeless, single, pregnant mothers and their children, born and unborn. Room at the Inn seeks to help these young families move toward a new life of hopeful, independent and healthy living.

Last year, 700 individuals took them up on their dinner offer. This year, the number nearly doubled. This increase in attendance caused a late-minute change of venues to accommodate this outpouring of support. Thus, while the meal is their gift their supportive community, they do pray for donations to further efforts to help the single, homeless, pregnant women and their children served by their ministry.

At the podium, keynote speaker Statesman Alan Keyes shared a message that offers a challenge to follow the message of Christ.

"If we are to be a people once again for God, you must be a people standing for His truth and the precious lives of those who have been caught in the dark and confusion," said Keyes.

Though Keyes' bid for the Republican candidacy for the 2000 election was thwarted early on, he remains a conservative Republican with a campaign platform based on moral reform. A staunch champion of pro-life efforts made Keyes a natural choice as Room at the Inn's speaker for their millennial fundraiser.

Now in its sixth year of operation, Charlotte's Room at the Inn — with its maternity home care and childcare services — takes pride in its service to the over 200 women and children to pass through its doors. "What makes our maternity home unique," said Cindi Brown, executive director, "is that we serve pregnant women with previous children in addition to serving the woman after her baby is born."

It's a Christ-centered rehabilitation program at Room at the Inn, explained Brown. The program is "based on education, personal responsibility and spiritual direction coupled with mental health and adoption counseling."

In a pitch for contributions, Msgr. John J. McSweeney, pastor of St. Matthew parish in Charlotte said, "I'm not bashful in asking you to make a significant pledge in this jubilee year. What a beautiful tribute it would be to life if $200,000 came out of this room tonight."

Room at the Inn upholds the sacred vocation of motherhood, said Msgr. MsSweeney. It is through generosity, the home provides a haven, making it possible to raise a child in situations where many times there's no hope.

Note: the final tally for Room at the Inn exceeded $210,000.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

tries and the Respect Life Office, is being held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, this evening through Dec. 10. For more information or to pre-register, make a confidential call to Debbie or Martha at (336) 659-1342.

HOT SPRINGS — Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege and Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern are facilitating an "Advent Retreat with Mary" this weekend through Dec. 10 at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 Hwy. 25/70 NW. The retreat's focus is Mary whose "yes" ushered in a new creation. To register by Dec. 1 and for more information, call (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

9 FOREST CITY — Father Philip Scarcella, Ph.D., J.C.D., professor of European history, is conducting a mission at Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St., this evening at 5:30 p.m. Mass and with a 7 p.m. service on Dec. 10 and 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. services through Dec. 14. A penance service is being held on Dec. 13 after the mission talk, and benediction follows each evening service. For further information, call (828) 245-4017 or Claire Feldmeth at (828) 245-6053.

WINSTON-SALEM — Oratorian Father David Valtierra, director of adult education at the Oratory, is presenting an "Advent Retreat Day" at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel Spirituality Center, 211 W. 3rd St., from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The day includes Scripture study, reflection, Taize' song and prayer and an included lunch. To make reservations by noon on Dec. 6 or for details, call the church at (336) 723-8238.

10 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

HICKORY — The Secular Franciscan Order of Hickory is presenting a re-enactment of St. Francis of Assisi's 1223 Greecio, Italy, recreation of Jesus' birth so that local people of that historical period could experience those holy night conditions. The re-enactment is taking place at 4 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. For details, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956 or John M. Martin at (828) 323-7820.

11 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent meets tonight only, because of the holiday season, from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

12 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Dr. Bob Panoff is presenting "Creation, Science and the Catholic Church," a session about the debate between science and religion involving the Big Bang Theory versus seven-day creation and a possible harmonious existence between the two concepts. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church is having their annual Christmas party and program today at noon at the Pine Lake Country Club in Mint Hill. Food, gifts and entertainment are being provided for members and guests with a donation in support of the event and the club. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Charlotte teen has reason to smile

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Mihael Matic remembers the sound of bombs when he was trying to sleep. That is the most vivid memory of the seven-year-old as he and his family were fleeing their native home of Croatia, a predominantly Catholic country bordered by the Adriatic Sea and formerly known as Yugoslavia. The family relocated to Bosnia, then Germany, to escape the destruction of the civil war that had broken out between warring, newly independent nations. The family slept in schools, in the forest or in buildings with little to no food and water.

This was a difficult way of life for any child but made more challenging by a condition that Mihael has had since birth.

"I talked to him and told him to be proud if who he is," said Ruza.

Mihael, who attends St. Gabriel Church with his parents and younger brother Goran, is like many other 14-year-olds. He is a budding artist with an interest in soccer and the first stirrings of the desire to look good in the eyes of the opposite sex.

What is different about him is a facial deformity caused by a birth defect, a cleft lip and palate.

A cleft lip, commonly referred to as a harelip by many people, is an opening above the mouth and face. The facial fissure can also involve the palate in the roof of the mouth in about 70 percent of the cases. As in Mihael's case, he had both, a condition of which his mother was unaware.

"I had never seen anything like it before, but I thought my child was the best; he was beautiful to me," said Ruza Matic in rapid Croatian translated by her niece Carolina Dominovic, 15.

Doctors were able to repair the large opening in the baby's mouth and lip at the age of six months, and at the age of two, he underwent his second operation to repair his palate. The next year, the family had a scare when the two operations, which today, Ruza wonders if they had been sufficiently performed, caused breathing problems. Mihael had to undergo a tracheotomy, an operation in which a hole is cut in the throat area, to allow him to breathe.

It was at this point that Riza became worried for the first time. "I was scared when he cried because I thought he was in pain. I just wanted him to be OK, and I wondered if he would die," said Ruza waving her hands at the painful memory. "God gave him the power to live; who else could have helped?"

Mihael would have three more operations in Germany and Holland to repair his eardrum because of the chronic ear infections that children with a cleft lip and palate go through and another operation to repair his palate. As he grew up, he grew ashamed of his lip, mouth and teeth; he began pulling up his shirt over his face to hide it during school. "Some kids teased me, and some didn't," said Mihael.

"I talked to him and told him to be proud if who he is," said Ruza.

After surviving those turbulent times, Mihael and his family immigrated to Charlotte to join relatives who had been living here for a short time.

Through the help of the Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Office, Ruza and Ivan Matic were able to find work with Linda V. Campbell, limited service case manager, working on their case.

Around that same time, through divine providence, Campbell read an article a year ago about Dr. Philip Strawther, a Charlotte-based plastic surgeon who works with Operation Smile, a national organization, and performs free surgeries on children with cleft lips and palates around the world. She called the doctor's office and the Greensboro Operation Smile Office and was able to coordinate an operation for Mihael on Nov. 22.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Mihael Matic

Mihael will also have surgeries at no cost to his family on his jaw and nose after he grows into his bone structure.

Ruza was more worried than Mihael about the lip surgery but is very greatful to everyone involved in making her son "beautiful."

With his new braces, Mihael said simply of the four-hour operation, "I feel happy about it."

To find out more about Operation Smile, call Amy Collins at (336) 856-1212 or e-mail opsmilenc@aol.com.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Violence postpones jubilee celebrations

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — The mood in the Bethlehem 2000 office was one of frustration and depression.

Staff members had spent months organizing the special celebrations and conferences for a two-month Christmas Festival, set to begin in mid-November.

"We are just delaying everything, pushing it all back until we get a clear picture of the situation," said Samah Qumsih, administrative assistant for the church relations unit of Bethlehem 2000.

"We had brochures printed and were all ready, and now nothing is happening. People are canceling. It feels very frustrating. It's a disaster, it's like a nightmare," she said.

Qumsih said two international conferences — one on historical architecture and the other on pilgrimages — planned for December have been postponed until January and February respectively.

As for Christmas Eve celebrations, she said she did not know if it would be appropriate to have international choirs sing on stage when the local people are experiencing such difficult times.

Recalling the years during the intifadah, the 1987-95 Palestinian uprising, when there were no Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, Qumsih said she hoped this was not the start of a similar period.

"This situation is very much different than during the intifadah," she said. "First of all we now have a basis (of negotiations with the Israelis). So maybe we can go back to negotiating."

Bethlehem 2000 is preparing an alternative plan just in case things get better, so there can be some sort of celebration, although not on the scale originally planned, she said.

"People won't forget what has happened even if by tomorrow everything gets better," said Qumsih. "It's been a very rough experience for us and we can't just go back to celebrate. It is very difficult to go back to the regular situation, but we are here to help people do that."

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Cardinal Hickey resigns; Archbishop McCarrick named successor

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington and has named Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., to succeed him.

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the resignation and appointment Nov. 21 in Washington.

The announcement said Cardinal Hickey, 80, would be apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Washington until Archbishop McCarrick's installation.

> **Archbishop McCarrick, 70, has headed the Newark Archdiocese for 14 years. He is to take canonical possession of the Washington Archdiocese Jan. 3 in ceremonies at St. Matthew's Cathedral. An installation Mass is scheduled the following day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.**

Archbishop McCarrick, 70, has headed the Newark Archdiocese for 14 years. He is to take canonical possession of the Washington Archdiocese Jan. 3 in ceremonies at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

An installation Mass is scheduled the following day at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Noted for his leadership in international human rights, justice and peace issues, Archbishop McCarrick has headed the U.S. bishops' committees on migration, international policy and aid to the church in Central and Eastern Europe. He is a member of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and was on the U.S. Commission for the Study of International Migration and Cooperative Economic Development.

Born in New York July 7, 1930, Theodore Edgar McCarrick was ordained a priest in 1958 after studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., where he earned a master's degree in history.

After ordination he earned a master's degree and doctorate in social sciences from The Catholic University of America in Washington.

He was assistant chaplain, dean of students and director of development at Catholic University from 1961 to 1963.

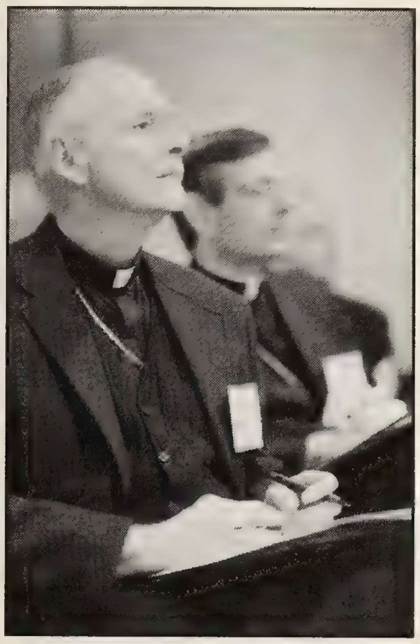
From 1965 to 1969 he was president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico. He returned to New York in 1969 as archdiocesan associate secretary for education, and the following year he became secretary to New York's Cardinal Terence Cooke.

He was named an auxiliary bishop of New York in 1977 and ordained a bishop on June 29 of that year.

In November 1981 he was made first bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Metuchen, N.J. In May 1986 he was named archbishop of Newark.

He has frequently traveled abroad to trouble spots, especially as chairman of the bishops' Eastern Europe and international policy committees.

Among places he has visited in recent years are Yugoslavia, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, East Timor, China, Vietnam, Cuba, Colombia and Mexico.



CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark, N.J., and Bishop Gerald Barbarito of Ogdensburg, N.Y., listen as Cardinal Edward Cassidy gives a briefing on ecumenism Nov. 12 in Washington. U.S. bishops were beginning their annual fall meeting.

In 1998 he chaired and hosted a major international Conference on the Ethical Dimensions of International Debt, co-sponsored by the Vatican and U.S. bishops, at Seton Hall University in his archdiocese. The conference is credited with having a significant impact on the U.S. and world commitment to reducing the debt of heavily indebted poor countries.

An ardent vocations recruiter, in his 14 years in Newark he has ordained 200 priests for the archdiocese.

When the Catholic Standard, Washington archdiocesan newspaper, asked him which languages he was fluent in, he shot back, "Not even English!" He added, "I can handle English, Spanish, French, Italian and German reasonably well, and I can understand Portuguese and a little Polish."

James Aloysius Hickey was born Oct. 11, 1920, in Midland, Mich. He was ordained a priest of the Saginaw Diocese June 15, 1946, and served there as a pastor, vocations director and seminary rector.

Named an auxiliary bishop of Saginaw in 1967, he was ordained a bishop on April 14 of that year. From 1969 to 1974 he was rector of the North American College, the U.S. Seminary in Rome.

In 1974 he was named bishop of Cleveland. Six years later, on June 17, 1980, he was made archbishop of Washington. Pope John Paul II made him a cardinal June 28, 1988.

Cardinal Hickey holds a doctorates in canon law from the Lateran University in Rome and in theology from the Angelicum, also in Rome.

On his 80th birthday Oct. 11 he announced that the $2 million he received on the occasion would be split between Catholic Charities and the Center City Consortium of eight Catholic schools in the poorest neighborhoods of Washington. Catholic education and service to the poor were among his top priorities throughout his 20 years in the nation's capital.

Day 5 - Assisi.
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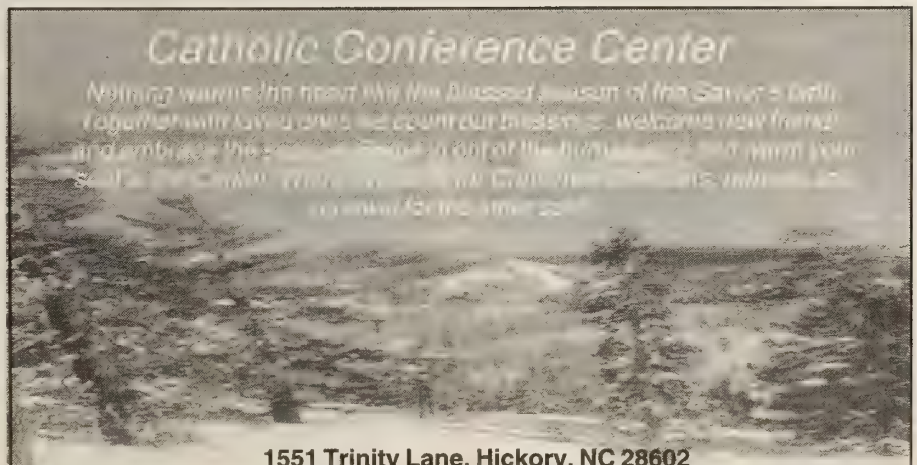

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Indian Catholic wins Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award

AHMEDABAD, India (CNS) — Martin Macwan, an Indian Catholic activist, has won the 17th annual Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for defending the rights of low-caste people. Instituted by the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights based in Washington, the $30,000 award is given to those fighting oppression nonviolently in the pursuit of respect for human rights, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Macwan, 41, said his mother, a dalit (low-caste) tobacco worker whose long struggle for dignity inspired him, will accompany him to the award function in the U.S. capital.

Campus ministry groups honor bishop, seven programs

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three campus ministry organizations named Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., to receive the groups' first award to an individual for outstanding contributions to Catholic campus ministry. The Catholic Campus Ministry Association, the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry and the National Coalition of Catholic Students also honored seven campus ministry programs. Bishop Sullivan's award was presented Nov. 15 at an event during the U.S. bishop's annual fall meeting in Washington.

Cardinal says 'Dominus Iesus' had 'negative impact' on ecumenism

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a candid exchange with students and faculty at The Catholic University of America in Washington Nov. 15, the head of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity said a recent Vatican document "has had a very negative impact" on ecumenical relations around the world but expressed confidence that the harm can be repaired. "We must try to rebuild bridges which have been a little bit damaged," said Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy in response to a question about "Dominus Iesus," the document on the Catholic Church's role in salvation issued in September by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Late Father Tillard remembered for ecumenical work

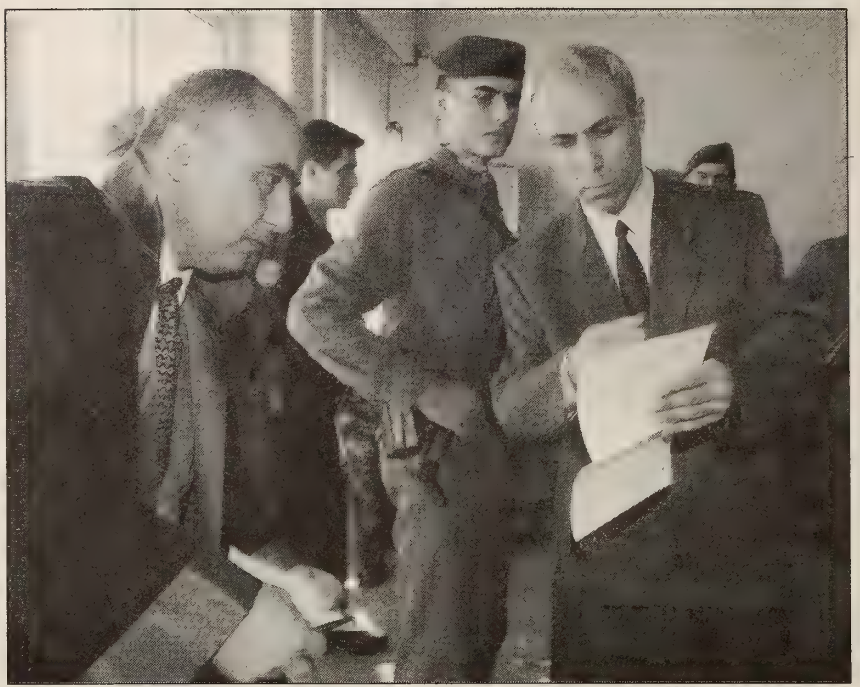
TORONTO (CNS) — The late Dominican theologian Father Jean-Marie Roger Tillard was a dedicated ecumenist strongly committed to the work of church unity, said several of his colleagues. Father Tillard died Nov. 13 at the age of 73 in the care of members of his Dominican order in Ottawa, after fighting a long battle with cancer. "Any time I had to call him or ask him for anything, at great cost he would be there. He was so convinced of God's call for unity," said Charity Sister Donna Geernaert, director of ecumenism for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Father Tillard was the author of "The Bishop of Rome," published in 1982, which discussed the role of the papacy.

Bishop Friend is new NCCB-USCC secretary; committee posts filled

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops elected Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., as secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference Nov. 14. Bishop Friend, a 69-year-old native of Miami, defeated Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla., 160-97. The post of secretary was the only one of the four top NCCB-USCC positions up for election this year. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis had served as secretary since November 1995.

CCHD to fund efforts related to crime, criminal justice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is allocating up to $1 million in grants for educational and community-based efforts related to crime and criminal justice in the United States. The U.S. bishops' CCHD committee Nov. 12 approved the allocation from a special fund. It was announced at a CCHD media breakfast Nov. 14 during the bishops' four-day fall meeting in Washington. Bishop John J. Leibrecht of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., committee chair, said the action was taken in response to a proposed statement from the bishops urging reform of the country's criminal justice system.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Mehmet Ali Agca in Turkish court

Mehmet Ali Agca, right, who attempted to assassinate Pope John Paul II, hands a document to his lawyer, Sevki Lulecioglu, left, in a Turkish court Nov. 20 as Agca goes on trial on a 21-year-old armed robbery charge.

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Rev. Vincent M. Stokes, 1979
Rev. Thomas McAvoy, 1978
Rev. Michael J. Hoban, 1995

"It's Time to Say Thank You"

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Lift every voice and sing, 'til earth and heaven ring

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

"Sing a new song to the Lord; praise him in the assembly of his faithful people..." Psalm 149:1

CHARLOTTE—The singing voices, the clapping hands and the beating drums sent warmth that cut through the unexpected snowy, brisk evening on Nov. 19. People traveled from the Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Asheville areas and from across Charlotte in the wintry mix to help the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church celebrate 20 years of song and praise.

With a repertoire of over 14 songs, led by Ivory Coleman, minister of music, and backed by a band of three musicians, the choir, with women decked out in gold dresses and the men starched and pressed in tuxedos, of over 30 proclaimed their theme, "it's time to praise the Lord," through four-part harmonies and melodies. The program included a candlelight procession, Scripture reading and prayers to highlight the concert of gospel and praise songs.

The choir began simply enough. A group of friends came together with Father Wilbur Thomas, then pastor of Our Lady of Consolation, and June Chavis Davenport, who had mentioned the idea for a gospel choir. The idea grew into reality when Father Wilbur Thomas had received permission to help establish the choir from Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley. The fledgling group began with nearly 12 singers in the church balcony with Father Thomas playing the piano.

The name, Perpetual Hope, pays homage to the first church established for African-Americans in Charlotte. The congregation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, which later moved to St. Mary Church after the first church was sold, formed Our Lady of Consolation Church in 1955.

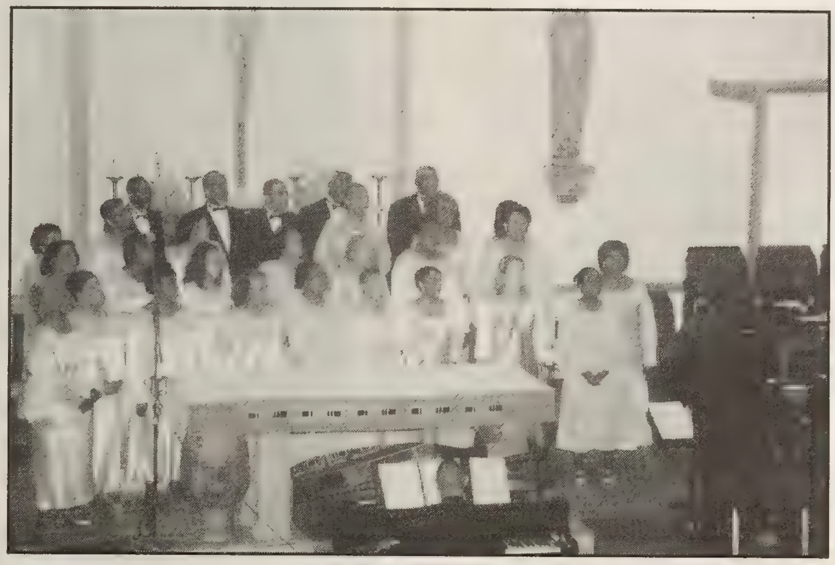

Photo by Alesha M. Price

The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir

"Many of us had Baptist backgrounds, and we felt that gospel best epitomized our culture. These are our roots, and we knew the songs, which had a very deep and special meaning to us," said Henry Wallace, choir president and one of the early members. "We wanted to share our roots with the church that we felt were missing in the Mass."

For some, the gospel choir did add something special to the Mass, but for others unaccustomed to that genre of music, it was difficult to accept. "It wasn't easy, and there were some turbulent times for us," said Wallace. "Some people walked out of the Mass at the sound of gospel music, never to return, but pretty soon, we had to add chairs in the aisles."

The good news traveled quickly, and people came to Mass to hear them. The choir also began to sing all over the city and to perform across the diocese. "We sang at churches throughout the area, and people were amazed that Catholics were singing gospel. We didn't think that was too strange in that we shared the same roots, and we felt that there was a big need to share that faith with everyone," said Wallace. "It has helped us to have a real sense of community, that we weren't a little island at Our Lady of Consolation, that we were part of the community, the state, the nation."

Under the direction of four music ministers, including Davenport, the only Catholic, and Smith Turner IV, both deceased, the sound of the choir has grown and matured.

"June [Davenport], who was a music teacher, had a vision of a gospel choir and tried to bring it into the Mass, but many people were not accustomed to it or comfortable with the idea," said Doris Byars, one of the charter members. "Because of her dedication, she went outside of the church and brought in people like Ted Martin, former music minister, who really taught us to how sing gospel and to let our spirits flow. "

The choir members agree that after the influences of Davenport and Martin, the choir flourished under the direction of Turner. Turner was choir director for nearly 14 years until his untimely death in 1998, a devastating blow to a group who had grown accustomed to his style and manner. "He brought energy to the group and used that energy to motivate us," said Edward Hood, one of the early members. "He put in a lot of time with us and taught us things, like sight reading. He definitely spoiled us."

"He was patient and had a humble and quiet spirit, which was contagious," said Byars. "He was a humanitarian who loved people and helped youth and teenagers, while helping us to become who we are now."

Ivory Coleman, the current music director, helped the choir to emerge out of a dark period after Turner's death and has propelled them to their twentieth year of proclaiming the Gospel through gospel singing and beyond. During their 20-year existence, the choir has traveled to Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia; Baltimore, Maryland; Norfolk, Virginia, Columbia and Rock Hill, South Carolina, Winston-Salem, Asheville, Clemmons and other cities. They have also sung at other churches of other denominations, sharing their ministry with others of various faiths.

"We are still excelling, and we have never stopped learning because the spirit continues to guide us in our ministry. It is wonderful to be able to sing gospel so that not only our hearts are blessed but so many others' hearts are also blessed," said Hood. "We are missionaries in the sense that people have said that their burdens have been lifted because of what we sang. The spirit has blessed us, and we have blessed other people."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Bishops' meeting at a glance

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. bishops met in Washington Nov. 13-16 for the fall general meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, they:

— Approved with little discussion a heavily amended set of guidelines for building or renovating churches, called "Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship."

— Passed without debate a resolution calling on Congress and the new president to revise the nation's immigration laws and policies in ways that uphold immigrants' dignity and human rights.

— Made their first explicit expression of support for an independent Palestinian state in a special message on the Middle East crisis, which also called for "respect for Israel's right to exist and flourish within secure borders."

— Urged reform of the "broken" U.S. criminal justice system and criticized its increasing reliance on more prisons, stiffer sentences and the use of capital punishment.

— Addressed the contemporary challenges of welcoming immigrants into the life of the church in a pastoral statement, approved unanimously, called "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity."

— Accused the Sudanese government of "slavery, torture, executions, religious persecution (and) discriminatory laws" against its citizens.

— Recommitted themselves and the church to protecting human life, saying that the U.S. Supreme Court decision on partial-birth abortion had brought the legal system "to the brink of endorsing infanticide."

— Elected Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., as NCCB-USCC secretary for the next three years.

— Debated but did not vote on procedural guidelines on how they would grant, withhold or withdraw a theologian's "mandatum" to teach.

— Discussed proposed revisions in their "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services," which will come up at the bishops' next meeting in June.

— Voted in favor of a cost-of-living increase for retired bishops plus additional health care options.

— Approved a $49.3 million budget for 2001 and an increase in the diocesan assessment by 2.9 percent for 2002.

— Established a new Committee on Catechesis.

— Agreed to give special emphasis in conference activities to the multicultural dimension of the church.

— Extended the 16 current ad hoc committees, which would have died in accord with the bishops' three-year sunset policy for ad hoc committees.

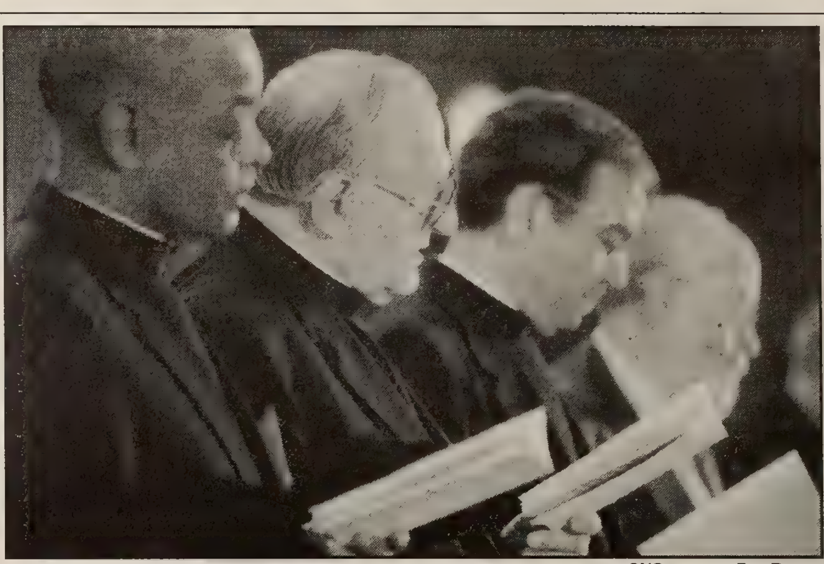
— Gave final approval to modifications in the statutes that will guide the new U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

— Added to diocesan financial reporting requirements in the wake of financial irregularities discovered in U.S. dioceses over the past decade.

— OK'd, subject to Vatican approval, national legislation on the age of confirmation and on those who explain Catholic teaching on radio and television.

— Adopted the Mexican Lectionary for Scripture readings in U.S. Spanish-language liturgies.

— Approved the concept and timeline for revising the Lectionary for Masses With children.



CNS photo by Bob Roller

Leaders of conference pray

Leaders of the U.S. bishops' conference pray at the start of their annual fall meeting in Washington Nov. 13. From left is Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, vice president; Bishop Joseph Fiorenza, president; and Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, general secretary.

AT A GLANCE

During their November meeting, the U.S. bishops...

- Approved guidelines for building or renovating churches.
- Called for U.S. immigration laws and policies that uphold human rights.
- Made an explicit expression of support for an independent Palestinian state.
- Urged reform of the U.S. criminal justice system.
- Addressed the challenges of welcoming immigrants into the life of the church.
- Called on leaders in Sudan to end violence and repression against its citizens.
- Recommitted themselves and the church to protecting human life.
- Elected Bishop William B. Friend of Shreveport, La., as NCCB-USCC secretary.
- Approved additional diocesan financial reporting requirements.
- Debated procedural guidelines on how to grant, withhold or withdraw a theologian's "mandatum" to teach.
- Discussed proposed revisions to the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services."
- Approved a $49.3 million budget for 2001.

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Bishop asks national unity after election resolved

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston said Nov. 16 that he hoped the country would come together once the still-contested U.S. presidential election was resolved.

The Texas bishop, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, also pleaded for more public awareness of the genocide in Sudan and sharply criticized unfair treatment of some U.S. immigrants. He made his comments at a press conference concluding the U.S. bishops' four-day meeting in Washington.

"My words would be words of prayer, first of all that however this is resolved, it will be resolved for the common good of the whole nation," he said. "I also hope that it will be ended sooner rather than later and that once a president is elected, this country will come together and overcome personal preferences."

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House of Mercy, from page 1

a loving mother and grandmother; of Father Curlin, a Washington, D.C., priest whose outreach to the poor, sick and lonely was filled with love; of Auxiliary Bishop Curlin, a regional bishop of the Washington Archdiocese who was notified of his appointment on the same day his beloved stepfather died; and of Bishop William G. Curlin, the ordinary of the Charlotte Diocese who "was given the opportunity to bring almost 40 years of priesthood and pastoral work to bear on the shepherding of his new flock."

In his priestly ministry, Bishop Curlin has made outreach to people affected with AIDS and other illnesses a pastoral priority. Highlights of his ministry to the AIDS community include:

— As president of the board of directors of Catholic Charities in the mid-1980s, then-Msgr. Curlin, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., oversaw the opening of several shelters including the Gift of Peace, the capital's first shelter for terminally ill AIDS patients. Msgr. Curlin played a key role in educating Washington neighborhood residents about AIDS and the people affected by it.

— In his first pastoral visit as the newly appointed bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop Curlin visited the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. Among those ministry centers he visited was the House of Mercy, which he has ardently supported in his six years as the shepherd of this diocese.

— Each year, Bishop Curlin takes part with other local religious leaders in a religious service for those suffering with HIV/AIDS. He also celebrates Masses and speaks at gatherings for the AIDS community within the diocese.

Such kinds of pastoral outreach have had a profound effect in communities across western North Carolina, said one speaker at the House of Mercy event.

"What I can say about Bishop Curlin is that he has been a whirlwind since he arrived in Charlotte in 1994 — and that's not just in the Catholic Church. That's in the entire community," said Charles Grace, founder of Cummins Atlantic Inc. and a friend of the bishop.

"He is everywhere, folks," Grace said. "He is at every church in the diocese. He accepts a tremendous number of speaking engagements in all facets of the community. He works constantly in the promotion of our religion in all of those areas."

> **"Teddy Roosevelt once said, 'What a man does for himself dies with him. What he does for others will live on forever.' That's our man."**
>
> ***— Charles Grace***

Grace, who has lived in North Carolina for 30 years, added that "the Catholic population in the Charlotte Diocese is growing by leaps and bounds, so it's necessary for us to have a leader who is well-respected, articulate, highly motivated and furthers the Catholic presence in the community.

"Teddy Roosevelt once said, 'What a man does for himself dies with him. What he does for others will live on forever.' That's our man."

Accepting the award, Bishop Curlin reflected on his four decades as a priest and how he feels the same thanksgiving in serving God's people as he had on the day of his ordination.

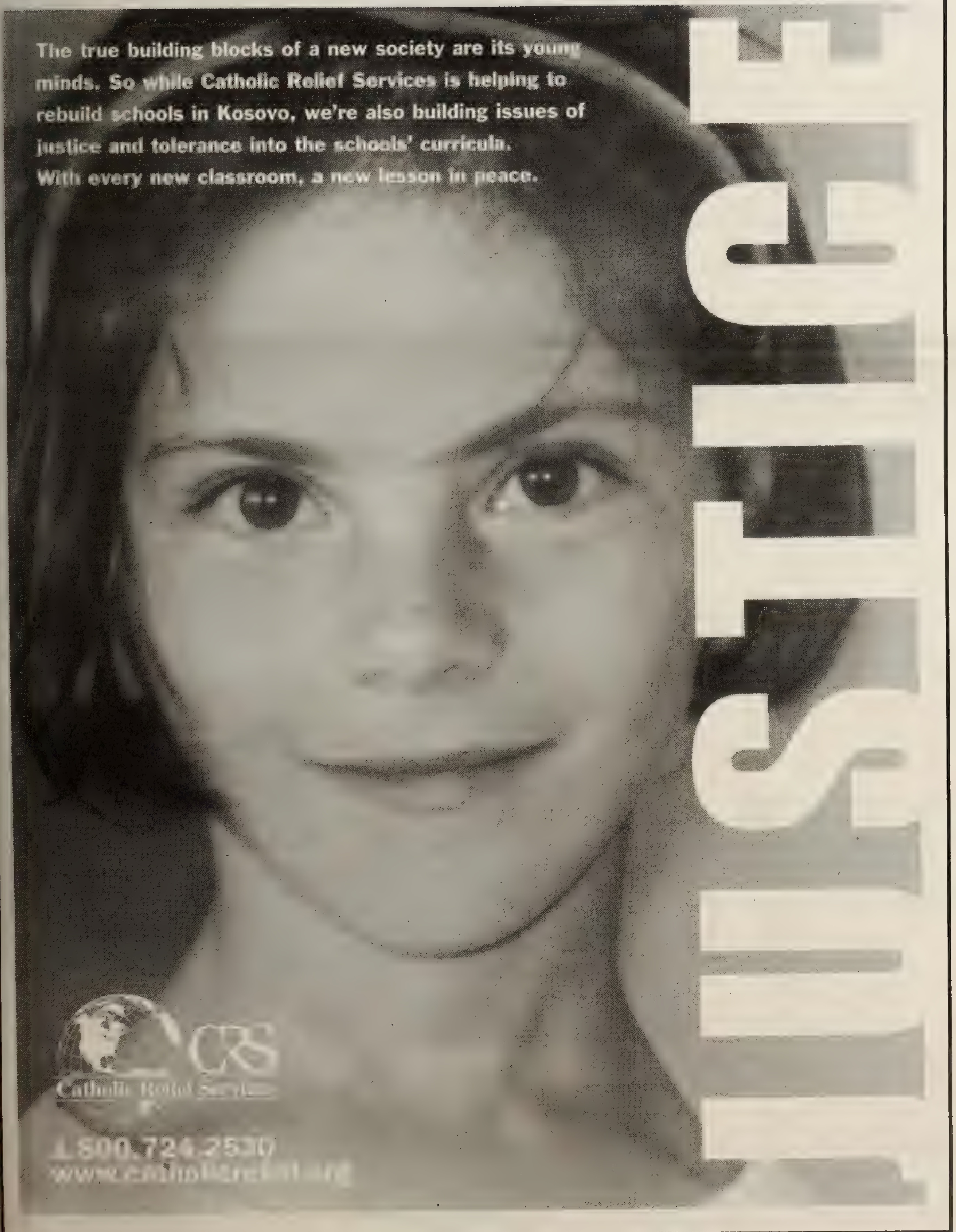
"Here I am, going on 44 years as a priest, and I can still feel that deep sense of devotion and that gratitude to God that I am a priest," he said.

He said the priesthood allows him to seek ways of transforming God's love by word and deed into everyday moments of grace, and he invited all those assembled to look for the same.

"You never know what your life says to somebody else," he said. "To have the chance to give love is marvelous, in a world that is so filled with anger and bitterness and criticism.

"Jesus always looked to give love."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org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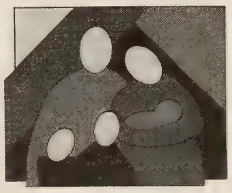

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Book Review

Book sews tapestry showing Ireland's fluid social history

Reviewed by MARK LOMBARD
Catholic News Service

It has been understood for generations that, alone among English-speaking lands, Ireland has been primarily Catholic, and that the Republic of Ireland became an independent nation because she was Catholic.

"Goodbye to Catholic Ireland: How the Irish Lost the Civilization they Created,"
by Mary Kenny
Templegate Publishers (Springfield, Ill., 2000). 376 pp. $19.95 (paper).

Yet, in a work that weaves anecdotes, statistics, news reports from general and Catholic press sources, historical analyses and personal experience, writer and journalist Mary Kenny sews together a tapestry that portrays a fluid social history of a nation growing and a faith fraying.

"Goodbye to Catholic Ireland: How the Irish Lost the Civilization They Created," initially published in the United Kingdom in 1997 with the first U.S. edition updated and released in late October, is not an attack on the church but a compelling analysis of the modern Irish Catholic experience.

While the intermingling of fact and hearsay can be a suspect mixture in a historical examination, Kenny, 20 years a columnist for London's Sunday Telegraph, successfully offers insight, humor, frankness and pathos in chronicling the causes behind and consequences of this shift. In doing so, she also challenges and debunks the hackneyed stereotypical view of Irish Catholicism, in which insular priests ruled with an iron fist over the superstitious, passive and gullible faithful.

The chronological account of Catholic Ireland moves from the late 19th- and early 20th-century growth in Europe of nationalism and radicalism, through the Irish cultural renaissance, the "sacramental" Easter Rising of 1916, the partition of Ireland and the creation of the confessional constitutional state. It examines the church's role in state censorship from the late 1920s to the 1960s, in Irish neutrality and isolationism during the Second World War, and in wrestling with issues of depopulation, emigration and contraception.

With the coming of the "liberal dawn" of the 1960s, Kenny sees old Ireland fading away and the Irish church beginning its decline from its position as "the most dominant continuous influence in Irish life."

Kenny is not a detached observer. She confesses that she was a part of a "group of young Irish feminists" that in 1971 defiantly and publicly brought contraceptives from the North into the Irish Republic.

She suggests Pope Paul VI's encyclical "Humanae Vitae" split Catholic Ireland into conservative and liberal camps, raised the issue of — and the subsequent opposition to — "the archaic Irish law" banning barrier methods of contraception, and propelled the foundation of an anti-clerical women's liberation movement.

The conflict in Northern Ireland, argues the author, also served to undermine the place of the Catholic Church in the republic, which itself became the target of charges of being a theocracy.

Kenny contends that the authority of the Catholic Church, already weakened by the "liberalization of society — indeed the sexualization of society" and the precipitous drop in vocations and Mass attendance, was damaged, potentially irreversibly, by a series of reports in the 1990s of "horrific and pitiful cases of sex charges against Catholic priests."

"The very concept of 'Catholic Ireland' was, by the end of the century, gone," she writes. "The very phrase 'Catholic Ireland' was deemed repulsive, and offensively sectarian."

Despite her criticism, Kenny, who seems in this sobering book to be very much an insider in mourning, holds out hope for a resurgent Catholicism in Ireland. Yet after reading her analysis, it is difficult to see on what basis that hope is founded.

Word to Life

November 26, Feast of Christ the King

Cycle B Readings:
1) Daniel 7:13-14
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
2) Revelation 1:5-8
3) Gospel: John 18:33b-37

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

Vivid images flash from the pages of Daniel and Revelation. The readings for this weekend have the power to fill our imaginations with awe, curiosity and maybe a twinge of fear. Perhaps some spectacular combination of clouds and sun in the early morning or at the close of day has made us consider that biblical last day.

I remember treasured times with my grandfather who was my first Bible teacher. He, a tall weathered man in his 70s, and a little girl would watch the sun disappear in glory behind the distant mountains and get lost in deep conversations. Glorious sunsets with shafts of brilliant light piercing the clouds often inspired him to tell me stories that dealt with angels, the resurrection or the end times depicted in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

He would give me his view of how the last trumpet of God would sound. I was certain that at some time in his life God had given him a personal preview of Jesus, coming in the clouds. He would light his pipe and say with a great smile, "Just imagine what it will be like!"

I remember trembling in the evening chill. Truly, I imagined what the last day according to my grandfather would be. I knew in my child's heart that would surely have bad dreams as soon as my eyes closed in sleep. Then together we would walk back to the house hand in hand. He would give me a big hug, pat me on the head and say: "Remember, you don't ever have to b afraid. Jesus is always with us."

I knew my grandfather had to be right. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." With these familiar words from the Book of Revelation, I think of those days I spent long ago with my first and most beloved teacher.

Now we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King, which closes another liturgical year and points to Advent. The ominous year 2000 we were dreading with its Y2K is rapidly becoming the past. For purists the real "millennium" waits on the horizon of 2001. But as always, grace abounds, for Jesus is always with us.

QUESTION:

God loves each of us and desires the physical and spiritual well-being of all of us. Have you thought about how God wants you to enflesh his love for others?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Nov. 26 - Dec. 2, 1000

Sunday (Christ the King), Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 1:5-8, John 18:33-37; **Monday**, Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4; **Tuesday**, Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11; **Wednesday**, Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19; **Thursday (St. Andrew)**, Romans 10:9-18, Matthew 4:18-22; **Friday**, Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21.2, Luke 21:29-33; **Saturday**, Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36

Readings for the week of Dec. 3 - 9, 2000

First Sunday of Advent, Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21, 25-28, 34-36; **Monday (St. John of Damascus)**, Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday**, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Nicholas)**, Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Ambrose)**, Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Immaculate Conception of Mary)**, Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Saturday (Blessed Juan Diego)**, Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8

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New take on Grinch yields mixed results

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Director Ron Howard brings the classic tale "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas" (Universal) to the big screen with mixed results.

The original Dr. Seuss' book and later the 1966 Chuck Jones cartoon adaptation of "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" are so wonderful, one wonders why filmmakers would want to touch the tale even with a 39-and-a-half-foot pole.

In the brightly decorated town of Whoville, the residents are busy with their yuletide preparations, which consist mainly of buying, buying and more buying. The Whos have caught the commercialism bug, all except for young Cindy Lou Who (Taylor Momsen), who thinks everyone is kerbobbled over the shopping and all the hoopla and wonders what the true meaning of Christmas is.

Hoping to give the classic fable a more edgy feel, Howard went through eight scripts before Seuss' widow Audrey Geisel gave her approval. Seuss' original story is retold in the last third of the film, where viewers hear the familiar rhymes and see the mean-spirited Grinch disguise himself as Santa Claus, sneak into the town of Whoville on Christmas Eve and steal all the residents' presents.

CNS photo from Universal

Taylor Momsen and Jim Carrey star in a scene from ``Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG -- parental guidance suggested.

The first two-thirds of the film psychoanalyze why the Grinch hates Christmas, coming up with a story of unrequited puppy love on a fateful Christmas Eve that sent the spurned Grinch to the top of Mount Crumpit to loathe the Whos and the yuletide holiday forevermore.

The film's message is that what really counts is caring for family, friends and neighbors, not the gifts or the glitter associated with Christmas. (It is ironic, though, that a film that takes a swipe at commercialism is offering so much tie-in merchandise, just in time for Christmas.)

Although the film's sentiment is certainly good, it is a secularized explanation that omits the real importance of Christmas, namely the commemoration of Christ's birth, which was stated more explicitly in the cartoon by the depiction of the East star in the sky.

Nearly unrecognizable under a well-crafted green mask and hand-dyed yak fur, Carrey offers a surprisingly good rendition of the Grinch, with glimpses of the familiar Carrey rubber face popping out every so often. The gravely voice he has created for the Grinch, a cross between a dopey Jimmy Stewart and a wrathful Sean Connery, adds a lively dimension to the character.

The pug-nosed, hair-lipped townsfolk dressed in their bright costumes and running anxiously around Whoville fade into the background, with none of the film's other stars making much of an impression. This includes Momsen, who shares no chemistry with Carrey and offers a wince-worthy little ditty in which the 8-year-old laments the passing of her carefree days.

Carrey gets to throw out numerous zippy one-liners (many aimed at chaperoning parents) with manic speed, but the film as a whole plays like a series of stretched-out skits clumsily strung together. And the elaborate and fanciful sets, with colorful stores and homes teetering perilously forward, appear dinky, like a poor man's "Wizard of Oz." The result is that Carrey takes in the viewer, even if the rest of the film does not.

For better or for worse, moviegoers can expect to see more of Dr. Seuss' books translated onto the big screen, as it seems production for "The Cat in the Hat" is already under way. As far as the Grinch goes, Carrey seems to have stolen more than just Christmas.

The humor in "Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas" is tame enough for pre-teens to enjoy as well.

Because of some crass humor, including mild sexual innuendo, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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Video Reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"Chicken Run" (2000)

Delightful clay animation feature about a plucky chicken (voice of Julia Sawalha) and her hen pals cooped up in a British egg farm who, with the help of a flying Yankee rooster (voice of Mel Gibson), must escape the cruel clutches of the egg farmer (voice of Miranda Richardson) before she turns them into chicken pies. Though the story line lags in parts and some jokes may go over children's heads, fantastic anthropomorphized features and the narrative's witty details make directors Peter Lord and Nick Park's first full-length feature both visually pleasing and cleverly amusing despite a few intense moments. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (DreamWorks)

"Fantasia 2000" (1999)

Follow-up movie presents animated images set to portions of classic compositions such as Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue," Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" and Stravinsky's 1919 "Firebird" suite, while keeping Stokowski's "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" from the original 1940 movie. State-of-the-art animation, backed by James Levine conducting the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, results in a felicitous wedding of beautiful sounds to colorful, sometimes whimsical images that may delight children and their parents. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Disney)

"Home for the Holidays" (1995)

Uneven comedy about a stressed-out single mom (Holly Hunter) who flies home to spend Thanksgiving with her dysfunctional family, including meddling mother (Anne Bancroft), dotty aunt (Geraldine Chaplin) and gay brother (Robert Downey Jr.). Directed by Jodie Foster, the formula sitcom of a family reunion beset by emotional clashes displays a mean-spirited tone in its treatment of family relationships as something to be endured rather than enjoyed. Assorted sexual references, fleeting violence and frequent profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Paramount)

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope praises international law against worst kinds of child labor

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II praised a new international law aimed at eradicating some of the worst kinds of child labor as a "major contribution" to the defense of children.

In a telegram to Juan Somavia, director-general of the International Labor Organization, the pope said he hoped that all of the ILO's member states would quickly ratify and fully apply the "Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention" or Convention 182, which came into force as international law Nov. 19.

The law requires signatories to prohibit and eliminate forms of child labor like slavery, prostitution, pornography, forced service in armed conflicts, drug trafficking and all other work "harmful or hazardous to the health, safety or morals of girls and boys under 18 years of age."

In his telegram, released at the Vatican Nov. 20, the pope said, "No one can remain indifferent to the suffering of countless children who fall victim to intolerable exploitation and violence."

He expressed confidence "that the convention will be a major contribution to the defense of children who are powerless to defend themselves against the harm done to them by individuals in whom the voice of conscience has been silenced or by the social structures which enable the strong to trample on the rights of the weak."

The pope said he hoped that the ILO's 175 member states would quickly implement the convention "so that the young of the world, who are born in the image of God, may be allowed to grow and develop in a way worthy of their inalienable human dignity."

As of Nov. 20, nearly 50 countries, including the United States and Canada, had ratified the convention, unanimously adopted by ILO members in June 1999.

The ILO estimates that some 250 million children aged 5-14 are victims of child labor around the world, half of them working full time. Of these, it says tens of millions are caught in the worst forms of labor targeted by Convention 182.

Pope accepts retirement of Bishop Lucker

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Raymond A. Lucker of New Ulm, Minn., the Vatican announced Nov. 17. Bishop Lucker, 73, who has headed the New Ulm Diocese since 1976, was diagnosed with melanoma last year. He underwent surgery for it, but was told by doctors that his cancer may recur and could become terminal. He had said he wanted to retire and was awaiting the Vatican's acceptance of his resignation.

Planned Giving

GINA M. RHODES
Guest Columnist

Making Time for Giving

What a year to say the least ... new baby, new job and the list goes on. But you know what, with the end of the year fast approaching, now is the perfect time to take just a moment to reflect on what we have done for others this year.

Have you done any volunteer work in your community or parish? Have you given any of your "wealth" earned this year to your parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocese or the diocesan foundation?

It is not too late to do any of these things, but we can help you make informed decisions about your charitable giving.

Many generous people in the diocese set aside time during the holidays to make special gifts to support their parish, Catholic school, Catholic agency, the diocese or the diocesan foundation.

With the dramatic increases in investment markets over the past decade, those who decide to make gifts funded with appreciated securities may reap additional financial benefits this year.

If you own stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have increased in value over the years, using them to make gifts to the Church can bring you deductions on your tax return next spring.

Keep in mind that gifts must be made before Dec. 31, 2000, to be deductible on your 2000 tax return. Although mutual fund gifts can take from 6 to 8 weeks, it is not too late to make stock gifts before the end of the year.

Gifts of appreciated securities you have owned for at least one year provide you with a deduction for the full current value of the property. You are generally allowed to deduct the value of such gifts in amounts equal to as much as 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. In addition, you can avoid the capital gain's tax on the stock's increase in value.

You may think that making a gift of securities will be too complicated. Actually, the diocese has a set of easy instructions to provide all the information needed to either make a gift through electronic transfer or to donate physical stock certificates for the benefit of your parish or a diocesan entity.

It is always a good idea to consult with your financial advisors about gift options best suited for your personal situation.

Gifts to your parish, Catholic school, agency or the diocese help to strengthen the community and provide the support needed for the ministry of the Church in Western North Carolina.

If you would like to make a meaningful gift this holiday season — one to sustain the Catholic faith — make your plans today.

For more information about making gifts of appreciated securities or other types of year-end gifts, please feel free to contact me at the Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28203, (704) 370-3320.

Gina Rhodes is the director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Advent Reflection

FATHER JOHN ALLEN
Guest Columnist

Advent in the Great Jubilee Year

One of my most enduring childhood memories of Advent is the preparation our family made of the Christmas crib. Down from the attic would come many boxes, each containing statues of the ones who were present at our Lord's nativity. How I looked forward to unwrapping those images: angels and wisemen, shepherds and sheep, and finally the images of the Holy Family. I have often thought that this cherished and familiar experience is much like what the Church does for us in the season of Advent. From the pages of Scripture, the Church unwraps and presents to us all those holy men and women whom God used to prepare the way of salvation.

As the Advent season prepares our hearts to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Church directs our attention to His two comings: His glorious return at the end of time as well as His appearance in our world as a tiny child. Both events fill us with joy and anticipation.

As we celebrate the Advent season, we must all be conscious that we have been living in a year of extraordinary grace and favor, the year of the Great Jubilee. Countless members of the human family have responded in faith to the invitation of our Holy Father to "Open wide the doors to Christ."

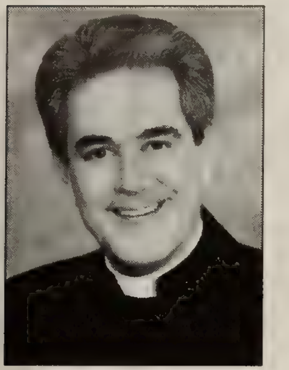
In a remarkable way, God continues to use other people, old and young, rich and poor, to open our eyes to the joy and wonder of His presence. I think of a seven-year-old girl named Courtney whom I met in Lourdes with her parents this past May. Courtney and her parents came to pray with so many others for a healing of her many physical limitations. Christ entered her life in the most profound way as she received her First Holy Communion at the Shrine of Our Lady.

My thoughts turn to eight-year-old Amanda Wall, the recipient of a miraculous healing, a fellow pilgrim to Rome for the canonization of St. Katharine Drexel in October. Amanda came with her family to thank God for the healing of total deafness, an event which Pope John Paul II declared to be a miracle — the one, in fact, that led to Mother Katharine's canonization.

I think of the joy that will be in the hearts of those who have returned home to the Catholic Church this year through Initiation and through reconciliation. I think of so many young men and women who have found the grace this jubilee year to respond to God's call to serve Him as priests and religious. I think of the young couples who have committed their lives in faith this year in the sacrament of marriage. I think of the joyful anticipation of so many preparing to welcome new life through birth and adoption. I think of the extraordinary faith of those who have experienced suffering and loss with great hope. I think of the countless acts of sacrifice, forgiveness and charity that have been extended in families and in communities.

As we light the first Advent candle of this jubilee year, let us be attentive to the voices of all who call us to be aware of the presence of Christ. May our lives and hearts be filled with joyful anticipation and quiet vigilant waiting as we prepare for the dawn of our salvation.

Father John Allen is pastor of St. Michael Parish in Gastonia and the bishop's assistant for vocations.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

First, Do No Harm

"It's better to light one candle than curse the darkness."

Back in 1945, Father James Keller, M.M., the founder of The Christophers chose this Chinese proverb as the organization's motto. He wanted it to remind people to keep the accent on the positive.

Fr. Keller was known for his idealism, but he also had a reputation as a very practical man. I think that's why he often advised people that, no matter what the circumstances, "Don't make a situation worse."

At first glance, those don't seem to be very hopeful or even helpful words. After all, can't we do better than that? Can't we do something good rather than simply avoiding what's bad or wrong, or just a mistake? I think it takes a certain amount of maturity to realize that just as people have a great capacity for accomplishment, we also have the potential for failure, even when we have the best intentions. That's just part of being a living, breathing member of the human race.

A translation of the ancient Hippocratic oath of physicians includes the admonition, "First, do no harm." This is a good starting point for us, whoever we are and whatever we do. Before we can build something up, we may first have to stop ourselves from tearing something down.

The coming of Advent brings a wonderful reminder of someone who chose to "do no harm" and wound up part of God's greater plan for our good.

We know the story of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would bear a child who would be the Messiah, the Son of God. Her wholehearted agreement, her "Yes" to God, has resounded through history. But Joseph, too, said "Yes," after he first said "No" to hurting his beloved betrothed, Mary.

The Gospel of Matthew (1:19) tells us that "Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly." The alternative could have been far worse than disgrace. Joseph would have been within his rights if he had sanctioned Mary's death by stoning for the sin of adultery.

The story continues after he made his decision to keep what he saw as a terrible, painful situation from turning into a tragedy : "But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'" (Matthew 1:20-21)

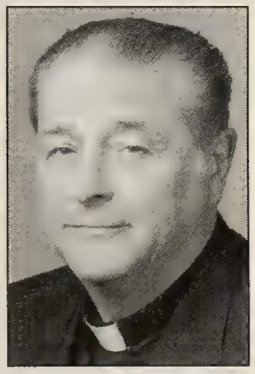
So Joseph chose God's plan for his own and became the head of the Holy Family.

During Advent, many people prepare for the coming of Christ by special prayers and acts of charity and penance. Consider adding your determination to do good by first doing no harm: keep silent when you could make a hurtful comment; listen when you would rather talk; think things through before jumping to conclusions; pause and reflect before taking action.

You might even restrain yourself from cursing the darkness. And then light one candle.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Horns on the Sculpted Head of Moses?

Q. Recently, at the tomb of Pope Julius in the Church of St. Peter in Chains in Rome, we saw the statue of Moses by Michelangelo. It's an awesome sculpture. But why does the statue have horns on the head of Moses?

I've seen the same since then on the copies of the statue. No one has been able to explain where the horns came from?

A. The book of Exodus (34:29-35) describes how the face of Moses was transformed when he came down from Mount Sinai after speaking with the Lord. The Latin Vulgate translation of St. Jerome says the people at the time saw that Moses wore a horned face ("facies cornuta").

Horns, of course, appear throughout the Bible as symbols for God's power and majesty. For example, the lamb in Revelation (5:6) has seven horns. Luke (1:69) speaks of God raising up a "horn for our salvation."

In addition, specialists in Near East history tell us that masks made from the horned skulls of cattle were known in that period, apparently in the context of religious or civil ceremonies.

This is certainly how Michelangelo came to include the horns on his statue. Since then, translations refer rather to "beams of light" emanating from the face of Moses. The King James Version says that "the skin of Moses shone."

In 1986 a New Latin Vulgate, based on more extensive biblical scholarship, was published under the auspices of the Vatican Library. This edition says simply that the skin of Moses' face was radiant, a translation similar to the one used in most Bibles today.

In other words, Michelangelo followed the lead of the most acceptable Scripture translation available. He would likely do it differently if he were creating his Moses today.

Gargoyles atop churches

Q. Our son lives in Germany and has visited many of the beautiful churches and cathedrals in Europe built from around 800 to 1600 A.D.

He is puzzled, to put it mildly, by the gargoyles, ugly beasts around the roof line. A tour guide told him they were intended to "scare away the evil spirits." Why, he asks, would Christians build churches with pagan idols in such prominent places?

A. Gargoyles, as you must know, are spouts, representing some animal or human figure, jutting from the gutters to carry rain water away from the building. There's really nothing that sinister about their presence on religious or other buildings.

We know from histories of those days that architects, masons, stonecutters and other craftsmen who labored on these structures for many decades often took the opportunity to be artistic and playful in what could be almost infinitely boring and wearisome work.

Add to that the medieval penchant for occasional grotesque, even gruesome, figures in their religious art, and you have more than sufficient reason for what they did.

Anybody could do a downspout. It took real imagination and genius to conceive and sculpt a gargoyle.

In the religious context of their days, it's not impossible that some elements of superstition or credulousness crept into their motives. There's no evidence, however, that features like gargoyles appeared on these cathedrals as vestiges of pagan influence.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

Part V: The Principle of Human Equality

Human equality derives from the principle of human dignity.

Differences in talents possessed by human persons are a part of God's plan, but discrimination at the level of fundamental human rights is not.

Our natural endowments — what we bring with us into the world — explain what might be called "natural differences" in the human community. They make possible a variety that enriches the human condition.

Life, therefore, can often be uneven without necessarily being unfair or unjust; the unevenness makes life interesting and challenging, though it sometimes brings pain and sadness.

One person may be born healthier or brighter than another, but those natural advantages are not taken at the expense of the other. It is possible, however, for one person's gain to be the result of another person's loss — for example, lost income for the many may well have provided funds for the enrichment of the few. Maybe, but not necessarily.

Treating equals equally is one way of defining justice, which is also understood classically as rendering to each person his or her due. Underlying the notion of equality is the simple principle of fairness.

The principle of human equality might just as well be called the principle of fairness or principle of justice.

Persistent income inequality points to poverty. Can poverty ever be said to be fair? Just?

A simple definition of poverty is "sustained deprivation." In answer to the follow-up question — "Deprived of what?"— income, shelter, nutrition, health care, education and employment come immediately to mind.

The more probing question, "Sustained by what (or by whom)?" calls attention to possible discrimination, or systemic and structural obstacles in society that are symptoms of something other than unevenness; they point to injustices.

Catholics, the bearers of this tradition of Catholic social thought, clearly believe in the importance of education — not simply religious education to protect and cultivate faith, but education of every person's full human potential for enjoyment of a full and productive human life.

You will search in vain for a person who is well educated and also involuntarily poor. Hence, an important strategic step in poverty's reduction (a social-justice issue) is the provision of sound education. Measures also must be taken to provide jobs, housing, good nutrition and health care, but education can break the cycle of poverty.

One simple image helps in detecting injustice. You see it on lawyers' paperweights and office insignia. It is the familiar trays in balance on a scale: the scales of justice. If the trays are even, the situation is just. If there is a downside gain taken at the expense of the upside tray, the situation is unjust and calls for compensatory measures.

The lawyer's job is to promote just relationships, to even up the trays. The good Catholic, committed to the promotion of social justice, has the job of applying strategically the principle of human equality for the good of the human community.

Theologians debate virtue of fast food, slow dining

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Americans gathered around the table for Thanksgiving this year, theologians in Italy were debating whether such formal and drawn-out meals were morally superior to fast-food fare.

Massimo Salani, who teaches at a theological institute in Pisa, struck a nerve when he declared that the invasion of Europe by McDonald's and other quick-stop eateries signaled the "complete neglect of the sacred nature of food."

Burgers and fries are certainly not a "Catholic" type of meal, he told the Italian newspaper Avvenire in early November. He said fast food seems to correspond more with a Protestant individualism than with the Catholic tradition of community meals.

Avvenire chimed in with its own editorial, lambasting the "monstrous regression" represented by fast food: "People eat anything, at any hour, in any way, next to — not together with — anyone. They eat standing up, with their hands."

Other papers picked up the story, adding the piquant headline: "Theologian excommunicates the hamburger!"

At the Vatican, church officials took it all with a grain of salt.

"These are silly things. I don't consider it a serious argument, that hamburgers are considered 'Protestant' or non-Christian," said Swiss Father Georges Cottier, the papal theologian.

"Personally, I don't like the food of McDonald's in a city like Rome, which has exquisite cooking. But it's a question of taste — let's not bring religion into it," he said.

Father Cottier, who said he usually dines frugally but unhurriedly in his Vatican apartment, acknowledged that eating habits are moving away from sit-down to stand-up in much of the world. It's a reflection of the more frenetic work pace, even in places like Italy, where a sandwich grabbed at a local bar has replaced mamma's pasta for lunch.

"Our civilization needs to reflect on this more. So does the church. In the Christian vision there's a deeper meaning to meals, which we find in the Bible, where it speaks of special feasts and fasting periods, for example," Father Cottier said.

Prayer before meals — another declining tradition — reminds people that "all this comes from God and reflects his glory," he said. In the past, some families also set a place for a potential guest, a sign of Christian charity.

"In this sense, eating is not just a physiological activity. There are strong religious roots here," Father Cottier said.

Salani, who has just published a book on foods and the world's religions, said the Christian approach to eating has always been more tolerant than that of other faiths. It has no taboo foods, for example, and generally leaves eating choices up to human freedom.

But Salani thinks this freedom has been distorted in modern Western civilization. The increase in anorexia and bulimia are symptoms that meals have become moments for "relieving stress" — in contrast with the church's traditional promotion of a healthy and balanced approach to eating, he said.

Burgers and fries are certainly not a "Catholic" type of meal, Salani told the Italian newspaper Avvenire in early November. He said fast food seems to correspond more with a Protestant individualism than with the Catholic tradition of community meals.

Salani thinks the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" should dedicate more space to the topic, to help teach young people that mealtime should not just be a "consumerist" event. The catechism says little about eating, except to warn against excess or abuse of food and drink.

Some have questioned whether vegetarians might not hold the moral high ground in the modern food debate. Can eating meat be a sin?

It's possible, according to Father Cottier. For one thing, he said, any food can be an occasion of sin, if eating it turns into an act of disrespect for oneself — through binge eating, for example. But in the case of meat, ecological consequences in today's world might also require a deeper moral reflection by carnivores, he said.

In any case, he said, Christians since the very early days have held no food to be inherently pure or impure. The Acts of the Apostles recounts how St. Peter, queasy about a divine command to slaughter and eat the wild beasts of the land, was told: "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane." In itself, a burger is no less virtuous than chicken soup.

At the Vatican cafeteria, however, you won't find hamburgers or hot dogs on the menu. The hundreds of Vatican employees who dine there linger nearly an hour over a three-course meal that typically features pasta or soup, meat or fish, vegetables, dessert, wine and coffee.

So far, no golden arches have been spotted inside the Vatican walls.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

St. Jude, thank you for prayers answered and favors received. DLK

Triad parish dedicates athletic facility

GREENSBORO — Signs of growth at St. Pius X Church and School in Greensboro were evidenced Nov. 19 with the dedication and blessing of a new athletic facility.

Father Anthony Marcaccio, current pastor, presided at the ceremony dedicating the new Reverend Francis T. Connolly Athletic Center, named in honor of the now-retired diocesan priest who served as pastor of St. Pius X Church from 1994 until earlier this year. Father Connolly, who now resides in Boone, attended the event. Festivities included a performance by the school's cheerleading squad, basketball shooting and free throw contests, and refreshments.

The $800,000 facility has a complete sound system, electronic scoreboard, hardwood maple floors, retracting bleachers, locker rooms, a refreshment area and indoor and outdoor court facilities.

The gym will host the 2001 PECSAA Basketball Tournament, which is held at the end of the regular season for Triad-area parochial schools.

Funding for the project came from gifts from private citizens, corporations and the parish and school communities.

In the 1990s, the school community at St. Pius X more than doubled in size. Current enrollment is at 500, and the new gymnasium winds up a major parish expansion that began in 1997.

Construction on the gym started last spring and was completed in the fall.

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Pastoral, from page 1

and had no money to pay for medical care was also fired.

If you are an undocumented worker at a chicken plant, the bishop added, "you dare not speak up."

Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro, Ky., said poultry was the first industry to be so heavily concentrated in the hands of a few; pork and beef are also consolidating.

"We have a love affair with bigness. Bigger is better," he said, adding that such size is "very costly. Somebody's paying the price, not only for bigness but for cheap food."

Bishop William R. Houck of Jackson, Miss., said that because of industry concentration, the "owners have absolute control almost up and down over the lives of the people who work for them and supply them."

He added, "By issuing this (pastoral) and having people read and reflect on it, they can become aware of the issues raised in it."

Rather than ask people to eat "free-range" chicken, Bishop McRaith said, "it seems to me we are faced with the fact that, as the farmer would say, the horse is out of the barn."

The issue is "how you bring this industry, or any industry, to the point of treating people with dignity," he added.

"We're heading to a nation's 'Onlybank' with all the mergers," Bishop Friend said. "Will we have 'Food Inc.' as the only producer of goods in this country?"

He pointed to Lake Providence, La., a city in his diocese that he said has been called "the poorest town in America" because of the "rearrangement of capital investment."

"We moving more and more toward financial capital and moving away from human capital," he added.

Bishop Friend also pointed to shrinking biodiversity here and elsewhere. "The ag culture in our country is undergoing radical change ... whether that's locally or even nationally," he said. "We need to look at that more deeply than we have."

Bishop McRaith said the changes in the poultry industry have been "going on for a long, long time," but "I hear people talking about it as if they'd just heard about it." Making changes in the poultry industry will require a sustained effort, he added; "Some that's been sick for a long time is likely to be very sick."

In the document, the bishops say while it focuses on the poultry industry they are not singling it out as unique. Rather it is "an example of other businesses, in agriculture and manufacturing, which share the same challenges."

Bishop William R. Houck of Jackson, Miss., said that because of industry concentration, the "owners have absolute control almost up and down over the lives of the people who work for them and supply them." He added, "By issuing this (pastoral) and having people read and reflect on it, they can become aware of the issues raised in it."

Assisting the Catholic Committee of the South with the pastoral statement, in addition to many diocesan officers and personnel, were the Alabama Contract Poultry Growers Institute; Delmarva Poultry Justice Alliance; Glenmary Home Missioners; National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice; and Sacred Heart Monastery community in Cullman, Ala.

Also assisting were St. Anthony Messenger Press; St. Benedict Monastery community in Pittsburgh; United Food and Commercial Workers Union; and Women's Center for Economic Alternatives of Ahoskie, N.C.

Editor's Note: The full text of the pastoral is available on the Internet at http://www.poultry-pastoral.org.

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New Orleans teacher's relic

By RON BROCATO
Catholic News Service

NEW ORLEANS(CNS) — Joseph Fradet has always felt he was close to God and that he had been intended to achieve something special.

At first, Fradet thought it would be the priesthood, but his brief studies at Notre Dame Seminary in the New Orleans Archdiocese went for naught.

Instead, Fradet became a teacher and has spent more than 30 years educating young people from the Dakotas to New Orleans. It has been a gratifying career, but Fradet knew there was still a void in his life; his mission was yet unfulfilled.

But the void was filled in 1984.

"The Lord came to me in a dream and said, 'I will bless you with a relic,'" Fradet recalled in an interview with the Clarion Herald, New Orleans' Catholic newspaper. "Then I received a relic from a nun. It was a relic of the true cross on which Jesús was crucified."

The relic given to him by Sister Ignatia O'Rourke, a Daughter of Charity, was the first of nearly 1,100 relics and artifacts Fradet has collected in the ensuing years.

As the collection grew, Fradet needed to find a suitable place to house the religious items. He ended up buying the Daughters of Charity convent, a stately 10,157-square-foot, 38-room, three-story mansion in New Orleans. He purchased it from the order's provincial headquarters in St. Louis for $185,000.

Amazingly, the chapel in the mansion is the same one in which Sister Ignatia, now in her 80s, took her vows. It still has the original altar, holy water fonts and crucifix, but Fradet bought Stations of the Cross, artwork and pews for it.

Closing the purchase was not easy. He had to sell two properties he owned in another town and his main residence in New Orleans, as well as cash in his retirement fund. He got approval for a loan, bought the building and moved in. That was 26 months ago.

CNS photo by Frank J. Methe, Clarion Herald

Joseph Fradet of New Orleans shows one of his more than 1,000 relics that he has acquired over the last six years.

He has since renovated the palatial building, furnishing every room, purchasing pricey showcases for his collection and shelves for his library.

Most of the relics and artifacts occupy a large room on the second floor that was the sisters' recreation room.

It houses three classes of relics: first-class, which is part of a saint's body; second-class, part of clothing or anything used by the saint during his or her life; and third-class, other objects such as a piece of cloth that has been touched to a first-class relic.

They're from every continent, displayed by country, and includes relics of St. Katharine Drexel, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

There are chalices, cloths, rosaries and reliquaries containing fragments from saints. One relic on display he said was sent to him by someone at the Vatican — it is a piece of thread from a purple robe believed to have been worn by Jesus.

> **"The Lord came to me in a dream and said, 'I will bless you with a relic,'" Fradet recalled in an interview with the Clarion Herald, New Orleans' Catholic newspaper. "Then I received a relic from a nun. It was a relic of the true cross on which Jesus was crucified."**

Fradet said he received many of the relics for a donation, but most of them were given to him.

"This area is for Italian saints, this for saints from Belgium, here Portugal, here Yugoslavian saints," he said as he moved from case to case.

There are many more pieces from the Philippines, Mexico, Australia, Spain, Venezuela and Egypt.

Asked how he authenticated the objects, Fradet said he belongs to an international organization of collectors.

"In the relic world, if you're really interested in relics, people are going to find your name. I belong to a worldwide order in Portugal. They made me a member and my name has spread through word of mouth," he told the Clarion Herald.

"The Lord made this possible. I think he knew I would take care of these things; that I would not desecrate them," Fradet added.

Word of the local collection has slowly spread through the community, and since January Fradet has shown his collection to 254 visitors.

"I never asked for a donation because I got most of these things for free and I wouldn't know what to ask for," Fradet said. "Only once did I accept money — from a busload of people from Lafayette who toured the collection.

"But now I'm worried. I need more cases and I have little money left. I don't know how long I can continue to live here on a teacher's salary," said Fradet, who teaches in an alternative school.

Most of his students, sixth-through eighth-graders, are assigned by the juvenile court system because they cannot function in a mainstream educational setting.

"I've invested all I have into this and I have no retirement," he said. "I'd hate to sell this house. God brought me to this dream. I don't believe God gave me such holy ground lightly."

What's the Road Like Up Ahead?

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Inside

Bullets mix with Bible studies for West Bank seminarians ...PAGE 7

Harlem Globetrotters make Pope John Paul II honorary member ...PAGE 16

Local News

Youth gather for Jubilee event ...PAGE 3

SOA protest
Groups from Charlotte Diocese among those demanding school's close ...PAGE 4

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8

Advent invites faithful to focus on Christ

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

As the last of the Thanksgiving turkey has made its way into soups or the freezer, holiday shoppers madly rush toward their favorite malls and department stores, some even waiting in the cold, pre-dawn hours outside doors opening to holiday sales galore.

Indeed, it's Christmas time all over again. Travel plans are underway, gift lists are being traded and looming heavily is the overwhelming task of planning how to fit bundles of holiday cheer into already-full schedules.

But for the Christian faithful, these four weeks before Christmas signify a different kind of preparation, one that focuses more on peaceful meditation than frantic merrymaking.

Perhaps more so than in any other time in the church's calendar, Advent is a time for Christians to reflect on the presence of Jesus — not only among them today, but at his birth two millennia ago and at the fulfillment of human destiny with his second coming.

Advent is a time for new beginnings. The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year in the Catholic Church and opens a season of focus on the one who brought mankind a new beginning with his earthly Incarnation.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" likens the season of Advent for today's faithful to the lengthy period of waiting for the Messiah by the people of Old Testament times.

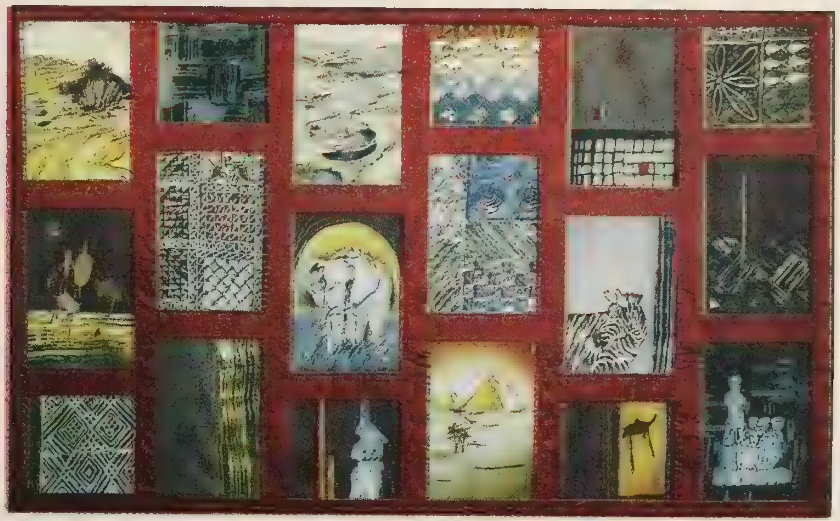
"The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries," the Catechism says. "He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming."

John the Baptist, the Catechism continues, was sent to more immediately announce Christ as the Lord — from his leaping in his mother's womb to calling Jesus the Lamb of God, from his own preaching to his own martyrdom.

It is through John's example and witness that all the faithful are called to contemplate the presence of Christ of yesterday, of today and of eternity.

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming," the Catechism

SEE ADVENT, PAGE 9



CNS PHOTO BY DIANNE TOWALSKI, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

The Africa kesa, or prayer shawl, was created by fabric artist and teacher Betsy Sterling Benjamin to promote world understanding and peace. It is on display at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn.

Pope urges laity to embrace Vatican II documents

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Pope John Paul II urged the church's lay members to read the documents of the Second Vatican Council, saying a return to the council was the key to eliminating lukewarmness among believers and to tackling the world's social problems.

"Study the council, explore it deeply, assimilate its spirit and guidance: You will find in it the light and strength to witness the Gospel in every field of human existence," he said Nov. 26 at the end of a jubilee Mass dedicated to the laity.

Underscoring his appeal, the pope gave heavy, hardbound copies of the council documents to five pairs of lay people who were attending a Nov. 25-30 world laity congress at the Vatican.

Based on documents from the Department of Communications of the United States Catholic Conference, lay ministers can serve in a variety of church positions including servers, musicians, lectors, commentators, choir members and other important church roles and in schools and organizations affiliated with the church. While deacons, who have received the sacrament of holy orders, are not considered lay ministers, brothers and sisters can be considered as such.

Monsignor Philip Murnion, director of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York, said that one reason why more lay ministers have begun to work in parish life is because there are fewer priests and women religious able to work in parishes. Lay people can bring expertise in education, social ministry, finance and other areas.

"It is marvelous to see lay people taking on some of the responsibility of the decision-making roles in the church," said Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte. "I value their insight and commitment to diocesan life which allows the Gospel to become a lived experience as opposed to being lifeless words on a page. We can spend time talking about a commitment to church, but it is good to see people living out their faith."

Brief torrential downpours and the rumbling of thunder punctuated the St. Peter's Square liturgy. Some of the 40,000 participants,

SEE LAITY, PAGE 14

Nuncio dedicates chapel, library at new Lincoln seminary

SEWARD, Neb. (CNS) — Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, dedicated and blessed the Immaculate Conception Chapel and Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom Library at St. Gregory the Great Seminary near Seward Nov. 19. Hundreds of lay people, priests, women religious and five bishops turned out on a blustery fall day to witness the historic event for the Diocese of Lincoln. The blessing of the new chapel and library marked the completion of the acquisition and renovation of the first free-standing college-level diocesan seminary in the United States in nearly 40 years.

Vatican agency says Cuban church still suffers repression

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Nearly three years after Pope John Paul II's historic visit to Cuba, the church there continues to suffer the "repressive policies of the regime," according to the Vatican missionary news agency Fides. The latest step taken by Fidel Castro's government, Fides reported Nov. 25, was a law suspending professional titles for those who enter seminaries or religious orders. In recent years, a number of doctors have enrolled in Jesuit and Franciscan programs, it said. "The new law does not allow them to offer medical services to the population, solely because they are priests or brothers," Fides said.

State to appeal judge's ruling on abortion clinic law

BOSTON (CNS) — Saying it violates free speech, a federal judge has barred Massachusetts from enforcing a law forming a "buffer zone" against protests at abortion clinics. The state attorney general said he would appeal the decision. In a 13-page ruling Nov. 20 U.S. District Judge Edward F. Harrington enjoined the state against enforcing the law, pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality. The law allows employees and others associated with abortion clinics to approach patients outside those facilities to escort them inside, but says protesters cannot come within six feet of patients without their consent when they are within 18 feet of a clinic entrance.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Mexico President-elect visits church in Guanajuato

President-elect Vincente Fox, who is to be sworn in as Mexico's leader Dec. 1, speaks to Sister Claudina Montoya following Mass in San Cristobal, state of Guanajuato, Nov. 26. During his campaign, Fox called for respect for freedom of religion, and he promised to ease restrictions on Catholic schools and on religious activity in public schools.

Rome university to start personalized stem-cell bank

ROME (CNS) — The Rome-based medical school of Sacred Heart University will inaugurate Italy's first personalized stem-cell bank early next year, allowing parents to set aside their children's cells for future use against disease. Salvatore Mancuso, director of the Catholic university's obstetrics and gynecological clinic, announced Nov. 21 that the cell bank would be up and running in January. Doctors will take stem cells from the umbilical cords of newborn babies, then freeze them, Mancuso told Catholic News Service Nov. 22. While other cell banks exist in Italy, he said, they collect voluntary, anonymous donations, making the Sacred Heart's bank the first of its kind in the country.

Oregon religious leaders urge action on global warming

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Saying that their faith calls Jews and Christians to care for the Earth, religious leaders in Oregon are calling for action on global warming. "Leading scientists now warn that our continued and increasing use of fossil fuels, deforestation and pollution are accelerating a warming of the world's climate that will dramatically and negatively alter the conditions of life on Earth," the leaders say in a statement. "Our faith communities cannot ignore these warnings." About 50 rabbis, ministers and others have signed the statement and more were expected to sign. The pastoral council from St. Andrew Parish in Portland and the pastor, Father Bob Krueger, were among the first Catholic signatories.

Vatican says legal status of marriage must be defended

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a detailed document on cohabitation, the Vatican said the unique legal status of marriage and the family must be defended as indispensable goods for society. Far from merely being traditional models, the document said marriage and the family express the most fundamental truths about human love and social relations — a truth it said Christian families are called to make apparent with their lives. The 77-page document, "Family, Marriage and 'De Facto' Unions," was released at the Vatican Nov. 21.

Archbishop says human rights must not be sidelined

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — In the wake of U.S. President Bill Clinton's visit to Vietnam, a Vietnamese archbishop said human rights must not be sidelined amid economic reform and greater openness to the West. "Attention needs to be paid not only to rebuilding the economy," Archbishop Jean-Baptiste Pham Minh Man of Ho Chi Minh City told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 21 written statement. "Human rights," he said on the heels of Clinton's Nov. 16-19 trip, "make up the foundation on which the dignity and happiness of every human being and people are built."

Problem of homeless kids called an 'international crisis'

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (CNS) — The problem of homeless children is an "international crisis," said the national president of Covenant House. Sister Mary Rose McGeady, speaking at the 15th anniversary of Covenant House in Fort Lauderdale Nov. 11, said the United Nations estimates that there are 200 million homeless children worldwide. "I am constantly besieged for more Covenant Houses. The numbers are not going down, they're going up," said the Daughter of Charity. "The problem of kids disconnected from their families is an international crisis."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 8 — 7:30 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 9 — 9 a.m.
Day of reflection with adult church members
St. Mark, Huntersville

December 10 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 12
Ecumenical bishops' meeting
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

December

8 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now is sponsoring "The Restorative Conference" today through Dec. 10 at the Great Aunt Stella Center on Elizabeth Ave. The purpose is to examine current problems in the criminal justice system and potential solutions, and the topics range from juvenile justice to the death penalty and mandatory minimum sentencing to victims' rights. For more details, call Ted Frazer at (704) 563-9550.

HICKORY — Rachel's Vineyard, an all-weekend post-abortion retreat, sponsored by Transfiguration Ministries and the Respect Life Office, is being held at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane, this evening through Dec. 10. For more information or to pre-register, make a confidential call to Debbie or Martha at (336) 659-1342.

HOT SPRINGS — Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege and Jesuit Father Joseph McGovern are facilitating an "Advent Retreat with Mary" this weekend through Dec. 10 at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 Hwy. 25/70 NW. The retreat's focus is Mary whose "yes" ushered in a new creation. To register by Dec. 1 and for more information, call (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

9 FOREST CITY — Father Philip Scarcella, Ph.D., J.C.D., is conducting a mission at Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St., this evening at 5:30 p.m. Mass and with a 7 p.m. service on Dec. 10 and 9:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. services through Dec. 14. A penance service is being held on Dec. 13 after the mission talk, and benediction follows each evening service. For further information, call (828) 245-4017 or Claire Feldmeth at (828) 245-6053.

WINSTON-SALEM — Oratorian Father David Valtierra, director of adult education at the Oratory, is pre-

Youth celebrate at Jubilee gathering in Asheville

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

The *jury* is sworn in at the start of the trial held during a youth Jubilee Year Celebration in the Asheville Vicariate. The youth gathered for a variety of events at the event, including Mass, a pizza party and an overnight lock-in at the YMCA. The "trial" was actually a skit written by Michael Theisen, coordinator of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Rochester.

BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — God was on trial. Members of the youth groups from St. Barnabas in Arden and St. Joan of Arc and St. Lawrence in Asheville made up the jury that acquitted God on three counts, found God guilty on the fourth charge.

It was part of an Asheville Vicariate youth Jubilee celebration that began with the vigil Mass on Saturday, Nov. 18, followed by a pizza supper and the "trial," then on to an overnight lock-in at the Asheville YMCA. Youth from St. Eugene in Asheville joined the group at the Y. The Jubilee Year event was coordinated by the churches' youth ministers: Mary Ann Poli, St. Barnabas; Tanya Bruce, St. Eugene; Don Frank, St. Joan of Arc; and Elizabeth Girton, St. Lawrence.

The jury heard the allegations relating to the "consequences brought on by the Jubilee 2000 computer." The judge, played by Brandon Pearson of St. Barnabas, stated the charges, which God, known as "I.M. HOOam" and creator of the Jubilee computer, had to refute. To underscore the idea that God has no gender, a male and a female — A.J. Cox and Kristen Trexler, also from St. Barnabas — alternated on I.M.'s dialogue. The trial, a skit, "Jubilee on Trial: A Catechetical Session on Jubilee," by Michael Theisen, coordinator of Youth Ministry, Diocese of Rochester, was staged to explore four Jubilee Year subjects. The mythical Jubilee computer had:

1. Confounded the postal system by continuing to send mail to people who formerly lived in Chump Towers (Jubilee theme of returning home).

2. Forgave bank loans worldwide (Jubilee theme of forgiveness of debts.

3. Shut down industrial sewage pipes (Jubilee theme of resting the land).

4. Gave migrant workers refugee status and allowed them to live in the country of their choice (Jubilee theme of liberty for all inhabitants).

According to I.M., the former residents of the Chump Towers neighborhood had lived for many years "where Chump Towers and Casino now

SEE YOUTH, PAGE 9

DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE
THE CHANCERY

December 1, 2000

Dear Friends in Christ,

"Share in the Care" is the theme for the 13th National Religious Retirement Collection, the annual appeal for retired sisters, brothers and order priests slated for Dec. 9-10. This annual collection helps offset retirement costs challenging men and women religious.

During the approaching decade, peak numbers of Catholic women and men religious will pass the age of 70. The cost of caring for the elderly is on the increase, and last year, more than 5,800 men and women religious required skilled care, costing more than $204 million.

Our Religious have received low social security payments, due to the fact that they were not allowed into the system until 1972 and, consequently, have not accrued significant benefits; meeting the needs of those now retired would be impossible, were it not for the generous donations of Catholics to this yearly collection.

Remembering the service and ministry of these dedicated men and women through these many years, we ask your generous response to this appeal on the weekend of Dec. 9-10.

Wishing you and yours God's abundant blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

---

senting an "Advent Retreat Day" at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel Spirituality Center, 211 W. 3rd St., from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The day includes Scripture study, reflection, Taize' song and prayer and an included lunch. To make reservations by noon on Dec. 6 or for details, call the church at (336) 723-8238.

10 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

HICKORY — The Secular Franciscan Order of Hickory is presenting a re-enactment of St. Francis of Assisi's 1223 Greecio, Italy, recreation of Jesus' birth to aid 13th century local citizens with experiencing those holy night conditions. The re-enactment is taking place at 4 p.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. For details, call Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956 or John M. Martin at (828) 323-7820.

11 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent meets tonight only, because of the holiday season, from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

12 CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is hosting a workshop on peace and justice with Augustinian Father Joseph A. Genito, director of peace and justice in the St. Thomas of Villanova Province. All are welcome to attend the program held from 7-8:30 p.m. tonight. For details, call (704) 535-4197.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Dr. Bob Panoff is presenting "Creation, Science and the Catholic Church," a session about the debate between science and religion involving the Big Bang Theory versus seven-day creation and a possible harmonious existence between the two concepts. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church is having their annual Christmas party and program today at noon at the Pine Lake Country Club in Mint Hill. Food, gifts and entertainment are being provided for members and guests with a donation in support of the event and the club. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is having a 2nd concert with a performance from a guest choir at 7 p.m. in honor of their 20th anniversary for those who may have missed the Nov. 19 concert because of the weather. For details, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

GREENSBORO — The Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God are hosting an Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection at the Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oblate of St. Francis de Sales Father Anthony Larry is leading the day starting with Mass in the chapel with a provided lunch. For further information and for those considering a religious vocation, call Poor Servant Sister Clare Houlihan at (336) 886-2444.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

SOA opponents gather for annual protest at Ft. Benning

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Despite freezing temperatures and a steady torrent of rain, thousands of people were undaunted in their fervor to demand closure of the U.S. Army School of the Americas [SOA] located at Fort Benning, Ga.

Among them were members of St. Eugene and St. Lawrence churches in Asheville, some serving as peacekeepers at the event. Those assigned as peacekeepers helped demonstrators maintain respect, silence and quiet determination during the vigil.

Megan Reilly-Buser, one of the peacekeepers from the Asheville Vicariate, demonstrated by donning a black shroud with a white mask, carrying a black coffin to symbolize the deaths of more than 75,000 Latin American people. Reilly-Buser believed that by breaking the law, she was following a higher law — one based on faith and human dignity for all.

The School of the Americas was established in Panama in 1946 — allegedly to promote stability in the region. But its reputation for churning out despots soon earned it the nickname "Escuela de Golpes" or "School of Coups." In 1984, the SOA was kicked out of Panama and a major Panamanian newspaper dubbed it "The School of Assassins." The school was relocated to Fort Benning, near Columbus, Ga., under the terms of the Panama Canal Treaties.

SOA-trained troops have used their skills of commando tactics and psychological operations to make war against their own people with disastrous consequences. These techniques target labor organizers, religious leaders, student activists, educators and others who work for just wages, decent housing, education and other basic needs.

In 1993, the UN Truth Commission Report on El Salvador cited the officers responsible for the worst atrocities committed during that country's civil war. The death of Archbishop Oscar Romero, beloved champion of the poor, was assassinated while celebrating Mass. The Commission cited three officers — two were SOA-trained. Over 900 men, women and children in the village of El Mozote were massacred by SOA-trained soldiers.

Six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her teen-age daughter were murdered at the University of Central America. Of the 26 cited for this atrocity, 19 were SOA-trained.

In 1980 three U.S. nuns and a Catholic lay worker were forced out of their van by members of the Salvadoran National Guard who raped and killed them. Three of the five linked to the case were SOA-trained. The list of killings is well-documented.

In its 11th year, people have gathered to live out the words of Archbishop Romero. "Those who have a voice, must speak for the voiceless!" On Nov. 18 and 19, many chose to put these words into action by crossing the line onto federal military property. That risk carries a fine of up to $5,000 and six months imprisonment in a federal penitentiary. Over 40 people have or are currently serving federal prison time for their nonviolent witness.

Huddled in a massive tent the night before the march, Catholics gathered to celebrate Mass and hear words of solidarity. In his speech Father Roy Bourgeois, Maryknoll missionary and founder of the School of the Americas Watch, reiterated his central message of working for peace and justice. "As Catholics, we have a mission to heal the poor by connecting our lives to them."

Photo by Wendy M. Murray

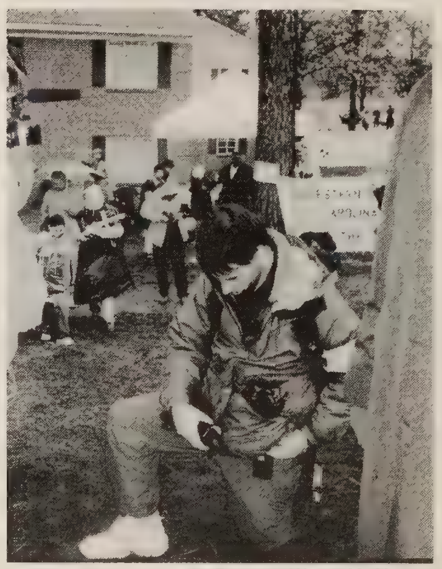
Photo by Wendy M. Murray

Dr. Steve Buser of Asheville prays during the demonstration.

Father Bourgeois is a Vietnam veteran and worked as a Catholic priest in the slums of Bolivia. There, he witnessed firsthand the crimes against humanity. In 1990 he founded the SOA Watch, located just outside the main entrance of Fort Benning. Its goal is to inform the general public, Congress and the media about the implications of this training.

But the most emotional plea came from Martin Sheen, long-time Catholic activist for peace and star of the award-winning NBC television series "The West Wing." He said, "I really don't want to be here today. I don't know what will happen, but I know that we will have a profound and lasting effect on each other. When I awoke with the dawn, I asked the Lord to lead me and hold his people in my heart as I go forth."

On Sunday morning, college students, people of faith, families, veterans for peace, union workers and others lifted their voices in song as the solemn funeral procession began. Carrying crosses inscribed with the names of those killed by SOA graduates, over 4,000 people processed onto the base in an act of civil disobedience.

As the march was unfolding, Caitlin Bradley, 11, a fifth-grader at Asheville Catholic School was awed. Accompanying her daughter, Karen Bradley shared their first time impressions. "I am so energized to be part of this sea of humanity united for a just cause. It makes me feel that we can change the world."

Standing beside barricades, supporters sang freedom songs; their echoes reminiscent of marches long ago. As the names of victims were read, a drum reverberated their presence and crosses were raised to the heavens. Musicians, puppeteers and street theater performers amplified the call [to close the SOA], many under the steel-like watch of state troopers and military personnel. Small pockets of young people everywhere could be seen huddled praying. Nothing could dampen the spirited cries for closure.

After the march, Reilly-Buser said, "I feel that it is a sin of omission to not do something about the torture and murder. They are the opposite of love. It is like hammering another nail into Jesus' cross.

"When I made my final decision to cross the line, I felt tremendous peace. As I lay on the ground awaiting arrest, I was scared, but I felt called and impelled by my faith. Turning my back on these atrocities would be to turn my back on Christ and the community of martyrs before us. Our church's social teaching emphasizes that every person has human dignity and that we must do what we can to promote that dignified life."

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Priest sees danger in United States' perception that AIDS is under control

By RAYANNE DAMIANO
Catholic News Service

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — It may be that the AIDS threat in the United States has never been more dangerous, says Father Robert J. Ascolese, a New Jersey pastor.

"There is a growing perception in this country that AIDS is a disease of the past," said the priest, who is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Washington. He has coordinated a multistate fund-raiser for AIDS outreach for the last six years.

"People are living longer and so the critical nature of AIDS awareness is diminished," he told The Catholic Spirit, Metuchen's diocesan newspaper.

As a result, whole segments of the population who had been carefully educated about the risks of HIV are now experiencing infection at record-breaking levels. As an example, he pointed to the heterosexual teen population, where the incidence of AIDS is the highest it has ever been.

But Father Ascolese is providing the Catholic community with at least some way to help those affected by AIDS — through his Project Bread for Life.

Begun in 1994, following his work as a chaplain in an AIDS treatment facility at a Perth Amboy medical center, Project Bread for Life involves the baking and distribution of thousands of loaves of bread to faith communities throughout the region, where they are sold after Masses or services during the first two weekends of December.

The entire effort is handled by volunteers, whose numbers are expected to reach 500 this year. Father Ascolese and his committee hope to sell 14,000 loaves at $3 each, raising $42,000 for a variety of projects.

Among those projects are the North Jersey Community Research Initiative and the National Foundation for Children with AIDS, and pastoral care ministries for AIDS patients at St. Vincent's Hospital in New York City, St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark and Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden.

Last year, Project Bread for Life was conducted in 145 places in the five New Jersey dioceses, the New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore archdioceses, and the Rockville Centre, N.Y., Brooklyn, N.Y., and Wilmington, Del, dioceses.

But Father Ascolese is looking to build on that.

"We want to reach into more communities than we have ever been permitted before," he said.

"There is a growing perception in this country that AIDS is a disease of the past," said Father Ascolese, who is pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Washington. He has coordinated a multistate fund-raiser for AIDS outreach for the last six years.
"People are living longer and so the critical nature of AIDS awareness is diminished," he told The Catholic Spirit, Metuchen's diocesan newspaper.
As a result, whole segments of the population who had been carefully educated about the risks of HIV are now experiencing infection at record-breaking levels.

Scheduled as part of the observance of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, the project is multifaceted in objective with the benefit reaching well beyond the money that is raised.

"We cannot generate the hundreds of thousands of dollars that are needed for treatment and research," the priest. "But this is a proactive way to promote the health of our society. It can awaken within the Catholic community a sense of awareness about the disease."

Participation in the program has benefits in itself, he added.

"When someone we know has died of this disease, we often suffer a profound sense of guilt and helplessness," he said. "People who have gotten involved in the baking, selling and transporting of the bread feel that they are at least doing something to help someone else."

And those living with AIDS continue to need help, Father Ascolese stressed.

"People are living longer with the new drug treatments. Yes, they are alive, but they are not able to work, they are in and out of the hospital. And they ultimately face the collapse of their immune system," he said.

Moreover, while the new drugs have helped many people, they are still not available to those who need them because of the prohibitive cost.

Raising support for the plight of AIDS victims is an ongoing challenge, Father Ascolese said.

The project has an ecumenical and interfaith aspect that has been part of the project since its inception, but that involvement has been limited, he noted.

"We're still encountering a bias in some faith communities. But we continue to invite more participation among our Christian and Jewish neighbors," Father Ascolese said.

There even continues to be some resistance on the part of Catholic communities as well, to which Father Ascolese responds: "An individual is not responsible for the destructiveness of a disease. And Jesus Christ didn't come to turn his head."

"Who are we to call ourselves Christians without shouldering part of that human suffering?" he asked.

Notre Dame fund-raising campaign tops $1 billion

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — The University of Notre Dame has become the first Catholic university to raise more than $1 billion in a fund-raising campaign.

The university's Generations campaign, announced in May 1997, passed its goal of $767 million more than a year before its scheduled Dec. 31 end, and exceeded the $1 billion mark in mid-September.

Notre Dame joins Princeton University as the only institutions without medical schools to reach that milestone. It is the third smallest university, in terms of alumni base, to raise $1 billion.

Daniel G. Reagan, assistant vice president of university relations and executive director of development, said nearly three-quarters of Notre Dame alumni had contributed to the Generations campaign.

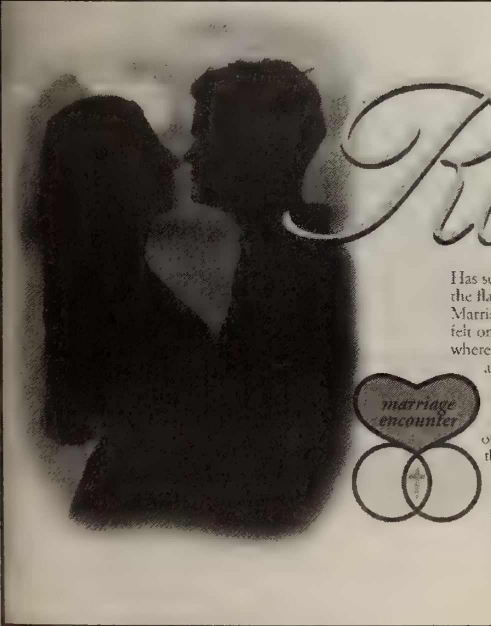
The campaign's principal aims have been to increase student scholarship funds, increase the number of endowed faculty positions, enhance the quality of the university libraries, fund new facilities, and provide program support to a variety of academic centers and institutions.

Among the recent gifts to the campaign was a $2.5 million endowment for the university's Center for Sport, Character and Culture from Joseph T. Mendelson Sr. of Santa Barbara, Calif., and a $1 million pledge from Philip J. Faccenda, the university's vice president and general counsel emeritus, to establish an endowed chair for priest scholars of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Mendelson, the father of two Notre Dame graduates, has been a competitive international runner and a coach of high school track and cross-country teams in California.

The Mendelson Center for Sport, Character and Culture, as it will be known, was established in 1999 to promote sport as a means for developing and expressing various facets of human excellence, especially moral virtue, and to offer a social critique of practices that undermine the potential of sport to build character.

Faccenda, who retired as university vice president and general counsel in 1995, has four daughters and two sons who are Notre Dame graduates.



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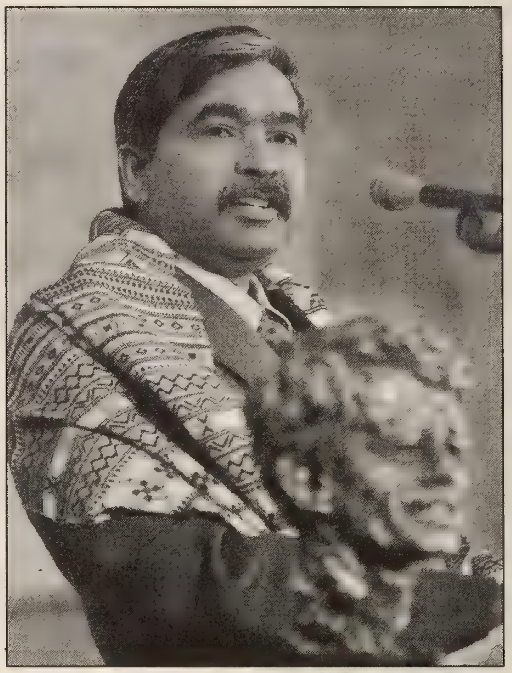
Death-row inmate 'not afraid to die' after joining church

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Federal death-row inmate David Paul Hammer of Oklahoma, who was granted a temporary reprieve when a U.S. District Court judge postponed his Nov. 15 execution, said he is not afraid to die. "God and his son, Jesus, await me in a far better place, so I can only look forward to the time when I go home, when I will be free again, free in a way as never before," Hammer wrote in response to written questions from The Criterion, Indianapolis archdiocesan newspaper. But the inmate, who recently joined the Catholic Church, said he has requested clemency and will pursue appeals because he does not want to adversely affect other death-row inmates' chances for appeals of their death sentences.

History of black Catholics needs to be made known

CHICAGO (CNS) — Dominican Sister Jamie Phelps, a nationally known theologian, said she appreciates it when Catholics, including the sisters of her order, celebrate Black History Month, observed each February. But she feels something is missing, such as the stories of African popes — Sts. Victor, Militiades and Gelasius — and the histories of black bishops, priests and women religious. Designating a special month is all well and good, but it doesn't "have anything about black Catholic history," she told The Catholic New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper, in an interview for Black Catholic History Month, which is celebrated in November. "As black Catholics, in terms of the public eye, we are on the margins," she added.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Martin Macwan receives human rights rights award

Martin Macwan, an Indian Catholic activist, speaks in Washington Nov. 21 after receiving the 17th annual Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for defending the rights of low-caste people.

New Washington archbishop says getting to know people is priority

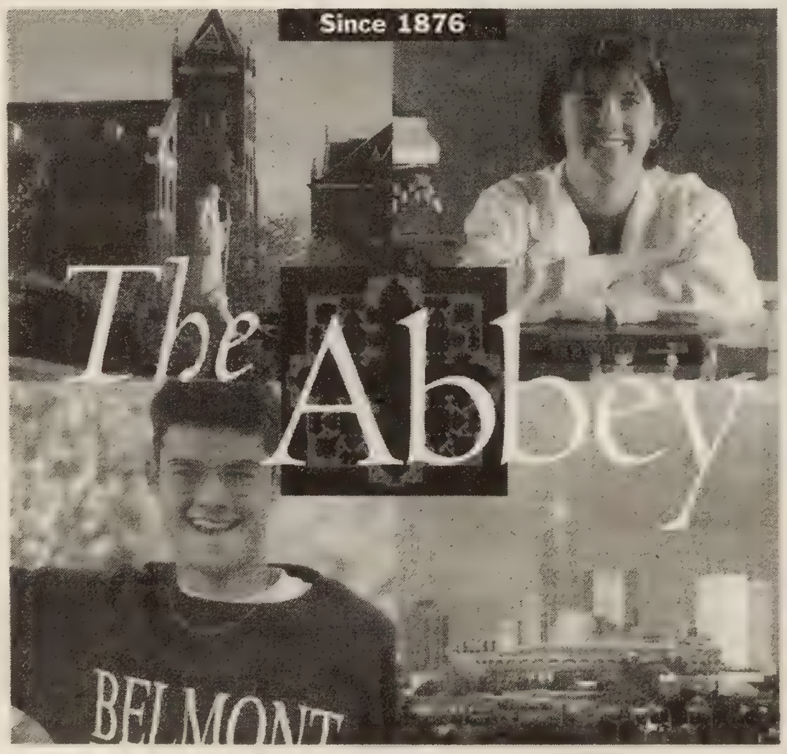
WASHINGTON (CNS) — He is known for his involvement in international issues, like debt relief and religious freedom, but the new archbishop of Washington said his priority as he moves to the nation's capital will be to get to know the priests and people of the archdiocese. Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J., was named Nov. 21 by Pope John Paul II to succeed retiring Cardinal James A. Hickey. At a press conference the same day at the Washington Pastoral Center, Archbishop McCarrick said his first interests will be to continue Cardinal Hickey's efforts on behalf of the poor, minorities and Catholic schools and to emphasize the need for vocations — for lay leadership as well as for the priesthood and religious life.

Vatican official visits INS detention center

MIAMI (CNS) — Outside, there were guards and barbed wire. Inside, a visitor from Rome brought solidarity and hope. "All of us are immigrants ... because our homeland is in heaven," said Archbishop Stephen Fumio Hamao, president of the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, during a Nov. 17 visit to the Krome detention center, run by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Seated before him, about 100 detainees wearing red and orange prison garb listened intently. Repeating what Pope John Paul II had said last July at a prison in Rome, Archbishop Hamao reminded the detainees that "time belongs to God, not to any other institution, organization, government or group. ... You must choose and use well this time of detention here, because the time is God's."

Dana Scallon, Marty Haugen dominate Catholic music awards

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Singer Dana Scallon and liturgical music composer Marty Haugen dominated the first Unity Awards honoring the best Catholic music and videos. Scallon, the onetime candidate for president of Ireland who records professionally as Dana, won or shared in seven awards, and Haugen won all four awards for which he was nominated. The awards ceremony, sponsored by the new United Catholic Music and Video Association, was held Nov. 18 on the campus of The Catholic University of America, Washington.



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Bullets mix with Bible studies for West Bank seminarians

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

BEIT JALLA, West Bank (CNS) — Father Maroun Lahham, rector of the Beit Jalla seminary, holds a collection of bullets and missile shrapnel in his hands.

Just this morning, he said, they found another bullet in the seminary courtyard from the previous night's firefight between Palestinian Tanzeen gunmen and Israeli soldiers poised on the opposite ridge in the Jewish area of Gilo.

Father Lahham said the bullets have hit the roof of the seminary dorm and have reached just inches away from bedroom windows. It's not that the Israelis are aiming at the seminary, he said, it is simply that once they shoot a bullet or a missile they have no control where the shrapnel and splinters will land.

With 100 students — including 58 boys under the age of 18 —studying at the seminary, the seven priests there have had to readjust to a new reality.

Father Lahham said the bullets have hit the roof of the seminary dorm and have reached just inches away from bedroom windows. It's not that the Israelis are aiming at the seminary, he said, it is simply that once they shoot a bullet or a missile they have no control where the shrapnel and splinters will land.

CNS photo by Debbie Hill

Tenth-graders at the Beit Jalla seminary in the West Bank take an exam in music Nov. 28. Students and staff have remained inside the seminary walls because of ongoing fighting between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli troops.

"The first days we used to see a few boys who were pale with fright, then the next time we would see more and more, especially the younger boys and especially those boys who are from Jordan who never heard a bomb explode or heard shooting," said Father Lahham.

Two-thirds of the students are from Jordan, he said.

"This presents a moral problem even for us," said the priest. "We are bearing the responsibility for 100 young men. Any one of these bullets could have hit one of our students and killed them."

Seminary officials face a more difficult problem: convincing the boys' mothers that their children are safe at the seminary, just behind the Beit Jalla neighborhood hardest-hit by Israeli fire. Some parents call every day, right after they hear about a shooting, Father Lahham said.

The priests and 24 older students in the major seminary try to calm the boys' fears and keep the atmosphere light. Whereas normally the younger boys are treated to a video film and sweets once a week, they now see a video and get cake and soft drinks every time there is a shooting.

"I'm not afraid of the shooting; it's become normal," said one boy who walked into the room to speak to Father Lahham. "Besides, we get to see films and eat cakes and colas."

Salim Zarriah, 15, of the Palestinian village of Aboud, said when the shooting first began, he was scared.

"After we learned this was a safe place I felt better and felt bad for the people and children outside," he said. "At first I would just pray to God in general; now, at every opportunity, I pray for peace and I pray for the people. I feel God and Mary are really helping us and all the people here. When I pray in the chapel by myself, I really feel God is listening to me."

Normally on the weekends, the older seminarians assist in pastoral work at area parishes, and they are permitted off the grounds twice a week for evening walks. Now they cannot get out of Beit Jalla to reach the other parishes, and they barely go beyond the safety of the seminary walls for their strolls.

"We have been practically closed up in here for three months, and everything weighs down on us, and everybody is nervous," said 18-year-old Wissam Massadeh of Jordan. "We just take 15-minute walks now. We don't know what will happen when we are out and what time it will begin."

"Anything is possible," added Shihadeh Massarwah, 18, also from Jordan. "When we are scared we pray the rosary and say personal prayers. Father Lahham has said that the hand of God is somewhere here, but we don't know how or when it will show itself. We are waiting for God."

In light of the situation the seminary has decided to send the students home for Christmas 10 days early, on Dec. 12, said Father Lahham.

"We decided they should have the opportunity to see their mothers, and their mothers should have the opportunity to see them. We will give them a one-month vacation," he said. "We have no program for the beginning of the second semester, which begins Jan. 10. We will probably continue as we have up until now unless things really explode."

"We decided they should have the opportunity to see their mothers, and their mothers should have the opportunity to see them. We will give them a one-month vacation."

Christmas this year will certainly be sadder than normal, he said, and out of respect for those local families who have lost their sons there will not be much celebration.

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Problems in religious life linked to too little focus on God; fewer vocations also cited

By ANN CAREY
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Problems in religious life such as rising ages, fewer vocations and loss of identity stem from a crisis in faith that focuses too much on humans and too little on God, according to a panel of men and women religious.

The panelists were participating in virtually identical daylong programs for members of various religious orders in Philadelphia in November and St. Louis in October.

Marist Father Albert DiIanni, a philosopher and former Marist vicar general who is vocations director of the Northeast province of Marists in Boston, told the participants that after the 17th century, religious men and women moved away from living for the pure love of God and focused instead on their own perfection and self-improvement.

After the Second Vatican Council, theologians began to criticize this perfectionist style of religious life as too individualistic, he said.

Thus, the focus of many religious orders moved "from an individualistic spirituality fixed on an otherworldly salvation, to a social prophetic spirituality intent on creating a better world on earth by struggling for systemic change, especially for the poor and the marginalized."

However, this view of religious life merely replaced the focus on self with focus on society and thus retained a "horizontal spirituality" centered on humans.

For a true renewal of religious life, Father DiIanni said, "Men and women religious must focus clearly on the adoration and service of God as their principal motive of being together, and teach that focus to others. From this, all else — the structures and the mission — will follow, and without it all else will falter."

Dominican Sister Elizabeth McDonough, a canon lawyer and professor of theology at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., said that the primacy of love for God is "good news" for all people, and for religious in particular.

"God created us knowingly and freely out of love, redeemed us for the same reason, sustains us for same reason, always acts on our behalf out of love," Sister McDonough said. "God wants to engage us as persons, wants to converse with us, embrace us, bring us home to him forever." And no person is left out unless he or she wants to be, she said.

Religious thus must redirect their lives more toward God "consciously, consistently, explicitly," Sister McDonough said. And if this relationship with God is substantive, "What matters to God will matter to us. That's how it is with people who love each other.

"So we care about education and illiteracy, about abortion — the ultimate disadvantage is not being allowed to be born," she said. "The homeless, abused children will matter; violence will matter; the spiritually starving will matter to us."

For a true renewal of religious life, Father Dilanni said, "Men and women religious must focus clearly on the adoration and service of God as their principal motive of being together, and teach that focus to others. From this, all else — the structures and the mission — will follow, and without it all else will falter."

And this witness will in turn show others that God is the goal toward which all hails, she said.

Sister Eleace King, an Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister who is director of education for the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., spent five years at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington researching the qualities that attract people to religious orders.

She told participants that every job done by religious is done well somewhere by someone who is not a religious, with the exception of the priesthood. What attracts young people to religious orders is not their work, she concluded, but rather their way of life.

She identified four essential characteristics of religious orders that continue to attract new candidates: a visible, tangible identity that makes the group recognizable to those who are not members; faithfulness to the order's spiritual tradition; a life of prayer — common and private — that is informed by that spiritual tradition; and a common life in which the religious live together in religious houses.

Mercy Sister Dolores Liptak, church historian and adjunct professor at Holy Apostles Seminary, Cromwell, Conn., said religious life must be viewed through the perspective of history as well as philosophy, theology and sociology.

"The heart of religious life for all times has been Jesus Christ," she said, and in the process of living "deep interior lives," religious have served God's people in active ministries in identifiable ways.

Sister Liptak noted that men and women religious have a responsibility to value their histories and to be inspired by the same initiative, ingenuity and zeal displayed by the people who originally founded their orders.

Joining the panel of speakers in Philadelphia was Christian Brother Joseph Mahon, who works in the formation program of the Baltimore District of De La Salle Christian Brothers. He also is on staff at the San Miguel School in Camden, N.J.

Christian Brother Lawrence Humphrey, president of Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis, was among the St. Louis panelists.

The programs were sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor Institute, the Knights of Columbus and the dioceses in which they were presented.

TV cannot ignore religious dimension of life, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If television really is to mirror human reality and educate as well as entertain, it cannot ignore the religious dimension of human life, Pope John Paul II said.

"Because religious feeling is among the basic elements of human life, television programming must know how to face the basic problems of existence, leaving the door open to solutions enlightened by healthy reason and by faith," the pope said Nov. 27.

Pope John Paul spoke to about 3,500 employees of RAI, the Italian state radio and television network, who were celebrating their jubilee pilgrimage to the Vatican.

RAI said it has broadcast almost 400 hours of jubilee-related television programming, including specials in preparation for the Holy Year, and about 550 hours on the radio.

Since the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 24, 1999, the network has transmitted 77 jubilee events live, said a statement from RAI.

Pope John Paul said television hs a huge influence on the daily life of millions of people around the world, influencing customs, public opinion and lifestyles.

"Through your work," Pope John Paul said, "people can meet each other more easily, cultures can dialogue, the dramas of humanity enter the public domain so that opportune interventions can be made and happy events can be shared."

"Believers who work in this sector have another responsibility as well, because through their witness they can influence the complex mechanisms of the formation of civil and social consciences," he said.

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Youth celebrate Jubilee, from page 3

stands. ... Suddenly the prices of the property taxes mysteriously went way up, placing a heavy burden upon the working class people who had called that neighborhood 'home.' All of a sudden, late payments were not being accepted anymore. The bank began to quickly foreclose on those homes and those memories faster than you could say 'Blackjack.' Does it come as any surprise that the bank owner also sits on the board of Chump Towers? Or that the once safe neighborhood is now riddled with crime?"

"I agree that politics and money have played a role in some of those decisions, but it still does not give your Jubilee 2000 computer the right to confound the postal systems computers," the judge said. "This has caused major backups in the delivery service system to Chump Towers and Casino."

"But it gives Chump Towers the right to use its wealth to take advantage of the poor?" I.M. countered. "To use its power and influence to push proud homeowners out of the way because they need extra parking? My Jubilee 2000 computer only does what is right. It cannot do wrong! It's programmed to lead people back to their homes, not away from them like this current system of power."

One person from each jury group gave the verdict from that group. Jenna Pressley of St. Barnabas delivered a verdict of innocent on the charge that the computer had confounded the postal service. Katie Kaicher of St. Lawrence said God was innocent on the charge that forgiveness of debt was a bad idea; if debts were forgiven, money could be used for things like education. Daniel Franks of St. Lawrence said God was also innocent of the third charge; letting the land rest would allow natural resources to be restored. However, Tony Campbell of St. Barnabas said his group had found God's computer guilty on the fourth count because they thought that allowing refugees to choose to live in the countries of their choice would take jobs from local residents.

Three out of four for God and 100 percent for the vicariate youth.

"The youth of the vicariate prayed and played together and were able to make friends and have fellowship with one another," Girton said. "They were talking all night about the Jubilee 'trial' and were discussing other alternatives to see how they could achieve 'I Am Who Am's' will. I thought that was a real eyeopener for them."

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Advent, from page 1

states.

The November 2000 issue of "Catholic Update," a catechetical monthly published by St. Anthony Messenger Press, emphasizes Advent's invitation to think of Christ in those three ways.

"Advent is a time to allow us to focus on who's really coming," explains Michael J. Daley, a teacher at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, and author of the November "Update." "In Advent, the church has traditionally offered the followers of Jesus, those who follow in the footpaths of the Magi of old, three comings to think about — Christ's incarnation 2,000 years ago, Christ's continued presence in our midst to this day, and Christ's anticipated glorious return in the future."

> **"In Advent, the church has traditionally offered the followers of Jesus, those who follow in the footpaths of the Magi of old, three comings to think about — Christ's incarnation 2,000 years ago, Christ's continued presence in our midst to this day, and Christ's anticipated glorious return in the future."**

In that contemplation during Advent of Christ's presence, the faithful are invited to seek simplicity in a time often ruled by chaos.

It was in the most simple of environments, after all, that the Son of God was born:

"And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2: 4-7)

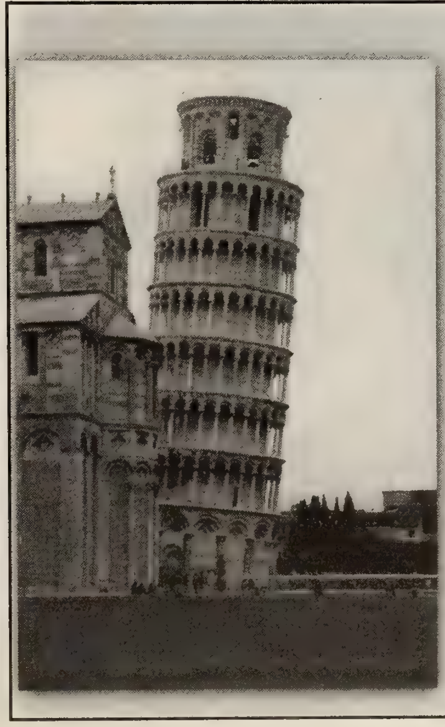
Daley invites his readers to follow the example of St. Therese of Lisieux, who in her autobiography wrote that her more profound experiences of Jesus were not "during my hours of prayer ... but rather in the midst of my daily preparations."

In preparing for Christ's coming this Advent, Daley suggests finding Jesus in ordinary times and circumstances. In doing that — in finding God by seeking joy, through generosity, in appreciating nature, in everyday choices and decisions — the faithful can more gladly rejoice on Dec. 24, when the preparatory season of Advent comes to a close.

On this Christmas Eve day, he says, "the season of waiting ends. The entrance antiphon for this morning's Mass says it in the spirit of St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians: 'The appointed time has come; God has sent his son into the world.'"

"As we move into the Christmas celebration," he concludes, "let us remember that the Incarnation is our key to the future."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org



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Book Review

New prayer books are carefully written, exquisitely designed

REVIEWED BY MAUREEN E. DALY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

How do you take your prayer books — stark or gilded?

Here are two that are carefully written and exquisitely designed; they are also art books with flawless full-color prints on high-quality paper. But they are so distinct in style of art and prayer that very few would love them both.

"The Bride: Images of the Church,"
by Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan with icons by Jesuit Father William Hart McNichols. Orbis (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2000). 142 pp., $22.00.

"Novena: The Power of Prayer,"
by Barbara Calamari and Sandra DiPasqua. Penguin (New York, 2000). 156 pp., $24.95.

"The Bride: Images of the Church" is a modern visual litany with icons painted by Jesuit Father William Hart McNichols and poems and commentary by Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan. An introductory essay explains the ancient use of icons as aids to meditation and prayer. The 27 icons in this book were all painted by Father McNichols in the last 10 years, many of them commissions. All are painted in the classic icon style of bold black outlines filled in with planes of solid color.

Some are ancient and familiar images, such as St. John the Evangelist as a sorrowing young man, his sad face propped on his right hand. Others are classic images used in new ways. For example, the pelican feeding her young is an ancient symbol of the Eucharist. In the icon "Padre Pio, Mother Pelican," the symbol glows from the chest of this 20th-century Italian priest.

Father Berrigan's poetry and meditations accompany each icon. His poem for the icon of St. Maria Goretti (1890-1902) casts new light on what might have been a hackneyed subject. It begins: "Virtue knows both good and evil; evil, only itself." It ends: "The year, 1902. She is portal and portent of a bloodshot century. Maria, first of the children of war, children of sanctions, children unwanted, children aborted, children falling to hunger, children tortured and disappeared. St. Maria, pray for us."

Meanwhile, the holy card reproductions that illustrate "Novena: The Power of Prayer" will give many readers "the shock of instant recognition," write Barbara Calamari and Sandra DiPasqua. They are the devotional cards from the Peka Verlag company of Germany, designed in the late-19th and early-20th centuries and widely distributed in American churches and schools. They are, as the authors write, "as familiar to us as old family photographs." Calamari and DiPasqua admit these cards "may seem gory and bizarre" but find the pictures "exude a dreamy mystery."

One might at first be repulsed by the sentimentality of the pictures and a spirituality that seems to glorify submission. But on closer look one has to admit that the book is beautifully put together and provides a real service in printing the texts to many traditional prayers.

One hopes readers are sophisticated enough to separate faith from fantasy — that St. Barbara is the patron saint of artillery men because her father was struck by lightning immediately after he beheaded her. One also hopes they can recognize magical thinking and not use novenas as the authors say some do: "people who led totally secular lives, even sophisticated, lives, who never set foot in a church for Sunday Mass yet would constantly appeal to their patron saint for favors." Novenas call for repetition nine times. "Perhaps by repeating a request for a solution over and over we are taking the fear out of a problem," they write. Novenas are not magic formulas, but discipline, a habit of prayer and openness to grace. That said, use with care.

Daly is associate editor of Catholic Trends, a Catholic News Service biweekly newsletter.

Word to Life

December 3, First Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9,10, 14
2) 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2
3) Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Advent is the seasonal celebration of looking forward to the coming of Christ. His coming is threefold: Jesus historically entering the world for the first time; Jesus coming into our hearts now and continually as we allow him; and Jesus coming in judgment at the end of time.

Today's three readings reflect, respectively, those three comings. A story they bring to mind helps to show how closely related are the ways Christ comes to us.

A couple of friends who had been college roommates told me about an incident in which a sizable amount of money was stolen from a room in their dormitory.

When the robbery was reported, the police took all the residents of their floor to the police station for lie detector tests. In the car on the way to the station, they remembered, one particular student was visibly nervous about the test, and he worried aloud that polygraph tests had been known to be inaccurate.

The roommates recalled that they were still waiting for their turn when he was called in to be tested. Shortly afterward, a police officer came to the waiting room and told them they were free to go because "we think we've found what we were looking for." One of the other students was disappointed that he wouldn't get to take the test.

The Gospel reading says that "men will die of fright" in anticipation of the Lord's final coming, and it recommends being on guard against selfishness and worldly ways.

Judgment will be something to fear for those who choose such behavior, just as the dorm culprit feared the results of the polygraph. But for those who follow God's will, there is nothing to be afraid of at his coming. In fact, like the disappointed innocent student, they may even look forward to the moment when they can see that they have

SEE WORD TO LIFE, PAGE 15

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 3 - 9, 2000

First Sunday of Advent, Jeremiah 33:14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2, Luke 21, 25-28, 34-36; **Monday (St. John of Damascus),** Isaiah 2:1-5, Matthew 8:5-11; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 10:21-24; **Wednesday (St. Nicholas),** Isaiah 25:6-10, Matthew 15:29-37; **Thursday (St. Ambrose),** Isaiah 26:1-6, Matthew 7:21, 24-27; **Friday (Immaculate Conception of Mary),** Genesis 3:9-15, 20, Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12, Luke 1:26-38; **Saturday (Blessed Juan Diego),** Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26, Matthew 9:35-10:1, 6-8

Readings for the week of Dec. 10 - 16, 2000

Second Sunday of Advent, Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6; **Monday (St. Damasus I),** Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe),** Zechariah 2:14-17, Romans 8:28-30, Luke 2:15-19; **Wednesday (St. Lucy),** Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (St. John of the Cross),** Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday,** Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday,** Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13

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Humanitas Prize winner sees values even in high-tech cop show

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — So what is Humanitas Prize and Christopher Award winner John Sacret Young, who produced the movie "Romero," doing as executive producer of a show on UPN?

Is it that the network that brings us "WWF Smackdown" suddenly got a conscience? Is Young just slumming it by producing the techno-cop drama "Level 9"?

"All of my work has some sort of consistency to it, believe it or not," Young said. "There's obviously a dark side and a light side to it, a la Christian beliefs in heaven and hell," Young told Catholic News Service.

"The fact is I tend to do stuff about the time within which I live as I see it," he added.

He said that applies to Vietnam, which is when he was growing up — he produced the ABC drama "China Beach."

"That would apply to 'Romero,' and how crucial I thought what he was saying was," Young continued, referring to the biographical movie's subject, slain Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero. "And that would apply to 'VR5' (an old syndicated drama) and 'Level 9.' With both we're dealing with technology, which is changing us entirely."

Technology's affect on privacy is an issue, "nobody wants to get into it, and certainly it won't be the 'A' story," Young said of his new show.

"But what 'Level 9' is going to do," he said, "is ask, 'What is privacy, what are the rights to privacy, what can government do, what is government going to do, who can hack into the government, is there security within our lives?'

"And if we're getting right down to the Humanitas Prize level, (we should ask) is there sanctity for our spirits, or is technology going to wrap that up like a cocoon and squeeze us to death?"

"Level 9," which airs 9-10 p.m. EST Fridays on UPN, deals with the efforts of an elite federal-level, top-secret group code-named Level 9 to stop high-tech criminal plots from succeeding.

It was designated as one of eight new shows of the TV season that "holds promise," according to Anne Navarro of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

The debut episode was in a "high-testosterone vein," Navarro said. "The technoladen dialogue quickly becomes pretentious and the actors still seem to be feeling out their characters.

"Yet, the premise is intriguing if only for the fact that it feeds into prevalent Internet fears where a computer virus can become as lethal as a bomb," according to Navarro.

"I would hope we keep the action and fun," Young said of "Level 9," adding his hope that issues of privacy and security are "in the grain, not on top of it."

He said there won't be "sandwich-board signs" announcing a segment of the show is dealing with those issues, but sometimes an episode will end by asking a question.

"Sometimes that question will be, 'Was that person good or bad? Did they do the right thing or the wrong things? Or sometimes it will be 'Did we go too far into that person's life? In trying to help, did we in fact, hurt?'" explained Young.

"It's not going to be every week, and it's not going to be what this show's about," he said. "But interwoven, I think you need to deal with that. You need to deal with what is god and what is bad about technology."

Young's immediate concern is not getting awards because "ratings rule the roost." But if "Level 9" gets some tenure on the TV landscape, then he'll have more latitude to deal with some of the issues he raised, he said.

Unlike last season, when UPN canceled every new drama, UPN has shown patience with "Level 9," even though it has been in a three-way tie for 114th among 117 network programs.

CNS photo from Buena Vista

Dottie, right, and Dipstick find their puppies the object of Cruella De Vil's twisted scheme to abduct dalmations in the live-action film, ``102 Dalmatians." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I -- general patronage -- and the Motion Picture Association of America rating is G -- general audiences.

Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

"Gladiator" (2000)

Larger-than-life epic set in 180 A.D. when Rome's leading general (Russell Crowe) escapes the vicious new emperor's (Joaquin Phoenix) execution order but is enslaved as a gladiator determined to survive the bloodthirsty arena spectacles so he can wreak revenge by usurping the new ruler. As directed by Ridley Scott, gruesome mortal combat scenes suggest that might is right, but impassioned performances, an absorbing narrative and staggering visuals are nonetheless impressive in capturing the brutal era of human sacrifice as entertainment for the masses. Recurring stylized violence and a depiction of a character's incestuous longings. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"X-Men" (2000)

Entertaining sci-fi thriller that pits outcast humans whose genetic mutations give them super powers against evil mutants intent on ruling over humanity. Based on the Marvel comic book series, director Bryan Singer's live-action film has an absorbing, multilayered narrative, sharp editing and imaginative special effects, but some sketchy characterizations. Some sci-fi violence and a few instances of crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Faith, hope, charity drive efforts for Christian unity

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christ's followers drive forward efforts for Christian unity when they animate their lives with the virtues of faith, hope and charity, Pope John Paul II said.

"Faith, hope and charity are like three stars which are lit in the sky of our spiritual life to guide us toward God," he said Nov. 22 during the weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"In the measure in which they animate Christ's disciples, the three theological virtues push them toward unity," he said.

Though Christians are divided by doctrinal differences, they share the same faith in one Christ, "true God and true man," and in one baptism, said the pope.

And, he said, "the churches and ecclesial communities refer all together to the ancient symbols of faith and to the definitions of the first ecumenical councils."

Christians are also called to the same hope, he said: "It is a hope which is expressed in the common commitment, through prayer and active coherence of life, for the coming of the kingdom of God."

He said that Christians, "though in tension with each other and tried by divisions, have been pushed to discover and witness a common reason for hope, recognizing Christ as its indestructible foundation."

Faith and hope find their fulfillment in charity, which makes the church a single body headed by Christ, he said.

"At the apex of the three theological virtues is love, which St. Paul compares almost to a golden knot which gathers the Christian community in perfect harmony," the pope said.

The Eucharist is the highest expression of this unity, but "unfortunately ... in relations between divided Christians, because of differences which touch on faith, it is not yet possible to concelebrate the same Eucharistic liturgy," he said.

"And yet we have an ardent desire to celebrate the one Eucharist of the Lord together," he said.

Noting a reason for hope that all Christians might one day share the same Eucharist, he said that "we turn together to the Father and we do so increasingly with a single heart."

Pope calls on Christians to 're-evangelize life'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Criticizing Western culture's tendency to sideline God, Pope John Paul II called on Christians to "re-evangelize life." In his annual message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, to be celebrated May 6, the pope said contemporary society needs "the witness of men and women who show the fruitfulness of an existence that has its source in God." The text of the pope's message was released at the Vatican Nov. 25.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

The need for interfaith conversation

I found a new prescription for joy recently when I participated in a special weekend program that was challengingly called an "interfaith conversation."

Nearly 70 people who, like myself, believe firmly in the need for interfaith dialogue gathered for a weekend at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Conn. This retreat center begun by the Daughters of Wisdom has a tradition of welcoming people of all spiritual paths.

The program, arranged and guided by Sister Rosemarie Greco, director of Wisdom House, brought together nine warm and human people to be leaders, speaking about their Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and Islamic faith traditions. If there was a bottom line to all that was presented, it was in this statement that rose above all differences: "God at work among us is the heart of the matter."

Many who came had a special motivation for participating in the discussions of "the wisdom and heart" of each religion tradition. Some six weeks earlier, a major document titled "Dominus Iesus" had been issued by the Vatican, becoming immediately controversial for many. Some wondered if the document was putting the brakes on interreligious dialogue. Numerous church leaders responded that this was not the case at all — that the technical document accenting the importance of Christ and the need for the church, was being widely misunderstood by many.

In conversations, I must admit it was difficult as a Catholic to try to explain what the Vatican writers really meant to convey when they wrote: "If it is true that the followers of other religions can receive divine grace, it is also certain that objectively speaking, they are in a gravely deficient situation in comparison with those who, in the church, have the fullness of the means of salvation."

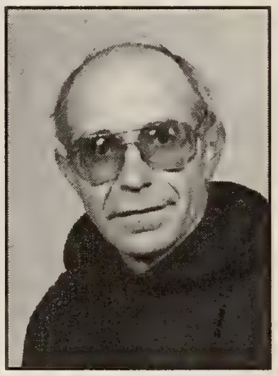
But soon, nonetheless, I felt that the rooms at Wisdom House were filled with the Holy Spirit as I listened and gained insights on how much we were connected, not divided. In my notes I read, "God is unconditionally loving, giving us grace — the gift of the Spirit — as an ingredient of human life, available to all human beings." "We're yearning for righteousness to reign on this planet." "We must put male and female energy together to bring spirituality into social action."

Funny, it didn't matter who made those statements. I concluded that we are more alike than different when it comes to the bottom-line truth that God loves us all and has imparted his/her wisdom generously, not selectively.

One of the speakers, Ewert Cousins, director of the Center for Contemporary Spirituality at Fordham University, said: "The major religious traditions of the world have impregnated all the major civilizations of the world. The providence of God acts in that fashion, and that's what we're heirs to."

Back in the '60s, in the exciting time of Vatican II, I covered a talk on "the coming interfaith age," by a noted Jesuit, Father John Courtney Murray. He said we would all have to be converts to ecumenism, but our children would have no such difficulty. For they would be "natural born ecumenists."

I think he has been proven right. Sister Greco said the program was offered by Wisdom House to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the strong encouragement given by the council to conversations between the Roman Catholic Church and the world religions. The Daughters of Wisdom deserve our gratitude for staying on this journey.



Advent Reflection

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

"...and Lazarus laughed."

What does Lazarus have to do with Advent? Is not John the Baptist the protagonist of the Advent Season? Maybe so. I always liked Lazarus for any season. In fact, he is the man who had four days of the infinite world and then came back to the finite world. Advent is time of "expectations" more than "comings." Probably, nothing new or extraordinary will come into our lives during Advent, but expectations, set by our Christian standards, definitely enter our lives. The word "expectation" for me is something we hold to be very important.

The Jews of Jesus' time were looking for a Messiah, a leader, a king, a person of power and authority who could inaugurate a new world. We also have great expectations, but how real are they? Lazarus is the person who could measure up the things of this world by the new standard of eternity, which he experienced. He had no fear of looking at this world and maybe laughing, hence the play's title of Eugene O'Neill's "Lazarus Laughed," based on the familiar biblical story.

He would see people straining every nerve to amass piles of money. He laughed at that. He saw the pretensions of the Emperor Tiberius and laughed at such display. When the Emperor threatened to put him to death, he merely laughed all the more.

Lazarus had seen eternity; he knew what counted in the long run. He could laugh not in derision, but in confidence, having perceived things on a scale of values different from others around him. This imaginative drama offers a lesson in identifying priorities and marking our life's truly important concerns. Advent is the perfect time to set our expectations straight, to enter into Lazarus' experience and to get a glimpse of what it means to view all actions with the eye of eternity.

It becomes necessary for you and me to periodically take stock of our priorities, to begin to name people, items, deepest feelings, and measure them up to our expectations. Jesus asks not only what we expect of Him, but proceeds to describe what he expects of us. It is good to expect great things from God; it is even better to attempt great things for God. If God's expectations and our expectations do not collide, we are heading in the right direction. After all, the direction to heaven is: "Make a right turn and keep on going straight."

Our life is too short to spend it boxing with God. Is He not the winner, anyway? Why, then, fight a match which we will definitely lose?

Time is only a small drop of eternity. It will be wise to make the first Advent of the third millennium an experience of eternity.

A man asked God how long a million years was to Him. God answered, "Like a minute." The same man asked God how much a million dollars was to Him. God answered, "Like a penny." The man thought and then asked, "God, will you give me a penny?" God replied, "In a minute." ... and Lazarus laughed.

Father John Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hendersonville.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Father Keller: The first 100 years

From one end of the country to the other, friends and followers of the late Father James Keller will be gathering in December to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth. Bishop John S. Cummins of Oakland, California (Father Keller's birthplace), will preside at a memorial service early in the month, and a week later a Mass will be celebrated in his honor in St. Patrick's Cathedral here in New York City.

This remarkable Maryknoll priest — the founder of The Christophers — would have been surprised, and perhaps a little amused, at the fuss. For all the celebrity he achieved in life, he remained at heart a simple and hard-working priest, one who used his God-given talents to try to change the world. Thank heaven he did! In his writings and through the work of this organization he founded, he's still reaching out to touch peoples' lives.

I suspect that Father Keller would have smiled at the thought of a tribute in St. Patrick's, since it was there that he suffered one of those "most embarrassing moments" all of us would like to forget. It happened in 1931, shortly after the California priest arrived in Manhattan to begin work as Maryknoll's promotion director in the Northeast. He volunteered his services at the cathedral, two short blocks from his combination office and sleeping quarters on East 48th Street, and was assigned the 7 o'clock Mass on the following Sunday. He set his alarm that Saturday night, but awoke in a panic when he saw how light the sky was. The wind-up clock, alas, had stopped during the night.

"I discovered the awful truth," he later wrote. "It was then 7:45, three-quarters of an hour after my scheduled Mass. 'What a way to start in New York!' I thought. 'And at the cathedral, no less!'"

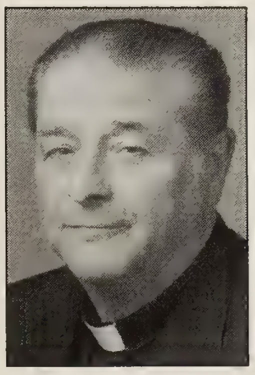
Father Keller manfully walked over to apologize, but the sacristan wasn't upset at all. He reported that an out-of-town priest had shown up-at one minute to seven, no less-and gladly took on the Mass assignment. If Father Keller ever thought that his New York career might have gotten off to a "miraculous" start, he never said a word about it!

How appropriate it is that the centennial Mass in St. Patrick's will be celebrated by Bishop William J. McCormack, national director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Not only did Bishop McCormack know Father Keller well, but for a three-year period that ended in 1937-eight years before he founded The Christophers-Father Keller was the Propagation of the Faith's assistant director. Beyond that, it was the same mission spirit that animates the Propagation of the Faith that would inspire and guide Father Keller throughout his lifetime.

"The fullness of the missionary spirit," he wrote in his 1963 autobiography, To Light a Candle, "accounted in no small way for the foundation of the Christopher movement. Its ultimate aim has always been to encourage the followers of Christ to integrate His love and truth into the vital fields of influence that have gradually gone pagan because they have been largely abandoned to those who do not know Him or who persistently spread hatred of God."

That same spirit continues to motivate The Christophers today. So does the spirit of Father Keller, still so much with us even though it has been 23 years since his death. He helped to popularize The Christophers with a favored quote: "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." The candle that he himself lit is still burning brightly, thank God. What a pleasure it will be, once again, to celebrate his extraordinary life."

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The Importance of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass

Q. *When I was young the readings at Mass were somewhat important. If they were missed one had to hear at least that part of another Mass. But they were definitely not essential.*

The "essential" parts of the Mass were offertory, consecration and Communion, with consecration as the single climax.

As I understand it, the readings then became one of the two main parts of the Mass, with the consecration being the other. Is this merely a concession to ecumenism? Or is there a valid theology behind this "new" practice?

A. The earliest descriptions of the Mass we possess, from the first and second centuries A.D., describe in some detail two major parts of the Sunday Christian liturgy, what we title again today the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Particularly during the second century, a group of Christian thinkers called apologists attempted to give a rational defense of the Christian faith and recommend it to outsiders. They were the first to try to reconcile faith and reason.

The most outstanding of these was the convert and martyr St. Justin. In his "First Apology," addressed to Emperor Antoninus Pius about 150 A.D., he describes what Christian men and women do when they gather from the surrounding areas on the "day of the Sun."

They begin, explains Justin, by hearing the memoirs of the apostles and writings of the prophets. When the reader is finished, the "presider" gives an instruction on what has been read and exhorts the people to imitate the good things they have heard. They then rise together, offer their intercessions and exchange the kiss of peace.

Apart from the kiss of peace, which for us today comes later in the Mass, it's obvious Justin is describing exactly the structure of our Liturgy of the Word. For them and for us, this part of the Sunday celebration is not incidental or relatively unimportant.

It was the occasion each week when Christians confronted themselves with the Scriptures, especially the Gospels, and were challenged, as Justin says, to consider how their lives should measure up to the word of God they heard. Along with our praise and petition, that is precisely what this part of the Mass is intended by the church to be for us today.

After the kiss of peace, Justin tells us, bread, wine and water are brought, and the presider, usually the bishop, offers prayers and thanksgivings ("eucharist" means "thanksgiving" in Greek), "according to his ability."

After the people say their amen, the bread and wine over which the thanksgiving has been said are distributed to the people and sent to those who are absent.

Justin explicitly declares that "the food which is blessed by his (God's) word" is "the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh."

A similar description of the Sunday Christian

SEE DIETZEN, PAGE 15

On The Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

The following quiz about Advent is designed to assist Catholics — and those who resemble them — along the difficult and challenging path to becoming black belts in the art of church minutiae.

Answer the following multiple choice questions in any way you wish, realizing of course that there is only one correct answer, and it is "C."

1) Advent itself is:

a) A two-door roadster manufactured by General Motors.

b) A flu medicine.

c) A period of prayer and preparation for Christmas including four Sundays.

2) The way for determining the Sunday on which the four weeks of Advent begin is:

a) Circling the last Sunday in November and the first Sunday in December, then having the local bishop flip a coin on Halloween.

b) Having liturgists armed with bullhorns and tambourines fight in an open arena until the last one standing is authorized to have his or her own way.

c) The Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew, Nov. 30.

3) Gaudete Sunday is:

a) A Sunday during Lent when, traditionally, Boy Scout Christmas tree sales operations stage half-price specials.

b) An ice cream treat topped with gaudete nuts and hot fudge.

c) Also known as Laetare Sunday, the third Sunday of Lent when rose-colored vestments are permitted in the eucharistic liturgy.

4) Great "O" Antiphons are:

a) A Canadian breakfast cereal created to compete with Cheerios.

b) An informal group of grass roots activists known for spray painting ("tagging") persons who let their cell phones go off at restaurants, theaters, churches and lectures.

c) The antiphons to Vespers on the seven days before Christmas Eve, each beginning with the invocation "O" ("O Wisdom," "O Sacred Lord," "O

Flower of Jesse's stem," etc.).

5) Vespers are:

a) A brand of small motor scooters.

b) A lung disease featuring loud wheezing.

c) Evening service of worship also called Evening Prayer.

6) Antiphons are:

a) Places where ants reside.

b) A special type of poker bet.

c) A psalm or hymn alternately sung by two choirs; also short verses sung before or after a psalm or canticle.

7) A canticle is:

a) The medical term for "putting a really, really cold stethoscope under one's armpit."

b) A cantaloupe-flavored popsicle.

c) A sacred chant from Scripture apart from the Psalms; comes from the Latin "cantare" (to sing).

8) Advent marks the beginning of:

a) The most impressive shopping season the world has ever experienced.

b) The countdown to the NFL playoff season.

c) The church's liturgical year.

Laity urged to read Vatican II documents,

from page 1

umbrellas sagging under the weight of the rain, ran for shelter under the square's colonnades, but most resolutely stood fast for the drenching.

In his homily, the pope said the Second Vatican Council fathers — of which he was one — entrusted the church's lay members with the mission of working in the world and transforming it according to God's plan.

"With the council, the hour of the laity in the church truly struck," he said.

"Today more than ever, dear brothers and sisters, your apostolate is indispensable in order for the Gospel to be the light, salt and yeast of a new humanity," he said.

Among the worrying challenges to be faced, he said, were the advance of biotechnology, economic underdevelopment in vast areas of the world, and widespread hunger and warfare.

"Awaiting you are tasks and goals which can appear out of proportion to human strengths. Do not be discouraged!" he said.

"Being Christian has never been easy, nor is it today," he said. "Following Christ requires the courage to make radical decisions, often against the current."

He said today's lay Christians can find their necessary strength and guidance from the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

"Thirty-five years from its conclusion, I say: It is necessary to return to the council," said the pope.

"Lay ministers bring a reality to church life, a Christology from below. Some of the keys to being an effective lay minister are keeping the lines of communication open and being flexible and willing to listen."

"It is necessary to take again in hand the documents of Vatican II to rediscover their great richness of doctrinal and pastoral stimuli," he said.

The council taught that all people are called to holiness, and that personal conversion is the necessary foundation for transforming the church and the world, he said.

"Do not be afraid to accept this challenge: to be holy men and women! Do not forget that the fruits of the apostolate depend on deepness of spiritual life, intensity of prayer, constant formation and a sincere adhesion to the church's directives," he said.

Many people have answered their own spiritual questions with a decision to work in a myriad of positions in parishes across the Diocese of Charlotte. The diocesan lay ministry program has graduated 510 people who have begun their ministerial work as Eucharistic ministers, faith formation teachers, parish catechetical leaders and in other key roles.

Mary Sorel, director of religious education at St. John Baptist de la Salle Church in North Wilkesboro, N.C., has read the Vatican II documents through her work with the lay ministry program and the Loyola Institute of Ministry Extension program or LIMEX. She said that this knowledge helps her and others to be able to speak with authority and understanding about what Vatican II actually means for the laity.

"We have a thirst for who we are as Catholics, especially living in a small town, and we need to be able to convey who we are as a people," said Sorel. "Lay ministers bring a reality to church life, a Christology from below. Some of the keys to being an effective lay minister are keeping the lines of communication open and being flexible and willing to listen."

In an earlier message to participants in the weeklong laity congress, the pope said a return to fundamentals and a renewed understanding of the church as communion were needed to combat the spread of indifference and criticism of church teaching.

"In a climate of diffused secularization, not a few believers are tempted to distance themselves from the church and unfortunately let themselves be infected by indifference or give in to compromises with the dominant culture. And among the faithful, selective or critical attitudes with regard to ecclesial magisterium are not lacking," he said.

He said Christians, especially in this jubilee year, cannot escape asking themselves such fundamental "identity" questions as: What have I done with my baptism? Is Christ the center of my life? Does prayer find space in my daily life?

In addition, lay people must develop a deeper love and attachment for the church, appreciating it as a "sign and instrument of the intimate union with God and of the unity of the whole human race," he said.

"We, as baptized people, are living limbs of this marvelous and fascinating organism, nourished by the sacramental, hierarchical and charismatic gifts that are co-essential to it," said the pope.

"Because of this," he said, "today more than ever it is necessary that Christians, illuminated and guided by faith, know the church for what it is, in all its beauty and sanctity, to feel it and love it as one's own mother."

John Norton of Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

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Michelangelo's Moses to get makeover — on Webcam

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — When Michelangelo's statue of Moses gets a long overdue makeover, the whole world will be able to watch.

Beginning in January, art buffs can visit the "Project Moses" Web site to view Webcam footage of restoration work on the statue, in a mix of modern technology and Renaissance art.

And if sneaking a peek behind scaffolding isn't enough, the site — www.progettomose.it — also will host a chat line so that amateurs and experts can debate the finer points of the statue's transformation.

Funded by Lottomatica, which runs Italy's lotto game, in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Culture, the $245,000 initiative marks the first interactive Internet restoration project in the world and continues cleaning begun in 1998 on the marble alcove housing the statue.

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Michelangelo's Moses, in the Rome Church of St. Peter in Chains, was originally planned as part of Pope Julius II's tomb inside St. Peter's Basilica — commissioned to the marble master in 1505 by the pope.

But after Pope Julius' death in 1513, plans were scaled back, and artistic rivalry, new demands from Pope Leo X and the anger of Pope Julius' family, who had put up the money for the tomb, cast an ugly shadow over the project — and the rest of Michelangelo's life.

By the time the tomb was completed in 1545 in St. Peter in Chains, almost nothing remained of Pope Julius' earlier grandiose ideas — not even his bones, which were scattered to the winds in 1527 during the sack of Rome.

Despite the ill will surrounding the monument — Michelangelo termed it a "tragedy of a tomb" — the statue of Moses is considered one of Michelangelo's finest sculptures and greatest triumphs.

In conjunction with the restoration, the German photographer Helmut Newton, best known for his highly stylized fashion shoots and portraits of film stars, will design the project's photographic "icon," while the British composer Michael Nyman will present an original work inspired by the statue in September, when the restoration is expected to be completed.

Word to Life, from page 10

pleased God.

But the second reading tells us about those times throughout life when we make our choices. Paul says that Jesus' followers should continue to strive to make progress in holiness. But he also emphasizes that when Jesus comes to us, if we are open to him, he will strengthen us further and pour out even more love.

Christ comes to perfect the kingdom. His coming in judgment is to prune the kingdom, to sweep away the contrary elements, while his continual coming into each life strengthens the kingdom by breathing into it love overflowing.

For those who are open to Christ and follow willingly, there is no need to take the test. The judgment is not for them. They are free to go because, in them, Christ has come.

QUESTION:

Do you have a particular attitude or have you acted in a way that causes you to fear the final coming of Christ? What can you do to open the way for him to come into your life now and strengthen your ability to love?

Dietzen, from page 13

celebration can be found, for example, in a document called the "Didache," generally dated in the second century, but parts of which apparently go back even before the year 100 A.D.

As you can see, recognizing the importance of the Liturgy of the Word at Mass has nothing to do with modern ecumenism.

As you note, and as older Catholics will remember, for reasons having more to do with the Counter-Reformation, the Scripture part of the Mass was sadly slighted for a long time.

But that was not what the church intended through the centuries.

It is the background for the reform of the Mass called for by Vatican Council II, a restructuring based on what had been discovered in recent times about the rich, ancient Catholic traditions of Sunday liturgy.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Upcoming ...

Christmas concert

CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting its "Festival of Lessons and Carols" on Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. with readings and Christmas carols sung by the adult choir. For further details, call Drennan Thompson at (704) 554-7088.

Christmas picnic

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order is having a covered-dish indoor Christmas picnic in the St. Francis Room from 3-6 p.m. on Dec. 17 at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the recently added office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

Secular Franciscans

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscan Fraternity of St. Clare begins formation classes in February 2001. If you're interested in exploring what it means to be a Secular Franciscan, come Jan. 15 or 18 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. to Our Lady of Fatima Chapel on the corner of North Cherry and Third streets. For more information, call Suzanne Stevens at (336) 723-8481.

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Harlem Globetrotters make pope honorary member

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Over the course of his 22-year pontificate, Pope John Paul II has received a plethora of awards — but perhaps none as unique as honorary player status on a professional basketball team.

The Harlem Globetrotters bestowed a framed "Pope John Paul II" team shirt on the pontiff following his Nov. 29 weekly general audience. The jersey carries the pope's honorary number, 75, corresponding to the team's 75th anniversary season.

Mannie Jackson, the team's owner, told Catholic News Service the Globetrotters "wanted to do something significant" as part of their anniversary celebrations.

"We couldn't think of anything more significant than to honor this man, who has done so much spiritually, socially and culturally for the world," he said.

After reflecting long and hard about who would make a good candidate, Jackson said the Globetrotters chose the pope as someone they "could talk to kids about around the world because of the example he's set."

One rookie player, towering above the crowd in St. Peter's Square at 6 feet 7 inches, said he admired the pope for "what he stands for, the morality he sets."

"At my age — I'm 24 years old — to visit the pope is great. I'm blessed to be here," said Alexander Bacari, a member of the Southern Baptist Church.

Curley "Boo" Johnson, a 34-year-old Globetrotter and practicing Catholic, said the pope "epitomizes everything an ambassador of good will should be, and we are also called ambassadors of good will."

"The pope has been to 116 countries, we've been to 115," he told CNS.

Mannie Jackson, the team's owner, told Catholic News Service the Globetrotters "wanted to do something significant" as part of their anniversary celebrations. "We couldn't think of anything more significant than to honor this man, who has done so much spiritually, socially and culturally for the world," he said.

Johnson and the rest of the team are lagging even farther behind the 80-year-old pope than they think: Pope John Paul actually has traveled to 124 different countries.

Looking up at Bernini's massive colonnade through sunglasses, Johnson, dressed in a red Globetrotters' warm-up suit, said he was having a hard time articulating his thoughts.

"There's a lot of stuff going through my mind, reflecting on my life. It's really humbling for me," he said.

Over their 75-year history, the Harlem Globetrotters have played before more than 120 million fans in 20,000 games, winning almost all of them.

Since Jackson purchased the team in 1993, the Globetrotters have donated $10 million to charitable organizations around the world.

Pope John Paul is the seventh honorary member of the Globetrotters and the fourth pontiff the team has met.

The Globetrotters performed for Pope Pius XII in 1951, Pope John XXIII in 1959 and, in 1968, Pope Paul VI.

Other honorary members include comedian Bob Hope, former South African President Nelson Mandela and basketball great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Jackson said the team would also honor the Rev. Jesse Jackson during its 75th anniversary season.

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

December 8, 2000
Volume 10 ▾ Number 14

Inside

Pope celebrates jubilee Mass for disabled ...PAGE 7

Lives of Extraordinary Women

Kids' books for holiday gift-giving ...PAGE 8

Local News

Young adults wind up Theology on Tap program ...PAGE 3

Western NC bishops preside at World AIDS Day service in Charlotte ...PAGE 5

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12

Western NC parish observes World AIDS Day at service

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
CORRESPONDENT

FRANKLIN — The panels tell about lives cut short, friends and loved ones lost — memories and names on 3-foot-by-6-foot pieces of cloth. The artwork on the panels speaks eloquently: a teddy bear to remind us of a "loving mother;" a panel with the words "From Your Phantom Friend" and the logo from "Phantom of the Opera;" a chalice, Communion wafer and the words "A Priest Forever" for a pastor from the Midwest who died at the age of 39. Most of the people represented on the panels died in their 20s or 30s. The size of the panels speaks, too: 3 feet by 6 feet is the size of a grave.

Sixteen of those panels, stitched together to make two large panels, hung in St. Francis Church Dec. 3 during a healing service and celebration of World AIDS Day. Some 30 people attended the interfaith service, sponsored by the Macon County AIDS Task Force. Pastors of Macon County churches participated.

Bishop William G. Curlin blessed these panels before they went to San Francisco, Calif., to be incorporated into the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which contains a total of about 44,000 3-foot-by-6-foot panels. However, these 16 panels were back in North Carolina and were specially hung in St. Francis Church for the World AIDS Day celebration because most of the people memorialized on the quilt lived in or were known to Western North Carolina (one was from Spartanburg, S.C.).

The theme for this, the thirteenth World AIDS Day (World AIDS Day is actually held on Dec. 1 each year), is "AIDS: Men Make a Difference."

"The panels make a difference," said Rev. Henry Burton, a retired Episcopal priest, who gave the reflection during the service. "The people who designed the panels said these people made a difference to them. How would you design a panel for someone who has died of AIDS?"

Burton told of a friend who contracted AIDS from a contaminated blood transfusion. The friend is still alive, but his life has been transformed as much by his changed attitude as by his condition.

First, he experienced what Burton called the "prophecy of death." He was angry, full of self-pity, blamed the hospital where he received the transfusion, blamed the infected person who gave the transfusion and shouldn't have. Then, he moved to a period of acceptance of life and loving, of hope because of medical care and the support of friends. Next, he entered a time of being able to listen to the voice of God, which led to transformation to life and living.

"As we look at these panels, this [transformation] is the story of these panels," Burton said. "This is how God works in your life and mine — through other people, through listening and seeing. We could be privileged to open our lives far beyond our current seeing, to live a life not of despair and despondency but to live a life that is vital."

Burton, a member of the World AIDS Day planning committee that sponsored the healing service, said the committee members "hoped we would be able to educate people to avoid the disease and to end prejudice. Prejudice and bigotry are a more serious disease than HIV because they destroy a person from within."

Indeed, prejudice and bigotry are still among the major problems that AIDS victims must deal with in addition to their condition. A report from AVERT, an AIDS education and medical research charity, indicates that some people still believe that AIDS can be transmitted by sharing a drinking cup, touching a person who is infected or eating food prepared by someone who has HIV. A recent report on National Public Radio stated that some people think that AIDS is a punishment, that people with AIDS "got what they deserved."

Marcia and Mike Cummings are founding members of the Macon County AIDS Task Force, founded in 1991. "Mike had a friend who died of AIDS," Marcia said. "That, and we saw the prejudice. People didn't want to talk about it. They still don't. We saw there was a need, so why not us."

The task force, which has more than 20 members, presents educational programs to civic groups and

SEE FRANKLIN, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

In observation of the Advent season, 40 harpists provided an afternoon of stringed entertainment at St. Vincent de Paul parish on Dec. 3. Harpists from The Charlotte Chapter Harp Ensemble, the Carolina Youth Harp Ensemble, Suzuki Harps of Charlotte, the CPCC Folk Harp Ensemble and the Queen City Harp Ensemble joined together for the Christmas concert. Each group performed individually, as well as combining to fill the parish with familiar Christmas melodies.

Pope urges debt reduction as step in fighting poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the holy year neared its end, Pope John Paul II vowed continuing efforts to reduce the foreign debt of poor countries — one of his jubilee priorities — as a crucial step in fighting global poverty. "We cannot permit fatigue or inertia to weaken our commitment, when the lives of the poorest in our world are at stake," he told participants in a Vatican seminar on debt relief. In a Dec. 4 message to the seminar members, whom he received the same day, the pope said debt relief must be carried out in a way which makes the poor themselves the protagonists of their own development.

Religious leaders ask U.S. not to advise against Mideast travel

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A group of 61 American Christian religious leaders has asked the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Martin Indyk, to help reverse or modify the State Department's travel warning on Israel. "The current travel warning acts as an economic sanction against both Israel and Palestinian Authority," said the group in a Dec. 2 letter. This is resulting in severe economic hardships upon all parties in the area, it said. The Catholic and Protestant group was on a fact-finding mission sponsored by the Journeys Unlimited tour company which had arranged the five-day trip after the leaders either canceled or postponed planned pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Eighty-mile march opposes impending federal execution

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — With the first federal execution since 1963 looming and scheduled for their state, Karen Burkhart of Plainfield and about 100 other people took their objections to capital punishment to the streets — 80 miles of streets to be exact. In a five-day march, Burkhart, a member of St. Susanna Parish and coordinator of the Indiana Death Penalty Abolition, led marchers from the federal courthouse in Indianapolis to the federal prison in Terre Haute, where Juan Raul Garza is scheduled for execution on Dec. 12. "We wanted to do something that would convince President Clinton to take a historic step for human rights," Burkhart told The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese. "We want the president to stop the execution of Juan Raul Garza ... and to declare a moratorium on federal executions."

CNS PHOTO BY VALERIE O'SULLIVAN

Irish nuns light abbey Advent wreath

Sister Lelia Keogh lights a handmade Advent wreath as Mother Agnes O'Shea watches at St. Mary's Cistercian Abbey in Waterford County, Ireland. The Advent season, the period leading up to Christmas, is marked with special liturgies and prayer. The word Advent comes from the Latin "adventus," or coming.

Priest's visit to Vietnam brings echoes of brother's loss

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although Spiritan Father William R. Headley only had 39 hours' notice that he was to accompany President Clinton to Vietnam in mid-November, he knew he had to make one special phone call. The deputy executive director of Catholic Relief Services called his younger brother, Thomas J. Headley of Honey Brook, Pa., a former Marine who is 100 percent disabled because of injuries he received fighting in Vietnam. "My brother's experiences and his ongoing handicap have motivated me toward this work," said Father Headley in a Nov. 30 telephone interview from his Baltimore office. The priest's expertise is in peace-building. Father Headley was a last-minute replacement for Bishop John H. Ricard of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Fla., CRS president, who had to withdraw to attend the funeral of his friend and fellow Josephite, Archbishop Eugene A. Marino, who died Nov. 12.

Chinese, Communist officials mark 50 years of patriotic movement

BEIJING (CNS) — Marking 50 years of the patriotic movement in the church, the Chinese government and Communist Party officials lauded mainland Catholics for opposing the canonization of the 120 Chinese martyrs, which some church leaders said they were forced to do. Wang Zhaoguo, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, urged members of the government-approved Catholic Church to maintain their 50-year anti-imperialist and patriotic movement, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Vatican official seeks better monitoring of altered foods

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The genetic modification of plants and animals offers new opportunities to feed the world's hungry, but the risks demand better international monitoring, a Vatican official said. The advance of transgenic modification has been more determined by commercial interests than by safety standards or even by the food needs of developing countries, said Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, the Vatican's permanent observer to U.N. food and hunger agencies. Archbishop Marchetto made the remarks in a lengthy and detailed speech at a biotechnology conference in Rome. The text was published by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, Nov. 29.

Catholic-Jewish group addresses hatred, environment

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A national Catholic-Jewish dialogue group has expressed alarm at new acts of religious hatred and urged joint action by Catholics and Jews to combat environmental hazards to children's health. "We are alarmed by a wave of attacks on synagogues and Jews that have occurred in North America and Europe in the past several weeks," the first statement said. "There is no justification whatsoever for the violation of any people's religious liberties. Nor can anyone excuse despicable acts by appeals to religion," it said. The statement, released in Washington Nov. 28, was developed at a Nov. 20 meeting in Baltimore of the National Council of Synagogues and the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. In its joint reflection on children and the environment, the group said, "Jews and Christians infused with the spirit of the Psalms view nature as a living testimony to a living God."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 13
Mass and reception for Knights and Dames of Malta
Charlotte

December 17 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 19
Afternoon of recollection, Mass and reception for diocesan seminarians
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 24
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

December

12 CHARLOTTE — St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is hosting a workshop on peace and justice with Augustinian Father Joseph A. Genito, director of peace and justice in the St. Thomas of Villanova Province. All are welcome to attend the program held from 7-8:30 p.m. tonight. For details, call (704) 535-4197.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Dr. Bob Panoff is presenting "Creation, Science and the Catholic Church," a session about the debate between science and religion involving the Big Bang Theory versus seven-day creation and a possible harmonious existence between the two concepts. For further details, call the church at (336) 274-0415.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church is having their annual Christmas party and program today at noon at the Pine Lake Country Club in Mint Hill. Food, gifts and entertainment are being provided for members and guests with a donation in support of the event and the club. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

16 CHARLOTTE — The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., is performing a 2nd concert along with a special performance from a guest choir at 7 p.m. in honor of their 20th anniversary for those who may have missed the Nov. 19 concert because of the weather. For details, call the church office at (704) 375-4339.

HIGH POINT — The Sisters of the

Young adult gatherings all tapped out for the year

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Churches and a popular hangout in Charlotte have been overrun with young adult Catholics, who have listened to spiritual music and stories of faith, been introduced to people in the diocese and have delved into their own spiritual lives for the past two months. On Dec. 3, Bishop William G. Curlin was the celebrant at the concluding Mass at the Theology on Tap session at St. Peter Church in Charlotte.

Bishop Curlin told the congregation of 60-plus to incorporate Christ into all aspects of their lives especially during this time of the year. "It is not enough to go to church and receive the sacraments if it doesn't transform your life," said the bishop. "You must gain the ability to go outside these walls and be a better person. The challenge of Advent and Christmas is more than decorations, for we must dig deep into our souls to recognize the power of Jesus Christ's presence in our lives and serve others as he served us."

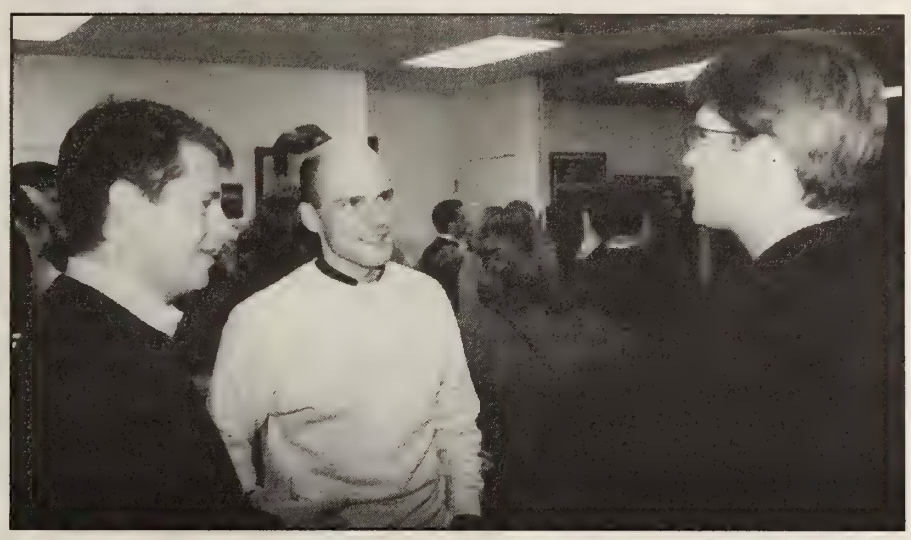

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Jesuit Father Lucien "Mickey" Martinez, parochial vicar of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, speaks with attendants at the final Theology on Tap gathering on Dec. 3. Young adults in the Charlotte area have been meeting since October to listen to speakers and music at churches and a local restaurant.

The eight sessions, which started in October at Charlotte-area churches and Southend Brewery in Charlotte, offered an opportunity for young adult Catholics, primarily those in their 20s and 30s, to meet other Catholics in their age group and share their spirituality with the speakers and each other. Through word of mouth and advertising from the attendants and the event planning committee members, an average of 75 to 80 people attended many or all of the gatherings.

Some of the attendants were new to the area and had not had the chance to register at a parish with which they were comfortable, while, a few had stopped practicing their faith regularly because of college, new jobs and new families.

"I have enjoyed the gatherings and meeting new people," said Jose' Edmunson, who is new to the area and is currently searching for a parish home. "A lot of us are from out of state and are trying to get back into the church for whatever reason. I want to better myself after having been away from the church."

"You must gain the ability to go outside these walls and be a better person. The challenge of Advent and Christmas is more than decorations, for we must dig deep into our souls to recognize the power of Jesus Christ's presence in our lives and serve others as he served us."

The speakers ran the gamut from Conventual Father Jude DeAngelo, campus minister of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, who talked about "the encounter of Christ through prayer, which is an important element of people's lives as Catholics during their spiritual journey" to Father Matthew Leonard, parochial vicar of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, director of faith formation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, shared her personal journal of poetry and writings during her presentation at Southend.

"This served as a great opportunity for fellowship, provided a way to stay connected to the church and introduced a lot of young people to the Catholic community in Charlotte," said Jim Lee, a parishioner at St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte. "I wanted to broaden the horizon of people I know, and there was a good cross-section of young Catholics from across the city."

Although the sessions have concluded for the year, the response has been so positive from the young adult community that a similar offering will take place in the spring, said Colleen McDermott, director of campus and young adult ministry. Also, several attendants have expressed their desire to have a young adult retreat near the end of February. At the end of the Mass at St. Peter Church, the bishop invited the young adult congregation to St. Patrick Cathedral for midnight Mass on New Year's Eve to continue the spirit of fellowship through the end of the jubilee year.

For more parish involvement, members of the event planning committee will send letters to various young adults to invite them to diocesan events and to keep them abreast of their own parish happenings. Nearly 250 people became registered members of the diocese, said McDermott.

"It was nice to go to an event where there were at least 70 people who shared my views, and I could talk about my faith and get the chance to meet other people," said Brian Bednar from St. Peter Church. "To have that interaction with other Catholics gave me an inspiration that other people have similar backgrounds and ideas. It was a nice outlet."

Jesuit Father Lucien "Mickey" Martinez, parochial vicar of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, recognized the significance of this inaugural program for young adults. "It is exciting that a group of people responded to these events. This was important for anyone, especially people of my generation, who are looking for something and aren't satisfied with everything they see around them, in terms of egocentrism and materialism. There is something greater out there, and the church can offer them that sense of community."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Poor Servants of the Mother of God are hosting an Advent Day of Prayer and Reflection at the Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oblate Father Anthony Larry is leading the day starting with Mass in the chapel with a provided lunch. For further information and for those considering a religious vocation, call Poor Servant Sister Clare Houlihan at (336) 886-2444.

17 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting its "Festival of Lessons and Carols" today at 2 p.m. with readings and Christmas carols sung by the adult choir. For further details, call Drennan Thompson at (704) 554-7088.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order is having a covered-dish indoor Christmas picnic in the St. Francis Room from 3-6 p.m. today at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the recently added office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

22 SWANNANOA — Father Andrew J. Latsko, pastor, and the congregation of St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, invite everyone to their holiday season Masses and activities. There is an Advent penance service at 7 p.m. tonight and Masses on Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m., midnight Mass and 10 a.m. Mass on Dec. 25 with a dinner at noon on Christmas Day. There is also midnight Mass on Dec. 31 and on Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 686-8833.

Perpetual and Daily Adoration

ASHEVILLE — The Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., hosts daily adoration from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. For more information, call Jane Sorrells at (828) 298-0334.

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in a chapel on the grounds. For volunteer and other information, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., for perpetual adoration. For volunteer and other information, call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127.

CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts Eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and Eucharistic Holy Hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., hosts perpetual adoration in the chapel. For volunteer and other information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — The Missionaries of Charity offer opportunities to or and disadvantaged in Charlotte through after-school tutoring in the Cherry and refugee communities. Adults and children can also teach English to refugees on Saturday mornings. No permanent commitment is needed, just the desire to help. For further information, call Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Franklin, from page 1

provides as-needed assistance to the Nantahala AIDS Consortium, which has one caseworker who travels North Carolina's six westernmost counties: Macon, Jackson, Swain, Cherokee, Graham and Clay. The NAC has 35 clients. To be an NAC client, an individual cannot earn more than $11,300 per year. It is thought, Father Morris Boyd said, that there are many more people in the six counties who have AIDS but who seek treatment outside their home counties because no AIDS treatment facilities exist locally or because they fear prejudice and bigotry among their neighbors. Father Boyd is pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Franklin.

Father Boyd himself has seen his share of bigotry and fear regarding AIDS. The Midwestern priest, whom Father Boyd knew in the seminary but had not heard from in many years, suddenly began calling him. They talked several times on the phone, but later, when Father Boyd tried to call him, there was no answer. Then someone called to say that the priest had died. Afraid of the prejudice he might experience from his parishioners and even his bishop, the priest had never sought treatment for his AIDS or even told anyone he was infected.

Learning of that, and experiencing others' deaths from AIDS, prompted Father Boyd to get involved in AIDS ministry. "I could make sure no one else would have to die afraid of their church, or their friends, or anyone," he said.

He started his first AIDS ministry while he was pastor of St. Joan of Arc in Asheville. That ministry continues to flourish.

In 1999, Father Boyd, newly reassigned to St. Francis of Assisi, started an AIDS ministry there. In fact, he let his parishioners know early on about his involvement. His first Sunday at the church, he announced that he would be away the following weekend to attend the National Catholic AIDS Ministry Conference. Eventually, he put a notice in the St. Francis Church bulletin, offering a training session — AIDS 101 — for any who wanted to learn more about the disease and what could be done to help those afflicted. Eight who attended became the St. Francis AIDS Ministry Team, which works with the Macon County AIDS Task Force and the NAC. The NAC caseworker contacts them with any needs, and they work to fulfill those needs. For instance, at the Labor Day celebration held at the recreational park in Bryson City, Catholic parishes from the six counties brought contributions of various items such as pillowcases and other household goods for the NAC.

LESE
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TURNER
LOVING
MOTHER
JAMES
PALLSEK

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Doris Price, a parishioner at St. Francis of Assisi, looks over eight panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

Father Boyd's announcement to his congregation that he was involved in AIDS ministry also prompted people to tell him about friends and relatives lost to AIDS. "They never told anyone else, but they told me," Father Boyd said.

Looking at the AIDS Memorial Quilt panels hanging in the church, Father Boyd indicates one that is decorated with patchwork, each piece of cloth embroidered with the name of a member of the family of the young man who is memorialized and whose name and smiling picture also are part of the panel. His mother had asked Father Boyd to bless the panel as it lay on the young man's grave. He did so, and she tearfully gave him the panel to add to the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

COURTESY PHOTO

Development director honored at conference

ARLINGTON, Va. — Jim Kelley, the Diocese of Charlotte's director of development, was presented The Bishop William G. Connare Award for Distinguished Service Nov. 12 by the International Catholic Stewardship Council during its annual conference in Arlington.

Kelley was recognized "for dedicated and distinguished service in promoting and sustaining successful stewardship and development programs in the diocesan and parish community."

Kelley has served as development director since 1986, during which time he has also served as executive director of the Foundation in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Pictured from left with Kelley are Bishop William G. Curlin, daughter Shannon Kelley, wife Joan Kelley, son Paul Kelley, and parents JoAn and John Kelley.

The International Catholic Stewardship Council confers with professionals from Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools and associations.

Ancient Order of Hibernians invite new members

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Guilford County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, has celebrated its first year as a division and are looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them. Meetings are evenings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Also, a ladies' division is forming, and members are needed. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264.

Charlotte seniors get fit

CHARLOTTE — "Forever Young" is an exercise group for people 55 and older at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, meeting every Monday and Friday from 11 a.m.-noon and are always seeking new members. Come and join these seniors for "just what the doctor ordered." Call Peg Hill at (704) 540-7255 for details.

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Western N.C. bishops lead World AIDS Day healing service

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — In observance of World AIDS Day 2000, four Christian religious leaders presided at a service that focused on God's healing presence.

Leaders in North Carolina's Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran and United Methodist faith communities presided at the annual healing service Dec. 3 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in uptown Charlotte. In song and prayer, those gathered looked to a Lord of hopefulness and light.

"This is an ecumenical effort," said Rt. Rev. J. Gary Gloster, who as bishop suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina convened this year's service. "There is a lot going on in Charlotte in terms of AIDS ministry."

Bishop William G. Curlin of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte; Rev. Dr. Leonard Bolick, bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and Rev. Charlene Kammerer, bishop of the United Methodist Church Western North Carolina Conference, joined Bishop Gloster for the service.

"Some people have rejected people with AIDS," said Bishop Gloster. "They have said it's God's judgment. We leaders of the Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist and Catholic churches want to say that this is not God's will — it is God's will to proclaim his love for all people."

"We all make mistakes," Bishop Gloster said. "We all do things that are wrong. And yet the good news is that God loves us in spite of that."

The bishops have been gathering together in churches of each others' faith communities for the past several years to pray with and for those suffering from and affected by the AIDS/HIV pandemic.

Dec. 1 has been observed as World AIDS Day since 1988 throughout the world. The observance came at the suggestion of the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention in January 1988. Their hope was to foster the exchange of communication and information, and since its founding World AIDS Day has become the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Four western Carolina bishops presided at a World AIDS Day healing service in Charlotte. From left: Rt. Rev. J. Gary Gloster of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina; Rev. Dr. Leonard Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Rev. Charlene Kammerer of the United Methodist Church Western North Carolina Conference; and Bishop William G. Curlin of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte.

In uptown Charlotte, the action took a decidedly spiritual tone. The four bishops led a service in which people invoked God's divine help, hope and love. Together, the congregation prayed: "I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." (Ps 121: 1-2)

Bishop Bolick, who gave the homily, offered these thoughts after the service: "No matter what situation we find ourselves in, God loves us. That is shown to us in Christ's death and Resurrection. Healing comes to us because we understand God's love through holy Scriptures, it comes to us through holy baptism and through holy Communion. These are places where God comes to us and sets us free."

During "A Litany of Healing," while kneeling and standing in prayer, the congregation called on a God of grace and strength in an act of praise for his guidance and loving presence.

One by one, congregants spoke aloud the names of people who have died from AIDS. A solitary hand bell rung after each name was called. The laying on of hands followed, as the bishops prayed over those living with or affected by the virus and syndrome.

And again, all who gathered prayed — this time, a prayer adapted and revised from one penned by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut's AIDS Task Force: "O God, in you all darkness is turned to light and all brokenness is made whole. Look with compassion on us and those for whom we pray, that we may be recreated in our Savior Jesus Christ."

This year's World AIDS Day coincides with the United Nations' release of new AIDS statistics, which show a worldwide increase in HIV infections. UNAIDS, the United Nations agency tracking the disease and overseeing response efforts throughout the world, said the number of people living with HIV or AIDS is 50 percent higher than predicted 10 years ago.

The agency reported Dec. 1 that 36.1 million people throughout the world have HIV or AIDS, while 21.8 million people have died from AIDS in the past 20 years.

In various churches throughout North Carolina, pastoral teams have been assembled through the years to respond with spiritual and material outreach, as people with HIV/AIDS are living longer thanks to medical breakthroughs. In the Diocese of Charlotte, parish-based AIDS ministries are in place, while many parishioners also work with ecumenical efforts like the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. Last month, Bishop Curlin was honored by the House of Mercy, an AIDS outreach facility in Belmont founded by the Sisters of Mercy, for promoting ministry to and awareness of the AIDS community.

Worldwide, Catholic agencies are responsible for almost a quarter of all care to people with HIV/AIDS, according to Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragan in a recent Catholic News Service report. Currently, the Vatican is preparing a document that will offer Catholics practical and moral guidelines for AIDS ministry consistent with church teaching that focuses on human dignity, sexual abstinence outside of marriage and faithfulness within marriage.

Like all forms of outreach to those in need, ministry to people living with HIV/AIDS is necessary and vital, said one Catholic priest who attended the healing service in Charlotte.

"It's very simple; we're following Jesus," said Father Conrad Hoover, pastor of St. Ann Church in Charlotte. "We're testifying to the essential dignity of every one of God's creatures who automatically should be afforded our respect, our love and our companionship."

Father Hoover added that those living with HIV or AIDS "offer to us in a very concrete fashion the suffering of humanity, pouring out to us their need and drawing forth from us the resources that Jesus has placed here for ministry to suffering people, to people who are in many ways outcasts and are shunned by society."

"They are examples to us of both the frailty of life and the gift of life," he said.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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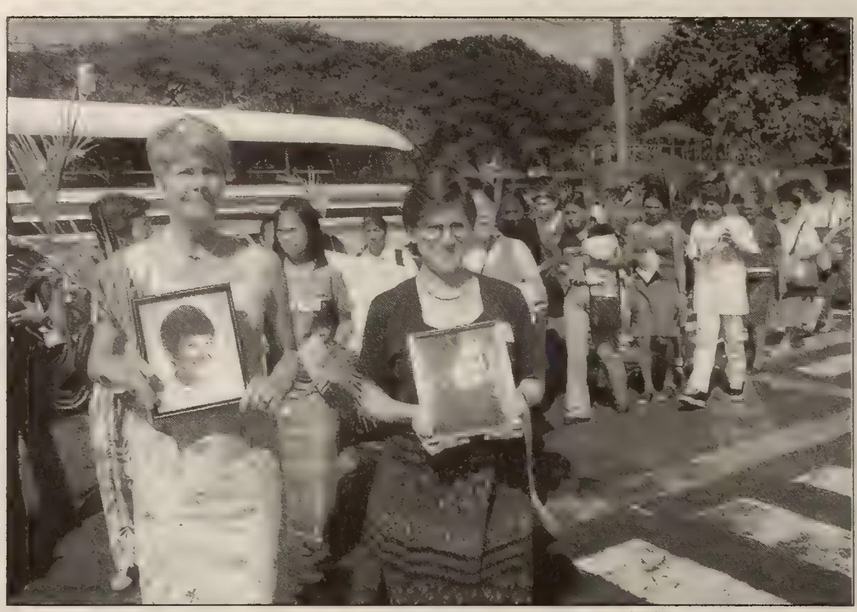

CNS PHOTO BY EDGAR ROMERO

Service marks 20th anniversary of nuns' death

Friends, family and admirers of four U.S. churchwomen slain in El Salvador 20 years ago join a procession marking the anniversary of their deaths Dec. 2 in San Salvador. Portraits of Maryknoll Sister Ita Ford and Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel were carried by two unidentified women. Sisters Ford and Kazel along with Maryknoll Sister Maura Clark and lay missionary Jean Donovan were stopped by National Guardsmen, taken from their van, beaten, raped and shot Dec. 2, 1980.

Congregation at Maryknoll motherhouse remembers slain churchwomen

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — Maryknollers and friends filled the chapel of the motherhouse of the Maryknoll Sisters Dec. 2 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the killing of the four missionary women in El Salvador. Dec. 2 was the day in 1980 when Maryknoll Sisters Maura Clarke and Ita Ford, Ursuline Sister Dorothy Kazel and laywoman Jean Donovan were stopped by National Guardsmen, taken from their van, beaten, raped and shot. Organizers of the commemoration said Sister Helene O'Sullivan, president of the Maryknoll Sisters, and some family members and friends of the four women were in El Salvador for events at the graves of Sisters Clark and Ford and other places associated with the four women.

Metuchen Diocese holds triple birthday celebration

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — A special concert in the Metuchen cathedral marked the 80th birthday of the diocese's second bishop, the 90th birthday of its first vicar general and the 19th year since the diocese was created. A standing-room only crowd gathered at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral Nov. 19, the day the diocese was established in 1981, to honor retired Bishop Edward T. Hughes, who headed the diocese from December 1986 until his retirement in July 1997, and Msgr. John R. Torney, former vicar general who currently is diocesan delegate for retired priests.

Bishop says Catholic Church must evangelize in black community

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (CNS) — The fact that just 2 million or so African-Americans are Catholic, out of nearly 40 million Americans of African ancestry, shows "a crucial reality" for the Catholic Church, says Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis. That reality is "the need for Catholic evangelization among African-Americans," he said. There has been "no significant growth" in the number of black Catholics in recent years, he told the African-American Catholic Evangelization Conference, held in Memphis in early November. "Some would say that there is an ever-growing exodus of African-Americans from the Catholic faith," he said. "There are 12 active African-American bishops out of over 300 bishops serving the United States." While these figures "are dismal," he said, "there is a great harvest of African-Americans that the church has an opportunity to evangelize."

Priest-columnist sees Latino Catholics as hope for church

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — A New York Times Magazine columnist who is a close friend of Pope John Paul II believes Hispanic Catholics are the hope of the U.S. Catholic Church. Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete, theology professor at St. Joseph's Seminary in New York, said that "any observer from Mars would see that very soon the majority of Catholics in this country will be of Latin American background. ... I see this as an opportunity to heal our church." Being Catholic "is not about being individuals, but a people. That sense of peoplehood has been severely wounded in the U.S., except for Hispanics," he said. Because of the influence of Hispanics on the Catholic Church in America "we can expect a time of great flourishing, unlike ever before," he added. Msgr. Albacete was in Milwaukee Nov. 14 to speak at a theology symposium at Marquette University.

Priest says Catholic TV presence encourages, teaches

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic presence on television is important as "an encouragement to the faithful" and as "a teaching opportunity," said the priest-host of a Catholic interview show. On "Personally Speaking," Msgr. Jim Lisante of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., interviews "people who have a faith story to tell" — and not all of them are Catholic. The weekly half-hour show is produced by the U.S. Catholic Conference's Catholic Communication Campaign. "In a show like ours," said Msgr. Lisante, "you want to point out to viewers that there are many people in government, in entertainment, in the world of sports, who are deeply faithful people, that we're not alone."

Gary MacEoin looks back on life of reporting Catholic news

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — What do you do when you're an international Catholic journalist and human rights activist? If you're like 91-year-old Gary MacEoin of San Antonio, you travel regularly to report the news. Since 1950, he has written 18 books and numerous articles for Catholic periodicals and reference books. Most have been about the Catholic Church. Since the 1960s, he has been a correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, a national Catholic newspaper based in Kansas City, Mo. In a speech to San Antonio's Irish Cultural Society in October, MacEoin told the story of his life.

Melkite Synod elects Jerusalem archbishop as new patriarch

DAMASCUS, Syria (CNS) — The Melkite Catholic synod elected Archbishop Loufti Laham of Jerusalem as the new Melkite patriarch. He becomes Melkite patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem and All the East. Under the Eastern churches' Code of Canon Law, the new patriarch assumes office upon his election and is enthroned immediately. The new patriarch replaces Archbishop Maximos V Hakim, 92, who has been bedridden since a stroke in February. The synod accepted his resignation Nov. 22.

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Pope tells disabled they present challenge to society

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

CNS photo from Reuters

Disabled people applaud Pope John Paul II as he arrives to celebrate Mass for the Jubilee for Disabled Dec. 3. At the Mass, the pope called on politicians and scientists to work harder to protect the lives of the disabled. The pope was visibly moved several times during the liturgy in the packed church. The pope received loud applause when he said the church appreciates the difficult chapters in the lives of the disabled.

ROME (CNS) — Pope John Paul II celebrated a jubilee Mass with thousands of disabled, and told them they deserved not just assistance but love, respect and social acceptance.

"Through your presence, you reaffirm that a disability represents not only a need, but above all a stimulus and a challenge" to a society that often prizes "gratification, appearances, speed and efficiency," the pope said Dec. 3.

Reflecting on the word "disability," he said: "I like to look upon you in a more authentic light, as bearers of a different kind of ability."

The liturgy at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls was attended by some 5,000 disabled, along with 7,000 family members and assistants. Some arrived in wheelchairs, others leaning on canes and crutches. Groups of deaf mutes followed the Mass with the help of a sign-language translator, and the first liturgical reading was done by a blind person reading Braille.

The 80-year-old pope, who has trouble walking long distances, rode a mobile platform up the main aisle of the basilica, past a panorama of smiling faces and waving hands. He mounted the altar slowly and unsteadily, then listened to a greeting from a 16-year-old wheelchair-bound Italian girl suffering from hydrocephalus.

Addressing the pope as "papa" because "we feel you are the father of us all," she told him that the disabled "have a bigger spirit, because it's not oppressed by the thirst for success."

Several hundred U.S. pilgrims attended the Mass, among them Diane Barett from Springfield, Pa., who applauded the pope's message that the disabled want more than assistance.

"Handicapped people can do a lot for themselves," said Barett, 43, who walks with a brace because of infantile cerebral palsy.

The pope told those present and others following the Mass on television and radio that he considered the Jubilee for Disabled one of the most significant events of the Holy Year.

He was visibly moved several times during the liturgy in the packed church, especially at the offertory procession. As the blind, deaf, lame and mentally disabled slowly brought gifts to the altar, the pope blessed each one and touched their faces.

Later he distributed Communion to a group of blind people, one of whom was accompanied by a white seeing-eye dog.

In his sermon, the pope said modern societies should increase the opportunities for the disabled and make sure their human dignity is protected.

"In a society rich in scientific and technical knowledge, it is possible and necessary to do more ... in biomedical research to prevent disabilities, in treatment, in assistance, in rehabilitation and in social re-integration," he said.

He said the disabled require not just care, but respect and appreciation through all stages of their lives. Their very presence is a "provocation to the individual and collective selfishness" that exists in developed countries, he said.

The pope received loud applause when he said the church appreciates the difficult chapters in the lives of the disabled, particularly when they become adults and must move toward some form of independence — a moment, the pope said, which is "faced with trepidation by many parents."

But the trials of the disabled have a deeper meaning for society as a whole, especially as a reminder that all people are, in a sense, waiting for a "liberation" from the suffering of this life, he said.

He said Advent is a good time for Christians to recall their duty to serve the disabled and others on the margins of society, just as Jesus did.

Thanks to Christ, he said, "disability is not the last word of existence; love is the last word."

At the end of the Mass, the pope greeted English-speaking pilgrims.

"You have passed through the Holy Door in the company of the crucified Lord who — in St. Luke's words — is 'good news to the poor, liberty to captives and new sight to the blind.' From the cross of your suffering, learn to draw the serenity of spirit which so many people yearn for today," he said.

According to statistics cited by Vatican officials, more than 500 million people around the world live with disabilities. Of that number, about 85 percent live in developing countries.

As the pope was leaving the altar at the end of Mass, a disabled woman approached and spoke quietly to him, caressing his cheek, as security agents looked on.

The pontiff was smiling a few moments later as he rolled back down the nave of the basilica, past a throng that filled the basilica with cheers.

Later in the day, he joined the disabled in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall for a two-hour spectacle featuring testimonials and music, including performances by a 60-person orchestra made up of people with Down syndrome.

The first to speak at the televised event was Mary Jane Owen, executive director of the National Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities, who is blind and uses a wheelchair because of spinal cord and neurological damage. She said God did not create human beings "uniform or perfect, like Ken or Barbie dolls."

"We are created individually, uniquely, different from all others, each one of us, whether we are able-bodied or disabled, whether we are young or old, whether we are blind or dumb. We are each unique and essential for the body of Christ," she said.

The pope gave a short speech, saying it was important to bring down barriers for the disabled — and "not just the architectural ones!" He spent a long time riding through the assembly on his rolling platform, kissing babies, shaking hands and playfully slapping outstretched fingers.

He also thanked the many volunteers who help the disabled around the world, often without recognition, saying they were quietly building a more just and fraternal world.

Sister Esther Leroux, who accompanied 11 mentally disabled women from Pennsylvania, said the pope's presence thrilled them.

"They were so excited. They kept wanting to go up and ask him a question," she said.

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Birth of
Our Savior

Christmas Eve Masses
4:00 p.m. *Children's Mass*
6:00 p.m. *Children's Mass*
Midnight *Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant*

Christmas Day Masses
8:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. *Bishop William G. Curlin, Celebrant*

St. Patrick Cathedral

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Rector
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Korean bishops mark Advent with apology for sins of past

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — The Catholic Church in South Korea has apologized for what it called a pro-imperialism attitude, negligence of traditional culture and its failures to work for the unity of the Korean people.

"As sisters and brothers united in the mystical body of Christ, we want to confess and repent our wrongs of the past," South Korean bishops said in the seven-point document "Reformation and Reconciliation."

UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, reported that as part of the reparation program, all parishes nationwide were asked to hold a penitential rite on Dec. 3, the start of Advent.

The document cited Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter "Tertio Millennio Adveniente" ("As the Third Millennium Draws Near"), which said that acknowledging the weaknesses of the past is an act of honesty and courage that helps Catholics to strengthen their faith.

The document was posted on the Web site of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea on Dec. 1.

The document cited Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter "Tertio Millennio Adveniente" ("As the Third Millennium Draws Near"), which said that acknowledging the weaknesses of the past is an act of honesty and courage that helps Catholics to strengthen their faith.

"We confess straightforwardly that we, as disciples of Christ, have not carried out the mission" that the church is called to impart to people the grace of salvation fulfilled by Christ, the bishops said.

During periods of persecution, the local church, with little knowledge of the outside situation, had sometimes tried to obtain freedom of faith by relying on foreign military powers, the bishops confessed.

They added that the church had created cultural conflicts with local society and introduced Western culture, which opposed the Confucian rites of venerating ancestors, one of the main reasons for persecution of Catholics.

In addition, the church pursued its interests by taking advantage of the unjust pressures of foreign powers, which caused sufferings among Koreans, the bishops said.

The bishops also expressed regret for restrictions imposed by the church on Catholics who led the liberation movement against Japanese rule (1910-1945).

Concerning the division of the two Koreas, the bishops expressed regret for neglecting their duty to overcome division and the failure to strive toward reconciliation and unity of the Korean people.

The church also repents that it has not made sufficient effort to solve conflicts between regions, classes and generations in the nation and to promote human rights of the marginalized such as the handicapped and immigrant workers, the document said.

The church has not followed the example of Jesus, who "did not come to be served but to serve," the bishops said.

They also said the local church has not fully understood the spiritual and cultural values and the social and moral virtues of other religions in South Korea, which is a multireligious society, the document said.

"We promise to do our best to build a better world of justice and peace," the bishops said.

Arrival of RU-486 brings renewed warnings of dangers

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the abortion pill RU-486 began arriving at U.S. abortion clinics around the country, pro-life advocates renewed their warnings about the dangers involved in using the pill.

"RU-486 has the potential to be this generation's thalidomide or DES," said Laura Echevarria, spokeswoman for the National Right to Life Committee. "American women need to know just how dangerous this drug can be."

The sleep-inducing drug thalidomide caused birth defects when taken by pregnant women in the 1950s and '60s, and DES exposure in pregnancy has been linked to higher frequencies of cancer and infertility among the children born of those pregnancies.

RU-486, known generically as mifepristone and used in connection with a second drug, misoprostol, which induces uterine contractions, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration Sept. 28 but was not available in abortion clinics until late November.

Echevarria expressed particular concern about reports in the Los Angeles Times that the drug being produced for the U.S. market was made in China by a company that "has been cited by federal regulators for bringing mislabeled and impure drugs into the United States."

Even if the drug is pure, RU-486 "takes the life of an unborn child and has the potential to threaten the lives and health of women," the NRLC spokeswoman added, citing the fact that one in 100 U.S. women who participated in clinical trials for the drug had to be hospitalized and 2 percent hemorrhaged so severely as to require surgery.

Judie Brown, president of the American Life League, said that as the drug is distributed around the country, Planned Parenthood "is attempting to redefine a mortally dangerous drug as 'medicine'" and to remove its identification as RU-486.

In a press statement, Gloria Feldt, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said, "We are very proud that Planned Parenthood will take a leadership role by offering American women this early medical abortion option.

"American women want this option," she added. "They have been asking us for it during the entire 12 years that have passed since it first became available in Europe. We are thrilled we can finally say 'yes, it's here.'"

Said Brown: "Unfortunately, the truth is, regardless of Planned Parenthood's deceptive propaganda, the RU-486 regimen always costs the life of at least the baby, and in some cases it can claim the life of the mother."

Cathy Brown, director of Why Life?, an affiliate of the American Life League, said use of the drug over several days will lead to "devastating" psychological consequences for the women using RU-486, since most women will expel the remains of the child at home.

"Mothers will come face to face with the reality that they have participated in the killing of their baby," said Cathy Brown.

The pro-life leaders also noted that Searle, manufacturer of the misoprostol drug Cytotec, which is used with RU-486 to complete an abortion, has warned against such use, saying it could kill the child and cause various health difficulties to the mother.

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The Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

The Foundation

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte is a nonprofit corporation, established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations.

The Foundation encourages Catholics to be good stewards through gifts of assets, provides for the investment of those assets, and distributes the income to recipients. The principal remains untouched. Endowments through The Foundation are a means to greater financial stability and growth for our diocese and its entities.

legacy

1999-2000 Annual Report

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"Through the Foundation, our community of faith has a tremendous opportunity to provide for the future of the church for generations to come."
— Bishop William G. Curlin

A Message from the Bishop

The Most Rev. William G. Curlin

It is very gratifying to see the accomplishments of the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte since its beginning six years ago. Through the Foundation, our community of faith has a tremendous opportunity to provide for the future of the church for generations to come.

I want to express my gratitude to all those who have helped make the Foundation so successful. I am particularly grateful to the individuals, living and deceased, who have established endowments in the Foundation to support the work of the Church. These individuals have shown great foresight and confidence in what the Foundation can become and have set a legacy for others to follow. I am also grateful to the pastors, principals, and agency directors who established endowments for their respective parishes, schools, and agencies. I encourage more of our individuals and Catholic entities to establish endowments in this Foundation. If you would like to add to an existing endowment or explore ways to create a new endowment, please call Jim Kelley, our Executive Director.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the board who serve our Catholic community by sharing their time and talent with the Foundation. Through their commitment and the stewardship of our generous contributors, we can offer financial support to Catholic entities that will help us achieve our mission of proclaiming the Good News and teaching the Faith to succeeding generations.

As your Bishop, I know that what we do today with the Foundation will better prepare the Church to face the future.

Begging God's blessings on you and your loved ones, I am as always,

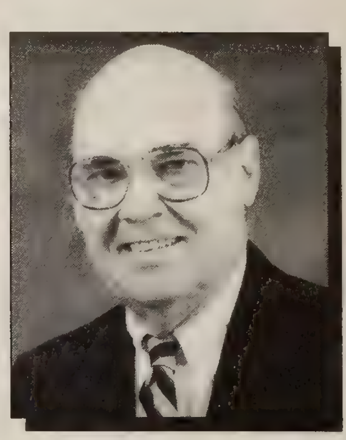
Devotedly yours in the Lord,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin,
Bishop of Charlotte

A Message from the President

Vic Nussbaum, Jr.



On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am proud to present the Foundation's 1999-2000 Annual Report to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte. As this report reflects, our first six years have been ones of significant growth.

During the past year, thirteen new endowments were added to the Foundation to support the following: St. Ann Church, UNCC Campus Ministry, the elderly, St. Aloysius Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, St. John the Baptist Church, seminarians, Charlotte Catholic High School, Asheville Catholic School, Catholic Social Services, the diocese, St. Ann School, and St. Pius X Church. Those additions increase our number of endowments from 54 to 67.

Our total assets at the end of the fiscal year were $7,136,066, an increase of 16% over the previous year's amount of $6,129,850. Invested assets generated a return of 15.6% for the year ending June 30, 2000, generating an average return of 18.5% over our six year history. We believe those numbers represent a significant accomplishment for our first six years.

Our first six years have been good ones. All of us on the board are committed to expanding our current endowments and building new endowments to ensure the future of our diocese, parishes, schools and ministries.

Sincerely yours,

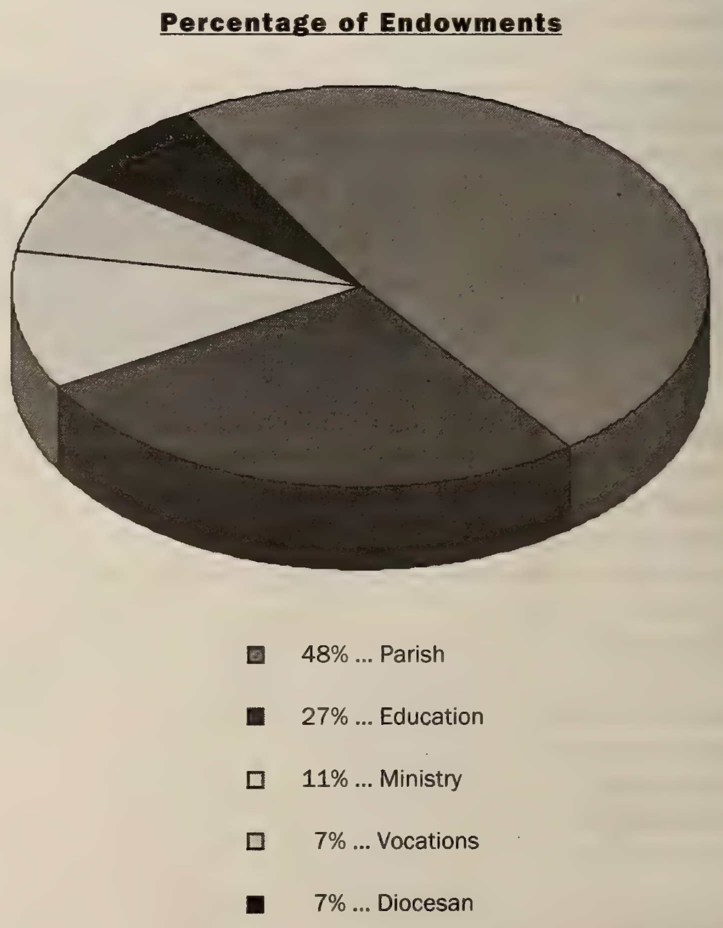
Vic Nussbaum Jr.

Vic Nussbaum, Jr.
President

The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte

Statements of Financial Position, June 30, 2000 and 1999.

Assets:	2000	1999
Cash	$ 34,749	$ 43,342
Receivables -		
Support and other receivables	8,753	8,232
Interest and dividends receivables	763	2,381
Total receivables	9,516	10,613
Assets held in trust	423,966	423,966
Investments	6,667,835	5,651,929
Total assets	$ 7,136,066	$ 6,129,850
Liabilities and net assets:		
Accounts payable	$ 6,135	$ 13,931
Custodial and annuity obligations	3,519,063	2,996,724
Total liabilities	3,525,198	3,010,655
Unrestricted net assets	858,439	758,459
Temporarily restricted net assets	977,818	725,670
Permanently restricted net assets	1,774,611	1,635,066
Total net assets	3,610,868	3,119,195
Total liabilities and net assets	$ 7,136,066	$ 6,129,850



A copy of the independent audit by Arthur Anderson and Co. is available upon request.

The Endowments as of June 30, 2000

Diocesan Endowments

The A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Priest Retirement Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for our retired priests.

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) Endowment Fund
Established to provide financial assistance for ministries supported by the DSA.

The Maffitt Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides assistance to Catholic missions in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Undesignated Endowment Fund
Income from this fund is used to assist in the work of the Foundation and to meet special needs not addressed by other designated funds.

The Unrestricted Endowment Fund
Income from this fund is used to assist in the work of the Foundation and to meet special needs not addressed by other restricted funds.

Education Endowments

The American Schlafhorst Scholarship Endowment Fund
Established to provide scholarship assistance for students at Charlotte Catholic High School.

The Asheville Catholic School Foundation Endowment Fund
This fund was established to enable the school to retain quality teachers, to offer scholarship assistance, to offer continuing education for teachers and to enhance the school's curriculum.

The Bishop McGuinness High School Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for the education of the students at Bishop McGuinness.

The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund established by the CCHS Alumni Association provides scholarships for graduating seniors for a college of their choice.

The Faucette Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund was established to benefit the educational ministry of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte.

The Megan Healy Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarship assistance for students as St. Patrick School in Charlotte.

The Francis J. McGrail Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides for scholarship aid to students of Immaculate Heart of Mary School in High Point.

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools (MACS) Education Foundation Endowment Fund
This fund was established to meet the needs of the students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

The Sister Paulette Williams Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarships for CCHS graduating seniors for a college of their choice.

The Kim Piccolo Scholarship Endowment Fund
Established through the Catholic Campus Ministry Office at UNC Charlotte, this fund provides scholarship assistance for Catholic students at UNC Charlotte.

The Sacred Heart School Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this school in Salisbury.

The Frank Spinks Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for professional development activities for the staff at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

The Mary Spinks Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for scholarship aid to minority students at Immaculata School in Hendersonville.

The St. Ann School Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this school in Charlotte.

St. Gabriel School Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this school in Charlotte.

The St. Joseph Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarship assistance for students at Asheville Catholic School.

The F. Joseph Treacy Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for scholarship aid to students in the seven MACS schools in Charlotte.

The UNCC Campus Ministry Endowment Fund
This fund provides for pastoral needs of this ministry in Charlotte.

Ministry Endowments

The African American and Native American Endowment Fund
This fund benefits the needs of minorities across the diocese.

Bishop Michael J. Begley Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of charitable ministries in Western North Carolina.

The Catholic Social Services Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the general needs of this diocesan ministry across the western half of North Carolina.

The Catholic Social Services Burial Assistance Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the Burial Assistance Program in Mecklenburg County.

The Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the program needs of this retreat center in Maggie Valley.

The Robert H. Moeller Memorial Endowment Fund
This fund provides housing-related financial assistance for the elderly across the western half of North Carolina.

The Manger Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the program needs of the Room At The Inn in Charlotte.

Parish Endowments

The Basilica of St. Lawrence Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this endowment assists in meeting the needs of the historic Basilica in Asheville.

The Joseph M. Bryan, Sr. Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the maintenance and enhancement of Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

The Alma Cornely Memorial Endowment Fund
Established through St. Luke Church in Mint Hill, this fund provides support to the Missions of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus.

The Jack Driscoll Endowment Fund
This fund was established to help meet the needs of Sacred Heart parish in Brevard.

Holy Angels Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Mount Airy.

The Holy Family Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Clemmons.

The Immaculate Conception Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this endowment provides for the needs of this parish in Forest City.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in High Point.

The Amber Lundgren Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides for scholarship aid to a St. Barnabas parishioner for attendance at a post secondary school.

The Eleanor C. Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

The Our Lady of the Assumption Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Our Lady of the Highways Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Thomasville.

The Our Lady of Mercy Endowment Fund
This fund provides for corporal works of mercy for parishioners of this parish in Winston-Salem.

The Sacred Heart Threshold Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral

(con't.)

The Endowments as of June 30, 2000

and educational needs of this parish in Salisbury.

The St. Aloysuis Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Hickory.

The St. Pius X Life Enrichment Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and spiritual needs of this parish in Greensboro.

The St. Ann Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The St. Benedict Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Greensboro.

The St. Francis of Assisi Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Franklin.

The St. Gabriel Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The St. James Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Concord.

The St. John Memorial Endowment Fund
This fund provides for scholarships to graduating high school seniors from this parish in Tryon for attendance at a post secondary school.

The St. John the Baptist Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Tryon.

The St. Jude Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this mission in Sapphire Valley.

The St. Leo Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Winston-Salem.

The St. Luke Founders Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the local, national and international outreach activities of this parish in Mint Hill.

The St. Philip the Apostle Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Statesville.

The St. Therese Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Mooresville.

The St. Vincent de Paul Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the pastoral and educational needs of this parish in Charlotte.

The Olga and George Testa Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the faith formation needs of St. Michael parish in Gastonia.

The Father Peter Tomaino Endowment Fund
This fund provides for the faith formation needs of children in Christ the King parish in High Point.

The Yates-Murphy Educational Trust Scholarship Endowment Fund
This fund provides scholarships for the benefit of students from Holy Name Church in New Bedford, Massachusetts. This endowment fund is part of the Edward M. Murphy Educational Trust Endowment.

Vocations Endowments

The Conklin Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Seminarians Education Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Lee Endowment Fund
Established through a bequest, this fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Seminarians Education Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Valentine Family Seminarian Education Endowment Fund
This fund provides financial support for the education of our seminarians.

The Catholic Heritage Society

Honoring those who provide for the future.

The Catholic Heritage Society is the diocese's way of honoring the Christian generosity of Catholic friends who are providing for the future of the Church. Membership in the Catholic Heritage Society is open to anyone who agrees to make a planned gift to The Foundation, the Diocese of Charlotte, or any of its parishes, schools, agencies, or organizations. Consider the following planned gifts:

• **A Bequest in Your Will** is perhaps the simplest way to give. You can name The Foundation to receive a gift of cash or other property from your estate. You can stipulate that The Foundation receives a specified amount, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all other bequests are fulfilled.

• **Gifts of Cash, Securities, Real Estate or other Tangible Assets** sufficient to establish an endowment are an ideal way of giving to The Foundation, particularly when the donated assets are highly appreciated.

• **Gifts of Life Insurance** allow you to make a gift that might be larger than if you were to give an asset outright. You can give The Foundation a paid up policy that you already own, or you can purchase a policy to donate.

• **Life Income Arrangements** allow you to make gifts to The Foundation during your lifetime while retaining and even increasing your income from those assets for the remainder of your life. These include trusts and charitable gift annuities.

• **Gifts from Retirement Plans** are often an excellent method of making a planned gift to The Foundation. You can designate The Foundation as the remainder beneficiary of an IRA, 401K, or annuity to receive what is left in your retirement plan after your death.

• **A Gift of a Life Estate in Real Property** allows you to enjoy your home or vacation home during your lifetime, while giving you the satisfaction of knowing your Church will benefit from the gift after your death.

These and other opportunities for giving to The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte can be explored with you. The Foundation staff will be happy to work with you and your advisors to help determine which gift is right for you.

For more information:

Jim Kelley
Executive Director

The Foundation of
the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Charlotte

1123 South Church Street

Charlotte, NC 28203

tel: (704) 370-3301

fax: (704) 370-3378

legacy

A bundle of children's books for holiday gift-giving

REVIEWED BY BARB FRAZE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The following children's books are suitable for holiday gift-giving.

"Comes a Wind," by Linda Arms White, pictures by Tom Curry. Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc. (New York, 2000). 30 pp., $15.95.

This is the best read-aloud tall tale of the year, with picturesque language such as, "He climbed out and, slapping his 10-gallon hat atop his head, shambled toward the house like a hound dog on its way to a flea dip." The book tells of two grown brothers, their sibling rivalry and how that all is put aside when a cattle-blowing, body-stretching wind comes along and affects their mama. Colorful, humorous illustrations add to this book's appeal. Read it with a drawl. (Ages 4-9)

"Who is Sam Harrison?," by Rick Osborne and K. Christie Bowler, illustrated by Dara Goldman. Zonderkidz (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2000). 30 pp., $12.99.

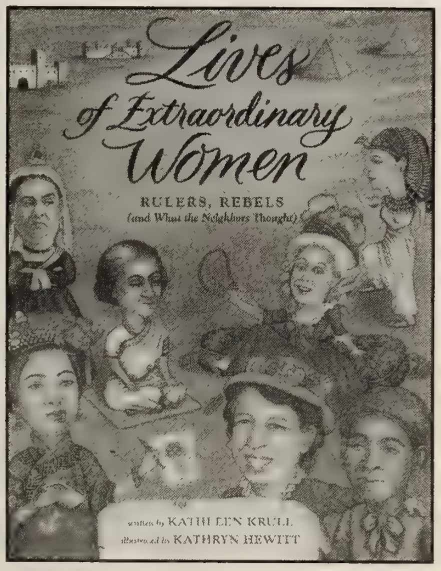
The little town of Coledale turns into a much nicer place when people start doing kind things for each other, because "It's what Sam Harrington would do." The problem is, no one knows who Sam Harrington is or how the kind events got started. The mystery gets traced back to a Sunday sermon and a little girl who caught the gist, if not the details, of the Good Samaritan story. (Ages 5-9)

"Lives of Extraordinary Women: Rulers, Rebels (and What The Neighbors Thought)," by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt. Harcourt, Inc., San Diego, 2000. 95 pp., $20.

Did you know that Marie Antoinette used to flick bread crumbs to break the tension at the palace's dinner table? Or that Jeannette Rankin, the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress, voted against entering World War I? This latest in the series of "extraordinary" books is full of fabulous tidbits sure to keep readers turning the pages. (Ages 9-up)

"Dream Freedom," by Sonia Levitin. Silver Whistle. (San Diego, 2000). 169 pp., $17.

Levitin switches settings from the western United States to Sudan to tell the story of slavery in modern Sudan and what one class of children does to fight it. She personalizes stories of Sudan's Dinka people and their customs to make life there seem a little more real to readers who perhaps never have even heard of the problems Sudanese face, and in turn makes some other people's problems seem a little more manageable. (Ages 11-14)


Lives of Extraordinary Women
RULERS, REBELS
(and What the Neighbors Thought)
written by KATHLEEN KRULL
illustrated by KATHRYN HEWITT

"Here I Am Lord 2, A Prayer Journal for Teens," by Lonni Collins Pratt and Father Daniel Homan, O.S.B. Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division (Huntington, Ind., 2000). 192 pp., $9.95.

This second prayer journal has the same format as its predecessor, a format that has been teen-tested and approved. Each of 50 topics has a story or "Something to Think About," a section helping to personalize the story, a prayer starter, a short prayer and a place for writing feelings and prayers. The stories are touching without being syrupy. The design should be appealing even to teens who are less-than-enthusiastic about prayer! (Ages 13-up)

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (Book 4)," by J.K. Rowling, Scholastic (New York, 2000). 734 pages, $25.95

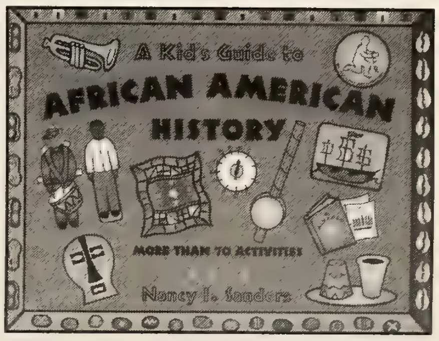
The Harry Potter series continues, keeping up the pace set in the first three books. The tone of this one is a bit darker than the previous volumes, and one character dies. Rowling's magical world is expanded as visiting teams from other schools of wizardry arrive at Hogwarts for the Triwizard Tournament. Our hero unexpectedly participates in the tournament and has his most perilous encounter yet with the evil Lord Voldemort. With new characters and magical creatures, "Goblet of Fire" gives a strong message of loyalty, friendship and the ultimate victory of good over evil. (Ages 9-up) (AL)

"Cattus Petasatus," a Doctore Seuss, translated by Jennifer and Terence Tunberg. Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers (Wauconda, Ill., 2000). 75 pp., $22.50 hard cover, $16.95 paperback.

The Tunbergs have done it again! Two years ago this pair of Latin/neo-Latin scholars from the University of Kentucky gave us "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" in Latin. Now it's "The Cat in the Hat" — and again they've captured the fun and verve of the original. As the cat says when he walks in, "Ludos vobis dabo mille!" (Roughly, "Have I got a lot of games for you!") Like "Grinchus," "Cattus" has a full vocabulary in back to help learners and comes complete with Dr. Seuss's original illustrations. And like the original "Cat," "Cattus" is written in rhyme. A great gift for a high school or college student who has had a year or two of Latin. (Ages 12-up) (JF)

"A Kid's Guide to African American History," by Nancy I. Sanders, Chicago Review Press (Chicago, 2000). 242 pp., $14.95.

Here is a great history resource, extremely readable, with nearly every little vignette followed by activities for children. (Note: Many require parental supervision.) The book covers topics that range from life in Africa to life on a plantation to abolitionists to the turn of the century and hope for tomorrow. (Ages 7-up)



"It's Christmas Again," by Father Richard P. Lewandowski and Michael P. Riccards, illustrated by Kathryn H. Delisle. Ambassador Books (Worcester, Mass., 2000). 32 pp., $13.95.

In a slightly different twist on a true-meaning-of-Christmas story, none of the adults or children in this tale can remember why they celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25. Only the animals remember, because a Nativity set had been stored in the barn. The children hear the animals speaking like humans and discover that Christmas is not just about presents. (Ages 3-9)

Ms. Fraze, Catholic News Service international editor, is the mother of three children.

Contributing to these reviews were Anne LeVeque, a mother of three children, and Jerry Filteau, a CNS Latin "peritus."

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Book Review

New York radio priest puts soul talk into new book

By NANCY HARTNAGEL
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Paul Keenan has a radio voice — clear and sonorous.

He had the voice even as a kid growing up in Kansas City, Mo., he said, when radio was the center of his world.

Now, the 54-year-old priest is director of radio ministry for the Archdiocese of New York, where he hosts "As You Think" on WOR radio and co-hosts "Religion on the Line" at WABC radio.

One voice led to another, though, as the interviewer of authors of spiritual books became one of them, writing "Good News for Bad Days" in 1998 and "Stages of the Soul: The Path of the Soulful Life" in 2000.

Speaking by phone recently with Catholic News Service, Father Keenan said his latest book, describing a seven-stage journey in which lost souls can become re-enchanted with life, is not just for lost souls.

"It's for anybody who is trying to grow in the spiritual life, in their inner life," he said. "I started with and emphasized the lost soul thing so much because I think all of us have been there."

The priest, who attended Catholic schools in Kansas City, earned a classical undergraduate degree at Rockhurst College there. He also has master's degrees in moral and pastoral theology and in philosophy from St. Louis and Fordham universities, respectively.

"I don't have any formal degrees in psychology, just experience as a priest and life experience," he said with an easy laugh. "What little sanity I have is attributable to God, I think."

Father Keenan was ordained a priest of the Missouri province of the Society of Jesus in 1977. After serving in a several parishes around the borough of Manhattan, he left the Jesuits to become an archdiocesan priest in 1993.

"I thought it was a real opportunity to be a priest here in New York in a way that I would be happy," he said of the switch. "But (the late) Cardinal (John J.) O'Connor was the inspiration."

Now a confirmed New Yorker, he resides at Our Lady of Peace Parish on the upper East Side with his cats, Teddy and Midnight. He celebrates Mass there and at another neighborhood parish almost daily.

On "As You Think," Father Keenan takes listeners' calls and often discusses spirituality and values with writers. Sometimes he focuses on a single topic, like what people dream of in life.

The 9-year-old show, usually airing locally on Saturday night at 9, has an audience of about 35,000. He started it, he said, "because I wanted people to take away each week one positive lesson about their souls or their spirit that they could put into practice during the week."

The radio priest said his own practicality helped him develop the seven stages of the soul in his book. "For me, philosophy and theology, I need to see them work," he said. "I can't just leave it at the level of doctrine."

"As You Think" also influenced the book, he said, "because having the opportunity to sit down and talk to some of the people who are writing the spirituality of the day has given me an opportunity to really reflect on how my Catholic teaching compares and contrasts, where it agrees and disagrees, and what its possibilities are as a practical guide for people's lives."

In the book, Father Keenan says it is fashionable to talk about the soul. During the '90s, people responded to shows like his and to "the soul literature" because of "a hunger for something deeper," he said.

Even when people name it something else, he added, that deeper thing is God.

The self-help material in his books and radio ministry is a little bit different from the norm, he said. "Mine directs you back out into the world."

He hopes readers of "Stages of the Soul" take hope from it — "the realization that life can be very, very joyful and that, no matter what their circumstances or background in life, they have something to put into the world ... touching hearts to make the world a better place."

A life-threatening illness in 1988 was a turning point in his life, Father Keenan said. "My thyroid gland doesn't work and my whole system just went right out of control. The doctors didn't think I was going to live."

But the illness pointed him in a new direction, he recalled. During his recovery, his pastor suggested he take a university radio course, which led first to one radio gig, then the other. Similarly, his literary career was launched when an author he interviewed on radio introduced him to her literary agent.

"As I mentioned in the acknowledgments for this book," he told CNS, "I'm grateful to God for a second chance at life and an opportunity to do something with it."

Word to Life

December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Baruch 5:1-9
Psalm 126:1-6
2) Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11
3) Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

The travails some of us endure are tougher than those others go through. My friend Chuck has been through the toughest. Deprived of the use of his legs by a helicopter crash in Vietnam, attacked by the state attorney general's office for running an abortion counseling clinic the state felt was involved in false advertising, surviving a bout with cancer. He and his wife Pat, and by extension, their kids, have been through it all. They are a testimony to faith, hope and love made flesh. And still Chuck keeps the abortion counseling clinic afloat, bringing vitally needed truth to young mothers before it is too late.

Chuck told a story in Mother and Unborn Baby Care newsletter a few years ago. He had been standing in a cafeteria line when the baby held by a young mother in front of him locked eyes with him. Now, most of us love babies and love to get their playful attention. That's not what this was. Chuck said the baby had a most serious and soul-searching look, a look he interpreted as a grateful look.

We are looking for a serious baby's birth. He in fact survived a pogrom aimed by Herod at all male children under the age of 2, a massive effort of infanticide perhaps not equaled until today's plague of abortion.

In today's Gospel reading from Luke, John the Baptist cries out: "Make ready the way of the Lord. Clear him a straight path. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be leveled. The windings shall be made straight, and the rough ways smooth, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God."

With the prophetic message of God's salvation and the call to turn from sin, there is always vindication, always the promised salvation. That is the message of hope in all the readings for the second Sunday of this season of hopeful waiting, Advent. And, with God's grace and aid, the movement toward justice and holiness and the coming of the kingdom of God always begins with babies, sheltered from those who would destroy them, nurtured into life, grown into advocates for justice and mercy.

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

QUESTION:

Can I use the word of God in this set of readings to build hope for the future, hope that God will use my own suffering and the suffering of those dear to me for good?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 10 - 16, 2000

Second Sunday of Advent, Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6; **Monday (St. Damasus I)**, Isaiah 35:1-10, Luke 5:17-26; **Tuesday (Our Lady of Guadalupe)**, Zechariah 2:14-17, Romans 8:28-30, Luke 2:15-19; **Wednesday (St. Lucy)**, Isaiah 40:25-31, Matthew 11:28-30; **Thursday (St. John of the Cross)**, Isaiah 41:13-20, Matthew 11:11-15; **Friday**, Isaiah 48:17-19, Matthew 11:16-19; **Saturday**, Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11, Matthew 17:10-13

Readings for the week of Dec. 17 - 23, 2000

Third Sunday of Advent, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18; **Monday**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24; **Tuesday**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Peter Canisius)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Friday**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56; **Saturday (St. John of Kanty)**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66

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Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (Sony Classics)

Thrilling drama set in 19th-century Qing Dynasty China in which the precious sword of a famed warrior (Chow Yun-Fat), entrusted to a longtime friend (Michelle Yeoh), is stolen and must be recovered at all costs. Although melodramatic in part, director Ang Lee blends mesmerizing martial arts with stunning special effects into a script brimming with intrigue and suspense. Subtitles. Martial-arts violence and an implied sexual encounter. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Dancer in the Dark" (Fine Line)

Extravagant musical melodrama about a Czech immigrant (Bjork) going blind who is sentenced to death after her savings for her son's operation to prevent hereditary blindness is stolen by her landlord (David Morse), who is killed in a struggle over the money. Writer-director Lars von Trier's flamboyant tearjerker uses vertigo-inducing camera movements and fantasy musical sequences to tell its bizarre tale that is often emotionally gripping but whose brutal conclusion strains credibility. Brief but intense violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"The Legend of Drunken Master" (Miramax)

Entertaining kung fu action film that has Jackie Chan playing a mythical hero who uses a type of martial arts called drunken boxing to battle British bad guys intent on stealing China's cultural treasures. With a paper thin plot, director Lau Ka Leung's 1994 film relies on the acrobatic agility and comedic talent of its star and Chan does not disappoint. Dubbed into English. Martial arts violence, comical treatment of drunkenness and a few instances of profanity and crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Pollock" (Sony Classics)

Powerful portrait of modern artist Jackson Pollock (Ed Harris), his tumultuous relationship with wife Lee Krasner (Marcia Gay Harden) and his rise and fall from fame. Harris' directorial debut is an appropriately restrained work that grasps the troubled life of an artistic icon, although the finely wrought performances are hindered by a somewhat lagging narrative pace. A brief sexual encounter, an extramarital affair, alcohol abuse, some profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Solas" (Goldwyn)

Affecting Spanish drama about an elderly country woman (Maria Galiana) who comes to the city where her abusive husband (Paco De Osca) is recovering from surgery and stays with her bitter, alcoholic daughter (Ana Fernandez). In a subtle, layered way, director Benito Zambrano communicates the isolation of the characters as well as the triumph of feeling and giving unconditional love. Subtitles. A sexual reference, mature themes and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

CNS FILE PHOTO

"Casablanca" named one of top-10 romances

Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman star in the 1942 classic "Casablanca." The film is ranked by critic Henry Herx as one of the 10 best American romance movies.

"From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians," to air Dec. 19 and 26

By HENRY HERX
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Looking back 2,000 years to the historical world of Jesus as well as that of his persecuted followers over the next three centuries is the two-part documentary, "From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians," to be rerun Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10 p.m.-midnight EST on PBS. The second half airs the following week at the same time.

Ever since the 1947 discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, biblical scholarship has been busy with archaeological digs, comparison of manuscripts and speculation over texts.

These activities have been accompanied by a rush to bring the latest finding, no matter how tentative, to the public by translating the complexities of specialized research into journalistic and, at time, even tabloid prose.

Drawing on the input of 12 New Testament scholars, this four-hour series tries to avoid the oversimplifications and slippery generalizations that have generated controversy in the public arena.

This kind of research is prone to misunderstanding because its results are often provisional rather than definitive, apt to be discarded or refined as new discoveries come to light.

In exploring the historical context of the Gospels, these scholars confine themselves to the archeological evidence and textual analysis rather than personal religious convictions or lack thereof. Though some Christian viewers will find this approach unedifying, if not confusing, others may gain new insights which deepen their faith rather than undermine it.

Certainly the first two hours provide a rich introduction to the Jewish world into which Jesus was born, all of which helpful in reading the Gospel accounts of his life and mission.

What is central in the historical context is the subjection of Judea to Roman rule and the rise of political rebels and messianic sects looking for a new kingdom to replace the old.

The second program examines how the Gospel accounts came to be written, the struggle between differing Christian sects and the emergence of Rome as the center of the early church.

Produced by Marilyn Mellowes and directed by William Cran, the series presents a secular account of the rise of Christianity without directly taking up the question of Christ's divinity, which is a matter of faith and beyond the scope of a series.

The series will, however, antagonize those who take a strictly literal view of the Gospel accounts and surely irritate most historians by using the clunky B.C.E. (Before the Common Era) to replace the commonly used and historically correct B.C. (Before Christ).

As a presentation of the "Frontline" series of investigative reports on current affairs, this scholarly probe into the historicity of Jesus and the development of the early church offers some tentative reflections on the birth of Christianity as it enters its third millennium.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Spirit transcends church boundaries

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Encouraging Christians to appreciate other religions, Pope John Paul II reaffirmed that the Holy Spirit works outside the boundaries of the Catholic Church.

Reflecting on the theme of interreligious dialogue at his weekly general audience Nov. 29, following an ecumenical focus in weeks past, the pope said sacred texts of other religions "point to a future of communion with God, of purification and salvation."

"And they encourage people to seek the truth and defend the values of life, holiness, justice, peace and freedom," he said.

"Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, who is also at work outside the visible limits of the church," the pope told some 30,000 people in St. Peter's Square, "people in every part of the world seek to adore God in an authentic way."

While Christians bring their faith in Christ with them when engaging in interreligious dialogue, he said, "this same faith teaches them to recognize the authentic religious experiences of others."

The pope urged the crowd to listen closely to other faith experiences in a "spirit of humility, in order to discover and appreciate every ray of truth, from wherever it comes."

His diction unclear, the pope appeared tired at the audience's outset and skipped several paragraphs of his prepared text, but his voice gained strength as he continued with his catechesis.

Even as Catholics adhere to the church's mission of making the kingdom of God and Christ known to others, he said, they must also recognize that "this kingdom also can be found beyond the church's boundaries, for example in the hearts of the followers of other religious traditions."

Mentioning in particular the monotheistic faiths of Judaism and Islam, the pope expressed the hope that Holy Year 2000 might further reciprocal dialogue "until one day, all together — Jews, Christians and Muslims — we will exchange the sign of peace in Jerusalem."

In keeping with the theme of interreligious dialogue, the Vatican released Nov. 29 a papal message to the 30th anniversary celebrations of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, held Nov. 27-28 in Kyoto, Japan.

In the message, addressed to Cardinal Peter Seiichi Shirayanagi, retired archbishop of Tokyo, the pope said people of different faiths can collaborate "in building a world of peace."

The conference held its sixth assembly at the Vatican in 1994.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Overlooking What Teens Have to Give

My 15-year old son, now gainfully employed bagging groceries, has committed himself to putting a few dollars in the collection plate every Sunday at Mass.

The week after he received his first paycheck, he made his first attempt. Sitting at the end of our little group near the middle of the pew, I was surprised to see him holding a $5 bill in his hand.

The usher came down the aisle with the basket, moving it smoothly back and forth through the rows, heading our way. He paused at our pew to allow my husband to put in our envelope.

And then moved right along.

My son sat there, the money still in his hand, looking in confusion after the briskly moving usher who had ignored him and what he had to give.

Believe it or not, the next week, the exact same thing happened: The usher completely overlooked my teen-age son, who was waiting to contribute to the church.

But this time I intervened and simply placed a hand on the basket as it passed under my nose, giving David just enough time to slip his bills in.

I told him that next time, if he simply waved his donation wildly in the air, maybe the usher would notice him. My husband made him laugh by joking, "Your money's no good here."

But the whole incident, repeated two weeks in a row, made me think. How often does our church do what those ushers did — and in an even broader sense? How often does it overlook what teens have to give?

It's good that over the past two or three years World Youth Days have served as exciting reminders of the energy young people bring to the church. Still, a quick look into an ordinary parish's life finds that this reality only sinks so deep.

I'm not talking about programs for teens here. I'm talking about what teens can do for the church in ways that go beyond youth-group members pulling weeds on Saturday mornings.

How many parishes encourage young people to contribute time and energy to liturgical ministries?

Imagine the life that young, clear voices would bring to the proclamation of God's word. Imagine the choir's renewed energy when youthful tones intermix with those of experience, together offering praise to God. So many teens absolutely love working with small children. Does your parish recruit young people to assist or even teach in religious education classes? When I was a director of religious education, some of the best catechists I had were older teens; when summer rolled around they practically ran our vacation church school.

And what about outreach? Sure, young people may be limited by difficulties with transportation, but how many parishes even think of inviting teens who might be interested in getting involved with outreach to homebound and elderly parishioners?

It is clear that although the situation might gradually be improving, teens are still a vast, untapped resource in our church. It's a situation that should concern us all as we look around at our parish activities and see, as we do so often, nothing but gray hair, and we wonder who will do the work of Christ when that generation is gone.

You just have to wonder. What wealth of gifts and talents are waiting willingly in the pews, only to be passed by without a second thought?

Advent Reflection

SISTER DONNA MARIE VAILLANCOURT, R.S.M.
Guest Columnist

Recently, I was reminiscing about my childhood days and how much I enjoyed playing the game Hide-N-Seek. The game held a sense of intrigue, expectation and danger. I remember trying to hide so well that I would not be scared if I was found by surprise. I would position myself in a way that I could see if the seeker was getting close. A lot of anticipation accompanied my preparation for being surprised if found. Then there was that deep desire in me to hide so well that I could reach home safely without being caught and yelling to the top of my lungs, "Home free, I'm home free!" It was such a delightful, scary, magical experience. Even now, as I write, I have this anxious, exhilarating feeling as I recall those words, "Here I come, ready or not!"

Advent and Hide-N-Seek seem to share many similarities. God becomes this season's Seeker, persistent and dogged in finding us, rooting us out, encountering us, calling us from our places of hiding, of our getting lost during these weeks of preparation and anticipation. Advent becomes that heightened season when God calls out to us, "Here I come, ready or not."

So, I ask myself where the Seeker, God, finds me this Advent. Will God have to search for me in the malls and all those holly-decked halls? Will I become hidden behind walls of presents and pretense, behind trees of tinsel and glitter? Will I become so lured and lost by the meaningless, competing demands of a commercialized season that even God will have difficulty breaking through? Or, will I be more accessible to the One who seeks because I had positioned and prepared myself in anticipation of this encounter, hoping to be found?

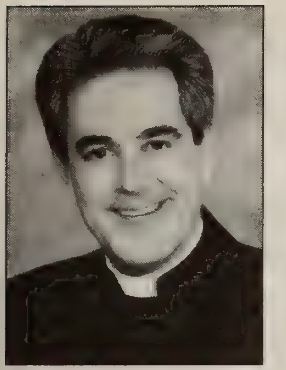
Somehow, this seems to be the challenge of this liturgical season: that we keep our hearts and minds and spirits centered on God; that we prepare well for the advent of God into our human experience; that we ready ourselves to recognize the human face of God breaking into our lives; that we prepare our inner spaces to be places where, like Mary, we become God-bearers and God-birthers in a world that stands in such need of all that is holy, blessed, good and true.

Don't you think that Advent is a dangerous season? It's a precarious time when sacred symbols and mythical metaphors seek us out and vie for our attention and intention. All of this occurs at the same time that our lives are bombarded with mixed messages, expectations and the overt manipulation of our deepest spirit by the lure of consumerism. Indeed, it's a season during which we are confronted with profound choices of getting lost and and of being found.

This Advent I pray that we can stand firm in the face of all that can overwhelm, confound and attract us. I hope we remain clear and honest in avoiding the potential pitfalls of those subtle attractions that can sneak up and surprise us and divert our energies away from the mysterious meaning of these days.

So here's an invitation! Let's join together this Advent in the game of Hide-N-Seek! Then, at Christmas, we can run headlong into the arms of the One who says, "Coming, ready or not," yelling our response, "Home free, Dear Friend, home free, we are truly ready for Thee!"

Mercy Sister Donna Marie Vaillancourt is co-foundress of Well of Mercy, a center of hospitality and spirituality located north of Statesville. She also serves as a member of the Leadership Team of the Sisters of Mercy, Regional Community of North Carolina.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

One More Traveler

It probably will not come as a surprise to anyone who travels a good deal, but the words travel and travail have the same root: to labor.

Most trips these days, whatever the mode of transportation and whether for pleasure or business, fall somewhere between a mild inconvenience and a frustrating burden.

What with the expense, overcrowding, delays and other assorted hassles, the journey is rarely enjoyable. Most travelers prefer to stay focused on where they are going rather than on the unpleasantness of getting there.

At least, that is generally the case. I was recently reminded that there are exceptions. Some journeys are meant to be savored. A fellow priest who has spent many years in the South told me about a train trip he made from Savannah to New York to visit a mutual friend.

Before he ever got to his destination, he had a memorable experience.

He booked one of those tiny compartments which anywhere else would make one feel claustrophobic, but somehow, along the way, becomes cozy and comforting. After he had settled in, my friend buried himself in a newspaper. At some point, he glanced out the window. He told me later that asked himself why he was wasting a wonderful opportunity. So he sat back and just watched the countryside roll by.

His great discovery was not that he saw anything wildly unusual or breathtakingly beautiful, though the scenery was pleasant. What he got out of the trip was a combination of seeing new sights and thinking quiet thoughts.

The hours alone on the train ride gave him a chance for the kind of introspection that can be invaluable.

Did he make any earth-shattering decisions, or unique discoveries about himself or the world? Not at all. He simply spent some thoughtful time with himself and became intensely aware of the journey we are all making — the pilgrimage that lasts a lifetime.

I think most people have often felt swamped by work and obligations and the busyness of daily life. Some days, it feels as if the only goal in sight is making it to the end of the day — and then starting all over again. And that's exactly why we need to take time out, so that we can recall where we are really headed.

There's a rhyme they taught in school years ago that I still remember, one that speaks of our travels and their end:

Life is real, life is earnest
And the grave is not its goal.
Dust thou art, to dust returneth
Was not spoken of the soul.

We need to carve private time out of our busy lives. No one can keep going and giving without taking time for rest and, especially, recollection. When you feel yourself drowning in a sea of duty and activity, save yourself.

Even an hour can do wonders for body and soul. Enter God's peace and silence.

Think about where you are going and how you are getting there. And, most importantly, Who will meet you at journey's end.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

When Was Jesus Really Born?

Q. Can you answer a question for our family? Our children are asking when people started to celebrate Christmas. And where? How do we know that's when Jesus was born? Can you help? (New York)

A. I can help, but the answers may not be what you expect. First of all, strange as it seems, we have no idea of the date or even the year of Our Lord's birth. Our only source for this information would be the Gospels, and they are no help.

From information supplied in the Gospel according to Luke, scholars generally believe that Christ was born sometime between the years 8 and 6 B.C. Though our present calendar was supposedly based on the year of Christ's birth as Year 1, that is not the case.

The Roman monk who, in the sixth century, originated the Before Christ/After Christ way of designating years simply did not have at hand the historical documents now available. Thus he missed the year of Christ's birth by six or eight years.

As perhaps most everyone knows, Easter and related feasts were the first ones celebrated by Christian people. The first mention of Christmas comes in a Roman liturgical calendar composed in 339. By the end of that century the feast of our Lord's birth was celebrated on Dec. 25 in most of the Christian world.

If we don't know the date, why choose Dec. 25? The explanation generally accepted by most scholars today is that church authorities of that time assigned the birth of Christ to the date of the winter solstice.

In our calendar, the winter solstice is Dec. 21. In the Julian calendar, however, which predated our calendar and was in effect in those days, the solstice was Dec. 25. (The Egyptian calendar has it on Jan. 6, which is why this date is still followed for Christmas in some Eastern-rite Christian churches.)

The solstice, when days begin to lengthen in the Northern Hemisphere, was referred to by many non-Christians as the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun. During the 200s, Roman Emperor Aurelian dedicated Dec. 25 to the sun god, whose cult was particularly strong in Rome at the time.

Even before this, Christian writers referred to Jesus Christ as the Sun of Justice. It seemed logical, then, that as Christianity began to dominate the religious scene in the Roman Empire, the date of the "newborn sun" should be chosen as the birth date of Christ.

All this may be a little complicated for some of your children, but you can "translate" I'm sure. It's a lovely story about how the followers of Jesus can learn to turn everything, even the seemingly irrelevant and irreligious events of life, into ways of praising and honoring our Lord.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 324, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

BY FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

Part VI: The Principle of Solidarity

The principle of solidarity translates the familiar "love-your-neighbor" commandment to global dimensions in the interdependent world each of us inhabits. We are indeed our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

We are one large and growing human family. And we seem to be seeing more of the family these days as we find ourselves ever more frequently in the air, or on the road, rails and seas for business or pleasure.

Travel any distance in any direction and your eyes are opened wider to the beauty and diversity, as well as the wealth and misery of those with whom, whether you realize it or not, you are locked hand-in-hand by virtue of your common possession of the same human nature.

Deepening that realization is an important first step to assimilating this key social principle.

The principle of solidarity functions as a moral category prompting expressions of sharing and caring; it leads to moral choices promoting and protecting the universal common good.

The following words — not from Pope John Paul II, who speaks so often of solidarity as a moral category, but from Pope Pius XII — are instructive: "(An error) today abundantly widespread is disregard for the law of human solidarity and charity, dictated and imposed by our common origin and by the equality in rational nature of all men, whatever nation they belong to. This law is sealed by the sacrifice of redemption offered by Jesus Christ ... on behalf of sinful humanity" ("Summi Pontificatus," 1939).

Notice that this quotation speaks of a law of charity, an obligation to act out of a motive of charity. Justice, however, also is involved in the principle of solidarity.

Societal injustices, not just personal or individual misfortunes, trouble the human community. A response of both charity and justice is needed to heal a broken world.

Pope John Paul II, in "Sollicitudo Rei Socialis" ("On Social Concern"), associated himself with the view of his predecessor Pope Paul VI, whose encyclical "Populorum Progressio" ("On the Development of Peoples") spoke of the "duty of solidarity" as a moral obligation.

Because of our solidarity with all other humans, wrote John Paul II, "political leaders and citizens of rich countries considered as individuals, especially if they are Christians, have 'the moral obligation,' according to the degree of each one's responsibility, to 'take into consideration,' in personal decisions and decisions of government, this relationship of universality, this interdependence which exists between their conduct and the poverty and underdevelopment of so many millions of people" ("Sollicitudo Rei Socialis," No. 9, emphasis in the original).

Admittedly that prose is a bit turgid and the concepts somewhat abstract, but give the encyclicals a chance to form your social conscience.

To take an altogether different perspective on this matter, consider how human solidarity is evident in the shared effects of original sin. The reason we all have to carry the baggage left behind by the sin of our first parents is because we inherited the burden. We are all related to one another; we have the same human nature.

Priest kidnapped, killed in India, says Vatican agency

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A 30-year-old priest was kidnapped and shot to death Dec. 2 in the Indian state of Manipur, the Vatican's missionary news agency reported.

Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said Father Shajan Jacob Chittinapilly and his driver were forced to drive to an isolated area by two armed men. The priest was shot, but the driver escaped unharmed.

Archbishop Oswald Gracias of Agra, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, wrote to India's prime minister and minister of internal affairs asking for government intervention to halt the newly increasing attacks on church personnel, Fides reported Dec. 4.

Father Chittinapilly was ordained in 1999 and was serving as assistant pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Sugnu. He was on his way home when he and his driver were asked by two armed men on a motorcycle to follow them to a meeting with their chief.

After they turned off onto a secondary road, the men ordered the priest and the driver to lay face down on the ground. The priest was shot in the head and the driver fainted, Fides said.

When the driver regained consciousness, the gunmen had gone, but had shot the tires on the jeep. The driver walked back into town where he informed the police of the murder.

According to the Diocese of Imphal, "a prominent underground group" in Manipur had demanded money from St. Joseph's and eight other Catholic schools in the area. The diocese's response was that it would not give into extortion, Fides said.

UCA News, a Thailand-based Catholic news agency, said Indian media speculated the murderers were part of the Revolutionary People's Front, which had demanded 50,000 rupees (US$1,087) from St. Joseph's School.

More than a dozen underground groups reportedly operate in Manipur with the goal of "tribal self-determination" and autonomy from the state and federal governments, UCA News said.

The groups apparently have been trying to use extortion to buy weapons.

UCA News said two other priests have died in Manipur at the hands of the militants over the last 10 years and another was shot and injured when he refused an extortion demand.

Franciscans honor U.S. nun for work against death penalty

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

PADUA, Italy (CNS) — The Conventual Franciscans who publish the Messenger of St. Anthony in Padua honored St. Joseph Sister Helen Prejean for her ministry to death row inmates and her work to abolish the death penalty.

In giving Sister Prejean the St. Anthony's International Award Dec. 3, the Franciscans described her book, "Dead Man Walking," as an "eloquent cry of the heart against the death penalty."

The friars said that "for more than 15 years Sister Helen has brought help and comfort to 'men without a future' and has become a symbol of the struggle against the death penalty around the world."

In an interview with Vatican Radio, Sister Prejean said her encounters with people condemned to death have been "a rediscovery of the dignity of every person, which is the message of the Gospel."

Supporters of the death penalty believe it is the only appropriate punishment for someone found guilty of murder, she said.

But instead of working as a deterrent, Sister Prejean said, the death penalty harms society as a whole because it shows "the only thing we know how to do is to respond to violence with violence."

Sister Prejean will join representatives of the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community and Amnesty International at the United Nations Dec. 18 when they give Kofi Annan, the U.N. secretary-general, a petition with 3 million signatures asking for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty.

Abbey players troupe launches Web site

BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre (BCT) have launched a new web site at www.AbbeyPlayers.org.

Visitors to the site can check the schedules of plays for the year, see "what's new," such as photos from recent productions, learn about the theatre staff and visit the theatre archives for information and photos on past productions.

The site will also be linked to the college's main web site at www.BelmontAbbeyCollege.edu. The Abbey Players/BCT is a collaborative effort between Belmont Abbey College and the Belmont Community Theatre.

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Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Librarian: Our Lady of Grace School has an opening for a certified librarian, beginning immediately. Experience preferred. Send resume and request for application to: Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403 or Fax: (336)274-7326.

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Religious Education Director: Full-time position is available at Saint Brigid Catholic Church, Alpharetta, Georgia (www.saintbrigid.org). Degreed applicant must be a practicing Catholic. The Religious Education Director will administer (design, develop, direct, and evaluate) the total parish catechetical program and provide leadership to assist the parish community in building a solid foundation for Christian living. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Benefits package included. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. Joe Corbett, Saint Brigid Catholic Church, 3400 Old Alabama, Alpharetta, GA 30022, or fax to (678)393-0071, or e-mail to fr.joe@saintbrigid.org.

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Vatican issues special Christmas envelope, coin, stamps

CNS PHOTO

The Vatican is making available this illustrated envelope with a special coin and stamps for Christmas 2000. It is available for about $34 through the Vatican's office for stamps and coins.

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is celebrating the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus' birth with the issuance of a commemorative Christmas envelope, including a special coin and stamps.

The 2,000-lire coin (about $1) features a cherubic baby Jesus under the words "2,000 years from the Lord's birth."

On the envelope, the coin is framed by a 14-point star, which is a copy of the star on the floor of the grotto of the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem marking the place where, according to tradition, Jesus was born.

The envelope itself features a painting by Daniela Longo with the Three Kings following the star into Bethlehem.

The four Vatican 2000 Christmas stamps are stuck to the upper right-hand corner of the envelope.

The stamps, which are available separately from the envelope, are taken from a fresco of the Nativity by the 13th-century Italian painter Giotto. The fresco is located in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

One stamp includes the entire Nativity scene, complete with angel choirs singing over the manger. The three other stamps are close-up views of the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph from the same fresco.

The envelope with the coin and stamps sells for about $34, plus postage and handling. The four stamps alone cost about $2.75.

Editor's Note: The envelope and stamps may be ordered from Ufficio Filatelico e Numismatico, Governatorato, 00120 Vatican City, Europe. The fax number for the office is: (011 3906) 6988-3799.

Vatican Christmas tree brings political, religious discord

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's Christmas tree is being trimmed with political and interreligious discord this year because the Austrian official delivering it once praised Hitler and is viewed as a dangerous extremist by Jewish and other groups.

In an annual tradition, Pope John Paul II was expected to meet Dec. 16 with the donors of the 33-meter (109-foot) tree after it has been erected and decorated in St. Peter's Square.

The tree comes from Austria's Carinthia province, where the governor is Jorg Haider, a right-wing politician whose anti-immigrant positions have alarmed some European neighbors. In remarks he has since partially disavowed, Haider once praised Hitler's employment policies and the role of the Nazi SS.

Last year he stepped down as leader of the Austrian Freedom Party, but he is still considered a guiding force in the national political movement.

The tree has placed the Vatican in a difficult and unplanned situation. The gift was arranged in 1997, well before Haider became governor in 1999. Cancellation of the ceremony now would risk offending Austrian Catholics, Vatican sources said.

But Israeli officials and Jewish groups have warned that a papal meeting with Haider could have serious consequences.

In late November, Israeli ambassador Yosef Neville Lamdan met with Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran and made it clear that Israelis oppose a papal meeting with Haider, an informed source in Rome said.

The source said that in the Israeli view, such an encounter "certainly will not make things easier and reestablish a mood of mutual trust" following recent Catholic-Jewish controversies over the beatification of Pope Pius IX and the publication of a Vatican document on Christ as the unique savior.

In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry statement Nov. 30 said the visit would be viewed by Israel with "considerable disappointment and displeasure."

"Haider is a politician who is ostracized by the enlightened world. The granting of honor to a man of this kind is liable to send a wrong signal and inappropriate message, even unintentionally," the Foreign Ministry said.

"In light of the Holy See's commitment to the struggle against anti-Semitism, and particularly in view of the worrying resurgence of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, it is imperative to reject the views and positions espoused by Jorg Haider and his like," it said.

On Dec. 1, Seymour Reich, chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, wrote to the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, to say that a papal meeting with Haider would be a "misleading signal" at a time when anti-Semitism is resurfacing in many parts of the world.

"If a meeting with an extremist demagogue, whose past record is replete with pro-Nazi and anti-democratic utterances and actions, is the price of the tree, we strongly urge the Holy See to consider that it may be too high a price to pay," Reich said in the letter.

Reich told Catholic News Service Dec. 6 that he had also raised the issue with other Vatican officials in meetings in early December.

On Dec. 4, a group of Italian protesters demonstrated at the Vatican's nunciature in Rome and raised a banner which said: "The church cannot welcome a racist like Haider."

On Dec. 5, the Austrian Green Party joined the fray, appealing to Haider to give up his planned visit to the Vatican. It said a Christmas tree lighting ceremony should not be "fraught with political conflict."

Pope John Paul initiated the Christmas tree tradition in 1982, and trees have been donated in recent years by a number of European countries.

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Chad: Does humble saint's life offer lesson in ballot dispute?

By JOSEPH YOUNG
Catholic News Service

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — During this year's prolonged election — with its ballot recounts, court challenges and chads of every description — neither presidential candidate would merit a halo.

And both Texas Gov. George Bush and Vice President Al Gore could learn a lot from one Catholic saint.

Consider the life of a seventh-century saint who, according to the Venerable Bede's church history of England, was ordained bishop of York in 665.

Bede described this saint as "a holy man of modest character, well versed in the Scriptures, and practicing with diligence what he had learned from them."

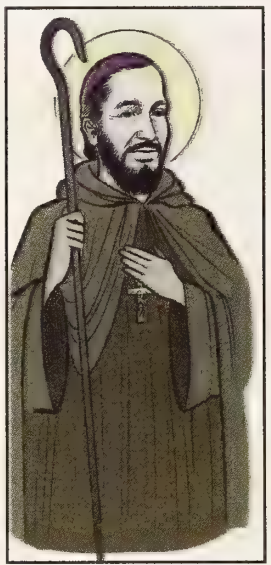
His name was Chad.

Bede did not say whether St. Chad had a dimpled countenance, and Chad's story suggests that he never hung around.

But Chad had one thing in common with the lower-case counterpart that has been so much in the post-election news — he was displaced. The lower-case chad is the small bit of paper debris punched out by voters using punch-card ballots.

St. Chad, as those familiar with Bede's writings or "Butler's Lives of the Saints" know, was displaced as bishop of York in 669. His superior — Theodore, the new archbishop of Canterbury — ruled that a man named Wilfrid was the rightful bishop of York.

How did St. Chad react when Theodore asked him to step down?


CNS PHOTO

Some attention is being paid to a seventh-century bishop of York during the presidential election dispute. St. Chad had to gracefully step down from his post after another cleric was named the rightful bishop of York.

According to the Butler entry on St. Chad, he replied, "If you consider that I have not been properly ordained, I gladly resign. I never thought myself worthy of the office and agreed to undertake it, though unworthy, under obedience."

However, Theodore was so impressed by Chad's humility that he sanctioned his ordination as bishop and named him to head the English see at Lichfield.

According to an Associated Press report, St. Chad researcher Joseph Harbaugh, law dean at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said that "it certainly benefited St. Chad when he humbly stepped aside."

"Who knows if doing that might benefit Gov. Bush or Vice President Gore," he added.

The events leading up to St. Chad's resignation had as many twists and turns as any presidential campaign.

According to historical accounts, in 664, the son of King Oswy of Northumbria, an English kingdom, appointed Abbot Wilfrid as bishop of the Northumbrian diocese of York. But Wilfrid went to Paris to be ordained bishop, and then lingered there for two years rather than return to the wild moors of York.

When it seemed that Wilfrid intended to stay in Paris, King Oswy intervened. He sent Chad, who was then abbot of Lastingham, to be consecrated bishop of York by the bishop of Winchester, who had to be assisted by two other bishops.

Wilfrid apparently had gone to Paris for his ordination so that it would be done in the Roman tradition rather than in the Celtic tradition then practiced in England.

At that time, most Catholic churches on the continent followed Roman customs and the calendar of the Roman rite, which had been laid down by the Council of Nicea. Those in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and much of England, however, followed Celtic customs and calendar — including the date for celebrating Easter.

Benedictine Father Eric Hollas, director of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn., said this issue was much debated then, especially the controversy over the calendar.

It divided even royal households where the king observed one custom and the queen, the other, he said.

In such a divided household, "the fasting of Holy Week often occurred simultaneously with the feasting of Easter," he said. "That could create a lot of problems, especially for the cook."

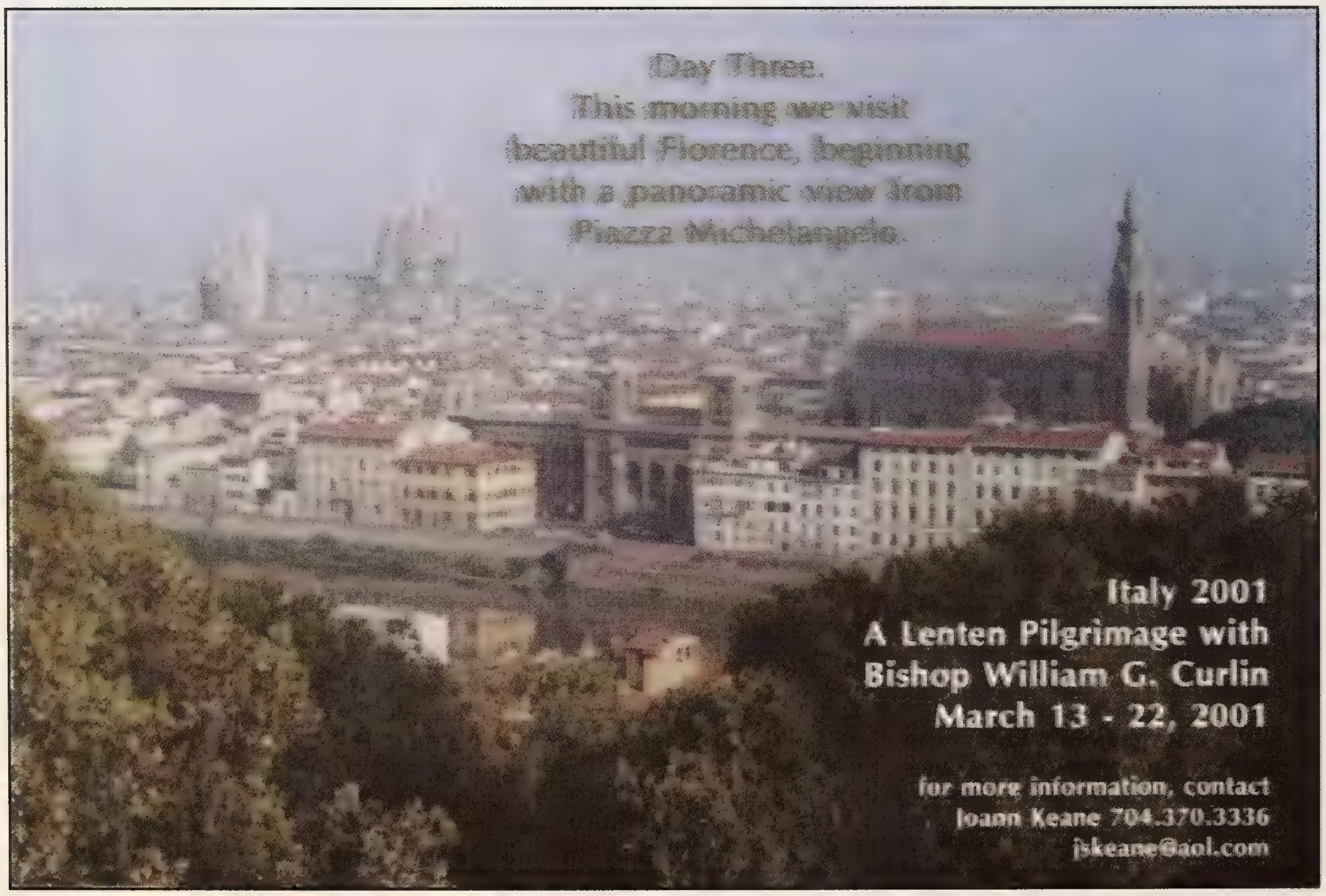
It also created problems for St. Chad. The two bishops who assisted the bishop of Winchester in ordaining Chad followed Celtic customs. And, in Theodore's eyes, that was enough to invalidate Chad's ordination and bring about his chad-like displacement.

But, in his three-year tenure as bishop of Lichfield, St. Chad was known for his missionary zeal. In the spirit of the first apostles, he made all journeys on foot. According to Bede's history, Theodore eventually insisted that he use a horse on longer trips.

St. Chad died on March 2, 672, apparently from the plague. His feast day is March 2, and he is the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Though it would be an interesting coincidence, St. Thomas More — not St. Chad — is the patron saint of statesmen and politicians. The British martyr, who lived 800 years after St. Chad, was given this patron's recognition by papal proclamation just this year, on Oct. 31.

Bede did not say whether St. Chad had a dimpled countenance, and Chad's story suggests that he never hung around. But Chad had one thing in common with the lower-case counterpart that has been so much in the post-election news — he was displaced. The lower-case chad is the small bit of paper debris punched out by voters using punch-card ballots. St. Chad, as those familiar with Bede's writings or "Butler's Lives of the Saints" know, was displaced as bishop of York in 669.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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Inside

Crisis in the Holy Land

Prayers for peace continue as Christmas nears

...Page 3

Priest misses arctic region where he spent 58 years

...Page 16

Local News

From Eden to Asheville

Jubilee pilgrimage takes group to historic basilica

...Page 5

Parishes pray for life during national prayer service

...Page 7

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

Coming next week:

Bishop Curlin's Christmas Message

Open wide the doors to Christ... Students at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte decorated their classroom doors recently as part of a justice and peace awareness project. The Beatitudes were among themes the students illustrated for this Advent venture. Pictured are sixth-graders Michael Troy and Andy Tinson. See story, page 4.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Sisters celebrate century of service

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

ASHEVILLE — Mercy Sister Maria Goretti Weldon's official title is mission effectiveness liaison with the Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care Inc., and her work involves all aspects of service in the Asheville area. During the course of a week, Sister Maria Goretti may serve as chaplain for staff and patients at the four urgent care centers under Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care Inc., visit the children and teens at the juvenile center and prison inmates and attend meetings. She is one of several sisters who work in various ministries in the western area of the diocese, continuing the 100-year presence of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina.

On Dec. 10, the sister community gathered for the centennial celebration to reflect, remember and recognize the women religious who have performed their ministries in

See MERCY, page 8

Creche re-enactment spreads Christmas spirit

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — When St. Francis of Assisi first re-created the scene of the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve in the year 1223, it gave many of the local people in Greccio, Italy, a chance to actually see and feel the conditions in which he was born.

The Secular Franciscan Order of Hickory gave people in this area the same chance Dec. 10 at the Catholic Conference Center. Members of the group organized a live nativity called "The Crib at Greccio," similar to the one that St. Francis did himself, with the help of the choir and youth group from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Newton.

Although St. Francis did his re-creation in a cave or grotto on the side of a mountain, the nativity here was held in front of the barn on the conference center property. Denny Schell played the part of St. Francis, and presented the Prayer of St. Francis with only one loud interruption from a braying donkey. Two donkeys, a cow, and several sheep and goats were part of the re-enactment.

Many people brought their children to watch the program and to see the animals. The choir and the audience sung several Christmas hymns, and the audience recited the Our Father one phrase at a time, alternating with Schell reading comments according to St. Francis that expanded on the meaning of each phrase of the prayer.

Bill Brockhoff, a member of the Secular Franciscan Order, gave a short history of St. Francis and the Crib at Greccio. He said that St. Francis sang the gospel account of the birth of Jesus in the original re-creation.

Members of the youth group of St. Joseph's played the other parts in the nativity. Several of them were dressed as shepherds or Franciscan brothers. Maria Schell played the part of Mary, Robert Cusick played Joseph, and Nicholas Sadowski was a quiet but wide-awake baby Jesus.

The program ended with a procession into the conference center for refreshments. Those present sang "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World" on their way inside.

This is the first time that the Secular Franciscan Order has done a full-scale presentation of the Crib at Greccio. "It will be the first of many, we hope," said Frank Cogger, a member of the order. ▾

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

A nativity re-creates the scene of Christ's birth as envisioned by St. Francis.

Bishops Speyrer, Snyder resign; other bishops named

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignations of Bishops Jude Speyrer of Lake Charles, La., and John J. Snyder of St. Augustine, Fla. Auxiliary Bishop Edward K. Braxton of St. Louis, one of 12 active black Catholic bishops in the United States, was named to succeed Bishop Speyrer in Lake Charles. No successor was immediately named for St. Augustine. Pope John Paul also appointed Msgr. William F. Malooly, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, as auxiliary bishop for Baltimore. The appointments were announced in Washington Dec. 12 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Delegation marks churchwomen's murders in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (CNS) — El Salvador is a country of poverty and violence, but also "full of energy and spirit," said members of a delegation of U.S. women religious to El Salvador to commemorate the 1980 murders of four U.S. churchwomen by the Salvadoran military. "El Salvador is at a strange stage in its development since the end of the civil war (eight years ago)," said Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Nancy Sylvester, a member of the presidency of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, in an interview with Catholic News Service. "It is a stage at which the majority of the people have been left out of the benefits," she added. The legacy of the 12-year war has been "poverty and economic violence," Sister Sylvester said, but it has also been one of "energy and passion."

WYD 2002 organizers plan accommodations for youths

TORONTO (CNS) — Organizers for World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto have already had requests for accommodation for more than 200,000 young people. "These requests represent people from Nunavut (a Canadian territory) to South Africa," said Paul Kilbertus, communications director for the WYD 2002 national secretariat, based in Toronto. The 200,000 informal requests mostly come from tour operators who are estimating the number of pilgrims they will deliver to Toronto's doorstep, and are not yet a hard number, Kilbertus said. However, World Youth Day organizers are expecting more than twice that number. A formal registry for accommodation requests was to be established on a World Youth Day Web site before spring 2001.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Re-creating the journey of the Magi

A caravan of travelers riding camelback arrives at the Jordanian border in route to Bethlehem Dec. 10. The 13 travelers, who began the journey of the Wise Men from the east near Baghdad, Iraq, are due to arrive in Bethlehem Dec. 25. The caravan includes American, European and Arab nationalities. The journey was organized by the Holy Land Trust and the Council of the Middle East Churches.

Bishop McHugh, pro-life leader, dies of cancer at 68

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. (CNS) — Bishop James T. McHugh, who had headed the Diocese of Rockville Centre since early January, died of cancer Dec. 10. He was 68. A leader in the U.S. bishops' pro-life efforts, Bishop McHugh also had represented the Vatican at international meetings and at the United Nations on population and pro-life matters. His funeral Mass was scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Center, with Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston as the chief celebrant and homilist. Diagnosed with cancer in August 1999, he died peacefully at his residence, "surrounded by friends and family," said Joanne C. Novarro, director of public information for the Rockville Centre Diocese.

Catechists must be in harmony with church, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To fulfill their mission in the Catholic Church, catechists must live their faith and must present the faith to others in complete harmony with official church teaching, Pope John Paul II said. "It is not enough to have an intellectual knowledge of Christ and his Gospel," the pope said Dec. 10 during a Mass concluding the two-day Jubilee for Catechists and Religion Teachers. "To believe in him means to follow him," the pope told the 7,500 jubilee participants and thousands of others gathered for the Mass in St. Peter's Square.

Cardinal Law restates right to religious freedom

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that still is not respected for hundreds of millions of people worldwide, said the head of the U.S. bishops' International Policy Committee. Boston Cardinal Bernard F. Law, committee chairman, said in a Dec. 7 statement, "Religious freedom is not an arbitrary and subjective right but is one that defines fundamentally what it means to be human. Freedom of conscience and the freedom of individuals and religious bodies to practice their religion without external coercion are intimately connected to other fundamental freedoms." The cardinal's statement was released in Washington to mark the 35th anniversary of the Declaration on Religious Freedom ("Dignitatis Humanae"), a major document of the Second Vatican Council promulgated on Dec. 7, 1965.

Lutheran, Anglican, Catholic leaders meet on authority

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Episcopal authority is a gift received through God's grace and should not be confused with power, agreed the six bishops who took part in the Dec. 1-2 Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic conference in Arlington. "The all-too-commonly accepted concept of authority as power is inadequate," said Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb of Mobile, Ala., in one of his keynote addresses to the gathering, known as LARC. "It is important to see authority in a bishop, at least ideally, as a gift coming from God through Christ leading an individual to follow Christ more securely so that in the end he or she is brought back to the Father completely," he said.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 19
Afternoon of recollection, Mass and reception for diocesan seminarians
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 24
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

December 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

2 p.m.
Mass at Holy Angels and visit with retired Sisters of Mercy
Belmont

Diocesan planner

December

17 CHARLOTTE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., is hosting its "Festival of Lessons and Carols" today at 2 p.m. with readings and Christmas carols sung by the adult choir. For further details, call Drennan Thompson at (704) 554-7088.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order is having a covered-dish indoor Christmas picnic in the St. Francis Room from 3-6 p.m. today at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the recently added office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

22 SWANNANOA — Father Andrew J. Latsko, pastor, and the congregation of St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, invite everyone to their holiday season Masses and activities. There is an Advent penance service at 7 p.m. tonight and Masses on Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m., midnight Mass and 10 a.m. Mass on Dec. 25 with a dinner at noon on Christmas Day. There is also midnight Mass on Dec. 31 and on Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact the church office at (828) 686-8833.

23 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Basketball Tournament is taking place at 9 a.m. at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., and at Holy Trinity Middle School, 3100 Park Rd. The championship game is being held at CCHS, and the Christmas Party is taking place after the game. For more details and to register by Dec. 15, call Jennifer Johnson, alumni director, at (704) 543-9118.

24 LEXINGTON — The holiday schedule for Our Lady of the Rosary

Christians, Muslims in Bethlehem march for peace

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — For the first time in almost two months Manger Square and the streets of Bethlehem were filled with people after dark as several hundred people participated in a candlelight march to protest Israeli-Palestinian clashes.

"In the last few months Bethlehem has been dead after 4 p.m. because fear has captured the life of the people," said Viola Raheb of the International Center of Bethlehem, which with the Christian Churches of Bethlehem and the National and Islamic Emergency Committee organized the march.

"This march is a sign that we will not let fear and anger take away our lives. We will take back our streets," Raheb said.

During this Christmas season, said Raheb, when Christians around the world think of the Bethlehem of 2000 years ago, the demonstrators hope people will also remember the Bethlehem of today.

> **"Christmas is part of our religious life and we can't really even mention canceling Christmas."**

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser, along with Christian and Muslim religious leaders, led the march. Nasser said the city would have only "minimal" celebrations during Christmas, involving the traditional religious processions.

CNS PHOTO BY MIKE DUBOSE COURTESY UNITED METHODIST NEWS SERVICE

A delegation of U.S. Christian church leaders join an interfaith procession for peace through the streets of Bethlehem Dec. 10. From left are Episcopal Bishop Vincent Warner, Patti Browning, Episcopal Bishop Edmund Browning and Evangelical Lutheran Bishop Herbert Chilstrom.

"We are condemning very strongly what is happening in Palestine and we are calling upon the U.N. to take resolutions very quickly and to send in (forces), not just observers, ... until we can restart the negotiations," he said before the start of the march.

"Christmas is part of our religious life and we can't really even mention canceling Christmas. If we cancel Christmas it is like canceling our own identity but we will have it with a lower profile," he said.

Joining the march were participants in a 27-member delegation of the New York-based National Council of Churches visiting the area on a fact-finding mission.

"We come that the days of sufferings will be ended and the Palestinian people will be free. ... We think that it is a good and just thing that Palestine should be an independent state and that the city of Jerusalem should be an open and shared city," a representative of the delegation told the gathering at the conclusion of the march at Manger Square. Muslim worshippers from the nearby mosque mingled with the demonstrators.

The delegation also met with Latin-rite Patriarch Michel Sabbah in Jerusalem, who told them what is needed is not people who take sides, but those who can see both sides and help work for justice.

He called for "another vision" moving away from the increasing violence, but said that the Palestinians are determined to continue their struggle for freedom, and that could take years.

"The peace of the region is in the hands of Israel alone," he said. "If we have peace it will be thanks to the Israelis. If we have no peace, it will be because of the Israelis." ▼

U.S. ecumenical delegation urges end to violence

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A U.S. Christian ecumenical delegation of more than 20 visiting the Holy Land called on Israelis and Palestinians to cease all acts of violence and immediately return to the negotiating table.

"We grieve for all the victims, Palestinian and Israeli. We mourn each precious life lost in the violence of recent weeks," said the delegation in its final statement, issued Dec. 12 following a five-day fact-finding mission.

"As we love mercy and seek to be worthy of receiving it, so we extend our prayers and consolation to the afflicted and the bereaved. ... We plead for an end to the cycle of violence that threatens to spin completely out of control," it said.

The situation on the ground is much more desperate than that which is portrayed in the U.S. media, said Marianist Brother Stephen Glodek, president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men. He noted the escalating violence and the isolation of the Palestinians.

The delegation of more than 20 participants met with Palestinian and Israeli political and religious leaders and traveled to the Bethlehem area and Gaza to meet with Palestinian families. Delegation members represented the National Council of Churches, the United Church of Christ and the Armenian Apostolic, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Greek Orthodox, Lutheran, Mennonite, Presbyterian, Quaker and United Methodist churches.

"We have seen the impact of Israeli settlements that strangulate and isolate the Palestinian people from one another. ... We have seen the effect of the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs on the lives of Palestinian families with its accompanying poverty and hunger. We have heard the terror in the voices of Israeli Jews and Palestinian Christians and Muslims alike," they said. ▼

Church, 619 S. Main St., is as follows: Dec. 24 - A birthday cake to Jesus Mass is being held at 5 p.m. including a nativity pageant, and a Spanish Mass is being held at 7 p.m. At 11:30 p.m. there is a congregational sing-along of Christmas carols followed by an adult living nativity pageant prior to midnight Mass with a reception after Mass; Dec. 25 - Mass is being held at 11 a.m.; Dec. 31 - the Feast of the Holy Family is being celebrated with a family liturgy and a special family blessing at 10 a.m. with a Spanish Mass for families at 1 p.m. The New Year's Eve Vigil Mass at 9 p.m. with a party following the liturgy; Jan. 1 - 11 a.m. Mass

28 CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Church Respect Life Committee invites everyone to join them in remembering America's "Holy Innocents," the nearly forty million aborted unborn children since the legalization of abortion through Roe vs. Wade. This Mass, held at 6828 Old Reid Rd. and celebrated by Monsignor William Pharr, and the rosary for life are in remembrance of today's Feast of the Holy Innocents, the children killed by King Herod. For further details, call the church office at (704) 554-7088 or Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

31 MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, invites everyone to "pray out the old, and pray in the new" by ringing in the new year in silence, celebration and prayer. The evening begins with supper at 7:30 p.m. tonight followed by a conference, faith sharing, quiet prayer, midnight Mass and morning brunch. For reservations, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

January

4 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, is meeting tonight in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church at (336) 724-0561 for details.

5 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts Eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and Eucharistic Holy Hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — There is a Latin Mass at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., tonight at 7 p.m. followed by adoration and benediction. For details, call the church office at (336) 884-0244 or (336) 884-5858.

10 CHARLOTTE — Everyone is invited to the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. to learn how to discern what is real and important about one's unique grief experience and what are merely unrealistic expectations based on cultural myths. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

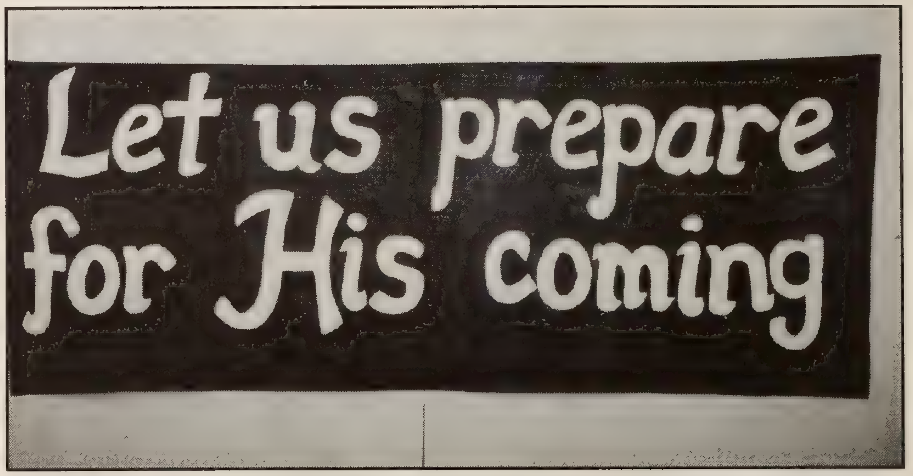
Ongoing

GUILFORD COUNTY — The Guilford County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, has celebrated its first year as a division and are looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them. Meetings are evenings on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Also, a ladies' division is forming, and members are needed. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Holy Trinity decorates the doors to Christ for the holidays

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer



Photos by Alesha M. Price

CHARLOTTE — Walk down the halls of Holy Trinity Middle School this holiday season, and you will find biblical illustrations and representations of various diocesan and national agencies donning the classroom doors. Construction paper bows, pictures shaped into collages, crepe paper flowers and handwritten Scriptural passages are serving as decoration on the normally bare wooden doors for Advent.

One of the diocesan teacher in-service presentations on Oct. 27 from John Carr, secretary of the bishops' Department of Social Development and World Peace, inspired teachers and Gerald Healy, principal, to carry Carr's ideas into their school during the Advent season. Carr spoke to teachers and principals about incorporating social justice teachings into Catholic school education.

Coincidentally, this year's school theme concerns peace and justice issues, and the decorated doors are a way of making those concepts come to life for the students.

"We want to challenge the kids' thoughts about why there are poor people, why the aged are neglected. We want to make them reflect on that through decorating the doors and the accompanying prayers," said Healy. "We are trying to educate them in becoming advocates for justice because there is a need for committed young adults to make a difference, and hopefully, we can plant some seeds."

The students, who are separated into groups in every grade level, were assigned themes. The sixth graders depicted the Beatitudes, and the seventh graders illustrated the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The eighth graders decorated their doors according to various organizations and avenues of outreach that put peace and justice into practice including the House of Mercy, Amnesty International, Campaign for Human Development and others.

"The Beatitudes are the basis for issues of peace and justice, and the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are the details of the Beatitudes," said Carol Belle, eighth-grade history and religion teacher and one of the door-decorating committee members. "We are incorporating the door themes and the issues of peace and justice into our lessons so that we can help students understand what it means to live a Christian life to the fullest."

Traditional Christmas colors are splashed onto most of the doors through several means, and some are decorated with other colors according to the theme. Green paper, shaped into hands, compose Advent wreaths on a couple of doors, while one door reminds students to "change your attitude with the Beatitudes."

Windows with letters and pictures taped to send the message, "If you want peace, work for justice," serve as the "door" for an upstairs library classroom without one.

Decorating doors is not a new activity for the eighth graders who usually decorate doors with Advent themes during this time of year, but this project involves the entire student body. Students have read Scripture, poems and other writings, based on the door themes, over the PA system and have chosen their biblical passages related to their doors to discuss during class, explained Belle.

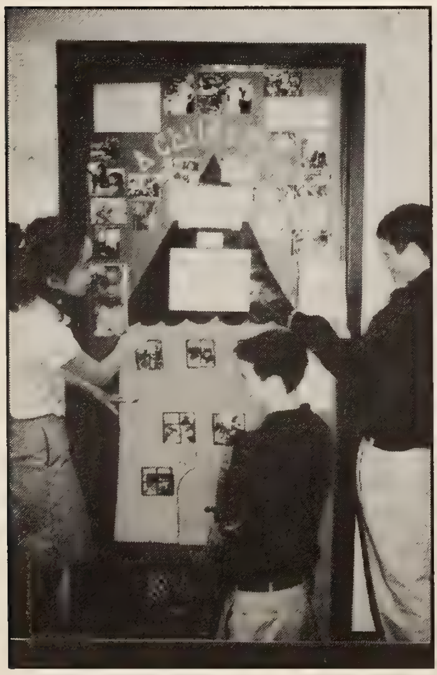
The school project fostered a sense of oneness among the students through the three grade levels and helped to prepare them for the season of Advent. One seventh-grade group was so inspired by the doors that they began a canned goods collection to be donated to a local organization.

Eighth grader Van Doan, 14, helped to design her group's door based on A Child's Place, an organization providing support services for homeless children to help them stay in class through aid from designated schools. Doan called and asked for pictures and brochures that they pasted around a large schoolhouse created to depict school in session. "Decorating the door makes you realize that many kids aren't as blessed as we are, that they don't have the luxuries that we have. This helps us to appreciate how much we have."

Eleven-year-old Michael Troy and several other sixth graders decorated their door to accompany their theme, "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they are the children of God," one of the Beatitudes. Students made their door into a collage using construction paper and cutouts relating to the holy words. "It was hard cutting out the pieces and making them fit, but this was really fun. It felt like you were doing a lot to help out your classroom," said Troy. "This showed how loving and caring people can be and tells me to be more Jesus-like."

Healy hopes that this project will put his students into a giving frame of mind for the Advent and Christmas seasons. "The kids really got into decorating the doors, and this sends them a different message at Christmas. Hopefully, this gets them to reflect and act, and what a better way to spend the holidays than helping others." ▾

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.



From left to right, eighth graders Van Doan, Tim Rodono and Bryan Sample, all 14, from Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte spruce up and admire their door dedicated to A Child's Place.

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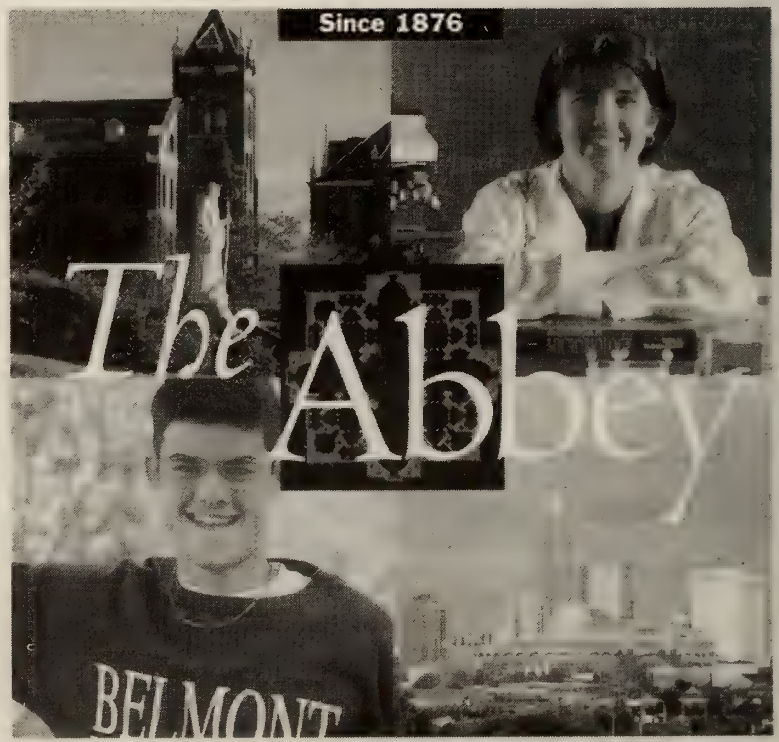

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From Eden to Asheville: Pilgrimage lights up Advent

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Pilgrimages are a hot item in the tour business, and adventurers have been exploring them since Old Testament times. The Catholic Encyclopedia defines a pilgrimage as "a journey to a sacred shrine or sanctuary for a religious motive."

On Dec. 5, 30 men and women from St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden and Holy Infant Church in Reidsville created a day filled with prayer and fellowship when they traveled to the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville for a Holy Year pilgrimage within the Diocese of Charlotte.

The term basilica is a special designation given by the Holy Father to certain churches because of their antiquity, dignity and historical importance. One of three diocesan-designated Jubilee 2000 sites, the Basilica of St. Lawrence was designed and built by the renowned Spanish architect Rafael Guastavino.

After celebrating Mass for the members of his parishes, Father Christopher Davis, former parochial vicar at St. Lawrence, delighted the group with a personal tour of the Basilica. Father Davis now serves as administrator of Holy Infant in Reidsville and sacramental minister at St. Joseph of the Hills in Eden. Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara is administrator at the Eden church.

Photo by Wendy E. Murray

Pilgrims from Eden take a look at the front entrance of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville Dec. 5 during a Jubilee Year journey to the historic church. Thirty men and women from two of the diocese's easternmost parishes made the pilgrimage to Asheville.

"This pilgrimage is an opportunity for me to practice my faith," said Marion Steed, director of faith formation at St. Joseph of the Hills. "Retreats like this one help me get energized so I can pass on my renewed enthusiasm to others and help them to know their faith better."

Richard Brooks, 17, a transplant from California and the only teenager on this pilgrimage, said, "When I first came to North Carolina, I found my church and the priests to be more caring. .... At my first Mass, I was invited to bring up the gifts. Since that time, I've been involved in so many parish activities, and my faith has grown a lot stronger.

"I chose to come because I wanted to learn more about the architecture of churches like the Basilica."

The Very Reverend Father Wilbur Thomas, rector of the Basilica said, "On a pilgrimage, some sacrifice can be made. It could be the time taken away from something else or the money used to go on the pilgrimage."

In order to gain an indulgence, certain conditions must be met. One must travel to a designated church, participate in Mass or another liturgical celebration and spend some time in meditation ending with the "Our Father," a profession of faith and prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"All receive the 'grace' of the walk," said Father Thomas.

Frieda Christly, a non-Catholic pilgrim accompanying her husband, Gene, commented, "I admire the faithfulness Catholics have about going to church. I would love to participate by receiving Communion. I came on this trip because I'm seeking out Catholicism, and all this is new to me."

Joan Sheridan said she couldn't pass up the chance: "The Stations of the Cross in the Basilica remind me of St. Mary's Church in Cortland, N.Y., where I grew up."

The impact of 15 pilgrimages to the Basilica in this Jubilee year has been profound, noted Father Thomas.

"We know this is a special place. With the Papal designation, it has helped our parish to contribute to the spiritual uplift of travelers coming here. We are happy and proud of this recognition.

"In its ornateness, this church has so much of our Catholic faith imaged in the building. Signor Guastavino designed it with statues and paintings that point to the earliest times of Christianity. When visitors walk in, they encounter our history. We are charged with celebrating the word of God and the sacraments," said Father Thomas.

"This pilgrimage is an opportunity for me to practice my faith," said Marion Steed, director of faith formation at St. Joseph of the Hills. "Retreats like this one help me get energized so I can pass on my renewed enthusiasm to others and help them to know their faith better."

The other Jubilee pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Charlotte are St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte and Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro.

Just before departure for a nearby luncheon meal, Richard Brooks said, "I am awed by its magnificence and glad I came to see it." ▾

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Kenyan bishop stresses example of late missionary priest

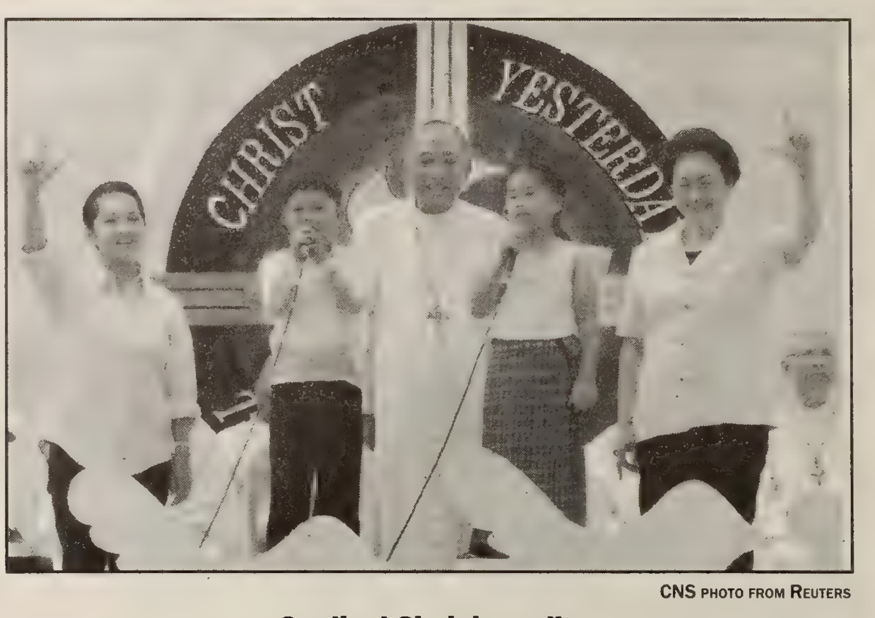
NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The church, Christians and all Kenyans must follow the example of late U.S. Mill Hill Missionary Father John Kaiser and fight against unjust laws and actions, Bishop Colin Davies of Ngong said at a Mass to commemorate Human Rights Day. "Father Kaiser's death has had an impact on all citizens," Bishop Davies said at the Dec. 10 Mass celebrated near the site where Father Kaiser's body was found shot to death in August. "The death of Father Kaiser should be a wake-up call to say that 'enough is enough!' We don't lack ideas, we lack courage," Bishop Davies told the gathering.

Pope recognizes election of new Melkite patriarch

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II formally recognized the election of Melkite Archbishop Loutfi Laham of Jerusalem as the new Melkite patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem and All the East. The new patriarch, elected Nov. 29 by the Melkite synod, has taken the name Gregoire III. Upon his election, Patriarch Gregoire sent a formal request to Pope John Paul asking for "ecclesiastical communion," a recognition of his election as head of an Eastern Church in union with Rome. Pope John Paul accepted the patriarch's request in a Dec. 5 letter, offering his prayers for Patriarch Gregoire's new ministry, the Vatican said Dec. 9.

Labor priest receives Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — At 84, Msgr. George Higgins is no longer the robust young cleric who came out of Chicago 60 years ago to begin a ministry as America's "labor priest." Though he is frail and stooped, with hearing and sight problems, he still has the strong, confident voice and keen mind that he focused faithfully on the condition and needs of ordinary working people in this country and around the world. On Dec. 3, Msgr. Higgins received the 2000 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award given by the Diocese of Davenport and a consortium of area institutions to people prominent in the work for justice and peace. Davenport Bishop William E. Franklin presented the award during an afternoon ceremony at St. Ambrose University, with about 100 people in attendance.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Cardinal Sin joins rally

Cardinal Jaime Sin joins Philippine Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (left) and former President Corazon Aquino during a rally calling on President Joseph Estrada to resign Dec. 7 in Manila. The Philippine Congress had started an impeachment trial of Estrada on corruption charges.

Cardinal tells Philippine president not to be afraid to resign

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila advised Philippine President Joseph Estrada Dec. 7 not to fear the truth even if it means accepting the message that he has lost the moral ascendancy to govern as president. "Mr. President, do not be afraid to resign, I will take care of you. Resignation is not defeat, resignation is a heroic act and only brave men can do that," Cardinal Sin said at a Dec. 7 Mass just before Estrada's impeachment trial opened in the Senate. "I hope you answer personally our senators. We want the truth from your lips and not through your lawyers," the cardinal added during his homily.

Newark archbishop says he sees order in 'disorder of our world'

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (CNS) — Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, soon to be archbishop of Washington, told a Jersey City audience that he sees "order in the disorder of our world." His travels around the world on behalf of religious freedom and human rights have left him "impressed and amazed at God's beauty" and saddened "by the meanness of the behavior of some of his creatures," he said. But he emphasized that "what is good will win out" and described places "where people are risking everything they have to make things right." Archbishop McCarrick's address to a standing-room-only crowd at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church was a "bitter-sweet sweet" moment, he said, as it reminded him of how many friends he has made throughout the state of New Jersey.

No monopoly on martyrdom, conference speakers say

ROME (CNS) — The Catholic Church does not have a monopoly on martyrdom, participants in a Rome conference said. Two priests underlined the need to recognize martyrs of other religions, as well as those who gave their lives not for their faith but for their political views or their belief in peace. "We do not have the right to hijack the entire meaning of the term for ourselves," said Comboni Father Nazareno Contran. Father Contran spoke Dec. 5 at a conference on African and Asian martyrs, part of a Holy Year 2000 series of conferences on martyrs sponsored by the Legionaries of Christ.

Gunfire greets arrival of plane carrying new Burundi nuncio

ROME (CNS) — Before Archbishop Michael A. Courtney even set foot on Burundian soil, he got a reception which was "hotter than one would expect." The 55-year-old Irish prelate, who is the Vatican's new nuncio to Burundi, was a passenger on the Sabena airline flight which was hit by machine-gun fire Dec. 4 as it was about to land in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital. Archbishop Courtney was not injured, but another passenger and a crew member were, although not seriously, according to a spokesman for Sabena.. The plane was hit by six bullets. "I heard metal cracking as we were about to touch down," Archbishop Courtney told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Dec. 5.

New head of Newfoundland church committed to justice, ecumenism

OTTAWA (CNS) — The newly appointed leader of the Catholic Church in Newfoundland is known as an articulate and unpretentious national church figure and a strong believer in social justice and ecumenism. Bishop Brendan M. O'Brien, 57, was named by Pope John Paul II Dec. 4 as the archbishop of St. John's, Newfoundland, succeeding Archbishop James H. MacDonald, who retired at the age of 75, as required by the church. The Ottawa-born Archbishop O'Brien was the first Catholic bishop to be elected as vice president of the Canadian Council of Churches. The Catholic Church in Canada had long been an associate member of the CCC but became a full partner in 1996.

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Parishes pray for life during night centered on Mary

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BISCOE — In the late-night hours during a weekend honoring Mary, Gabriel Cavarjal knelt before the Blessed Sacrament and prayed. A parishioner of Our Lady of the Americas Church in Biscoe, Cavarjal joined faithful across the United States in a nationwide prayer service for life.

The evening of Dec. 8 and early morning of Dec. 9 was observed as the National Night of Prayer for Life in honor of the unborn. The prayer service, which ran from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, included eucharistic adoration, recitation of the rosary, silent meditation and Benediction. From midnight to 1 a.m. EST, participants across the country joined for an hour of unity during which they prayed at the same time for the end of abortion.

The service took place on the night Catholics observe as the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, which spans into the feast of Blessed Juan Diego the next day. Both feasts concentrate in some way on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

File photo by Jimmy Rostar

Eucharistic adoration was part of the National Night of Prayer for Life.

"The assaults against life are so pervasive and have made their way into the mainstream of our society," said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the diocese. "We have become emotionally and spiritually anesthetized to the disregard for human life. The only remedy is a change of heart, and the Night of prayer for Life offers us an opportunity to pray for hearts to be changed."

The diocesan Respect Life Office invited parishes across western North Carolina to participate in the National Night of Prayer for Life.

"The assaults against life are so pervasive and have made their way into the mainstream of our society," said Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the diocese. "We have become emotionally and spiritually anesthetized to the disregard for human life. The only remedy is a change of heart, and the Night of Prayer for Life offers us an opportunity to pray for hearts to be changed."

A number of parishes across the diocese participated.

In Biscoe, where the Catholic community is predominantly Hispanic, the Night of Prayer bridged the spiritual and the cultural.

"Adoration in the context of celebrating life and honoring Mary is important because the holy Eucharist *is* Jesus, and Jesus is the fountain, source and fullness of life," said Cavarjal, a faithful eucharistic adorer, through a translator. "Mary was conceived without sin according to our doctrine, and she brought life in Jesus. She gave *us* life in Jesus."

Father Fidel Melo, administrator at Our Lady of the Americas Church, said the opportunity to gather for adoration and prayer was noteworthy for a church community that finds importance in blending faith with culture.

"Our culture is very family-oriented, and we celebrate life a lot," said Father Melo. "Most of our parishioners here are from a Hispanic background, and many of them used to participate in their home countries in adoration. For them, they had a chance to reunite with that prayer of adoration."

"Participation in the National Night of Prayer for Life was very meaningful for us because we recognized the value of life, and we celebrated life as a gift that comes from the Lord," he said.

He spoke of the importance the church has in Hispanic culture, and he noted that many milestones in a person's life occur within a parish setting. "All their celebrations are, in a sense, thanksgiving to God because of life," he said. "They don't do any of their celebrations without first coming to church."

Pope Pius IX proclaimed the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception in 1854. The doctrine states that Mary, by a unique gift of grace and privilege from God, was preserved from the stain of original sin from the moment of her conception.

The feast of Juan Diego commemorates the 16th-century Mexican Indian who received four apparitions from Mary in 1531 in Guadalupe, near Mexico City. In her appearances, Mary reportedly instructed Diego to tell the local bishop to build a church on the hill where she appeared. A life-size, painted figure of Mary appeared on Diego's cloak, convincing the bishop of the genuineness of the apparitions.

The events did much in promoting evangelization in a land where the church was just taking root. Only a decade before the apparitions, Franciscan missionaries were permitted by the Holy See to preach in the region. The Diocese of Mexico had been established in 1530, just a year before Mary was to appear to the peasant.

"Mary visited Mexico and brought hope for the life of people at the beginning of a new country," said Cavarjal.

Pope John Paul II beatified Juan Diego in 1990. His cause for sainthood is ongoing.

In 1846, Mary was proclaimed patroness of the United States under the title of Immaculate Conception. St. Pius X designated Mary patroness of Latin America in 1910, and Pope Pius XII named her patroness of the Americas in 1945.

"Adoration in the context of celebrating life and honoring Mary is important because the holy Eucharist *is* Jesus, and Jesus is the fountain, source and fullness of life."

— Gabriel Cavarjal

To have a national prayer service on days honoring Mary while praying before the eucharistic Jesus is significant, supporters say.

"The ongoing tragedy of abortion reveals that our society has lost sight of what motherhood means," said Father Frank Pavone, national director of the organization Priests for Life, in a statement this fall. "The one person who can remind us again is the Blessed Virgin Mary. Abortion also demonstrates that we have lost sight of what freedom means. We rediscover its meaning in the Eucharist." ▼

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

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Vatican official calls for more just relationship with animals

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Human dominion over the natural world must not be taken as an unqualified license to kill or inflict suffering on animals, a Vatican official said.

The cramped and cruel methods used in the modern food industry, for example, may cross the line of morally acceptable treatment of animals, the official said in an article Dec. 7 in the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

The article, titled "For a More Just Relationship With Animals," was written by Marie Hendrickx, a longtime official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

She said that in view of the growing popularity of animal rights movements, the church needs to ask itself to what extent Christ's dictum, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you" can be applied to the animal world.

The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" says it is legitimate for humans to use animals for food and clothing, and to domesticate them for work or leisure.

But Hendrickx pointed out that a small but significant change in wording was made between the catechism's first edition and its official Latin edition on use of animals for medical experimentation. Such experiments are now called morally acceptable only if they contribute to caring for or saving human lives.

Moreover, the catechism says that in general it is "contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly."

Hendrickx said the question today is whether "the right to use animals to feed oneself implies raising chicken in cages that are each smaller than a notebook."

"Or raising calves in boxes where they cannot move or see the light of day? Or pinning down sows with iron rings into a nursing position so that piglets can suck the milk without ever stopping, and thus grow faster?" she said.

Likewise, she questioned whether the right to dress oneself with animal skins meant it was morally acceptable to let fur-bearing creatures die slowly in traps from hunger, cold or bleeding.

Hendrickx also questioned treatment of animals in traditional spectacles that have survived into the modern age, like bull-fighting or "throwing cats or goats off a bell-tower."

She was referring to the tradition in a Spanish town of tossing a goat from a 50-foot bell tower into a piece of tarpaulin, to mark the beginning of the festival of St. Vincent, the town's patron saint. The town gave up the practice earlier this year after years of protest from animal rights groups.

She said that spectacles involving cruelty to animals are sometimes justified as "cathartic" acts that release collective aggression. But experience shows the opposite is true: where brutal spectacles are popular, aggression only seems to increase, she said.

Hendrickx said that in applying church teaching, Catholics should remember that causing suffering to animals should be avoided unless there are serious reasons to do so. Feeding oneself or one's family is a legitimate reason, but the sole motive of profit is not, she said. ▾

Cathedral to host Christmas dinner

CHARLOTTE -- A Charlotte Christmas tradition is coming back to town: the St. Patrick Cathedral Christmas Dinner. The annual meal has been served for more than two decades here, serving countless folks who otherwise might not have a holiday dinner.

People from homeless shelters, the elderly, families traveling through town and so many others benefit from the dinner each year. Coordinators work with more than two dozen service and housing agencies in town. While the dinner is served in St. Patrick School next door to the cathedral, meals are delivered to people throughout town as well. Food and gifts are donated.

To find out how you can help with this year's dinner, call the parish office at (704) 334-2283.

Mercy, from page 1

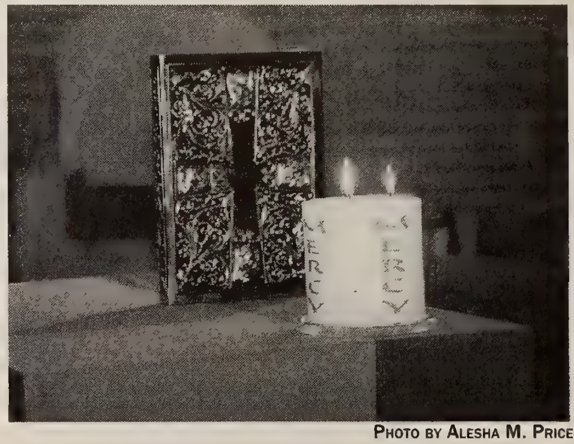

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

The Sisters of Mercy celebrate 100 years of ministry in western North Carolina this year.

the areas of health care, education and spiritual work. Those who have been touched in some way by their work and other members of the community joined the sisters for a service of thanksgiving and celebration and reception at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

Mercy Sister Carmen Cruz, a chaplain with the Mission St. Joseph's Health System in Asheville, carried a candle with the word "mercy" printed down the side and led the procession of her sisters who work and have worked across the diocese. The prayer service consisted of songs, Gospel readings, intercessions and a litany of saints and deceased sisters. Mercy Sister Mary Rosalind Picot, president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina, gave a lighthearted and emotional presentation of the history and her personal reflections about the celebration.

"One hundred years is a significant amount of time, marked by lives of people who have ministered, co-ministered and have been ministered to by others," said Sister Mary Rosalind. "We ask that God continue this good work that he has begun in us by attracting new members to the Sisters of Mercy and by blessing us with committed co-ministers."

Sister Mary Rosalind walked the attendants down a road filled with historical significance and milestones for the sister and Asheville communities. Three sisters traveled to the Asheville area in the fall of 1900 to originally begin a school, but the area desperately needed health services for those suffering from tuberculosis. This was the beginning of what was to become St. Joseph's Hospital and later St. Joseph's Health Services.

The hospital has since been sold, but the Sisters of Mercy have held a strong presence in the hospital through their ministry and through other ministries with the Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation, the parent company, of which, Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care Inc., Sisters of Mercy Family Practice, Health Designs, Sisters of Mercy Rehabilitation Services and ARP/ Phoenix, all belong.

"When we sold the hospital, we didn't go away. We are still involved in health care in a number of ways," said Sister Maria Goretti. "Many of the people we serve and have served are very appreciative that there is still a connection with the Sisters of Mercy here. I find that the reputation of the sisters up here is one of respect and appreciation, which has been building up for 100 years. Now, we here are the recipients of the fruits that our sisters before us have laid." ▾

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Conference explores restorative justice as option for system

By JOHN VAUGHAN
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

CHARLOTTE — A diverse coalition of North Carolinians is looking beyond possible legislative reform of the state's death penalty laws to ask a basic question about the nature of justice: Should it be retributive or restorative?

That is, should the criminal justice system focus mainly on punishing the offender, as it does now — or should it also try to repair injuries that crime inflicts on victims and their families, on the community and the offender himself?

That question was examined by 18 speakers at a two-day conference here Dec. 8-9. The gathering drew lawyers, crime victims, clergy, reform advocates and others to Charlotte's Great Aunt Stella Center. The theme was "Restorative Justice: Preparing to Meet the 21st Century."

Restorative justice is a community-centered approach to criminal justice. It doesn't stop at punishment of the offender but aims to heal by confronting the criminal with the people he hurt: victims or their survivors.

Stressing swift and certain punishment for the offender, restorative justice stops short of advocating extreme punishment, such as execution in capital cases. It argues, instead, for rehabilitation of the criminal once he's acknowledged the damage he caused and paid a price It cherishes a deeply Christian ideal: forgiveness.

"The whole notion of restoration is a New Testament concept," said the Rev. Claude Alexander, pastor of Charlotte's University Park Baptist Church. "It's redemption. Restorative justice begins by recognizing the essential humanity of all members of society."

For it to work, the relationships violated by the criminal must be restored as much as possible, said Dr. Thomas Beckner of the Center for Justice and Urban Development at Indiana's Taylor University. The offender, he said must recognize the suffering he imposed and help "reweave the fabric of community."

"The whole notion of restoration is a New Testament concept," said the Rev. Claude Alexander, pastor of Charlotte's University Park Baptist Church. "It's redemption. Restorative justice begins by recognizing the essential humanity of all members of society."

The community, in its turn, must recognize that criminals can change. And when offenders are released, churches, government and social agencies must stand ready with jobs, job training, counseling and other services.

Even victims have a responsibility: They must open themselves to the possibility of healing by relinquishing hate.

"Justice is not about hate or seeking power over others — it's about forgiveness," said Jennifer Cannino, a rape victim whose wrong identification of her attacker kept an innocent man in prison for 11 years.

During most of that time, she was so angry that she wished only misery for her supposed attacker. It was only when she discovered her error and received the forgiveness of her own victim that she finally escaped bitterness. At the same time, she began to be able to forgive the man who was actually guilty of the crime.

Since then Cannino has been speaking nationwide on behalf of restorative justice and a moratorium on executions.

The gathering heard from Alfred Rivera, who spent 22 months on this state's death row for a double murder he didn't commit. "I was a victim, my families were victims and the men who were murdered were victims," he said. "More innocent people will be walking that road if something isn't done to change the N.C. criminal justice system."

Bud Welch told how he succumbed to hate and alcohol for two years after his daughter, Julie-Marie, was murdered in the 1995 bombing that killed 168 in Oklahoma City. Now a death-penalty foe, he's a leader of Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

Thomas Ann Hines said her life was transformed the day her son's killer begged her forgiveness in a Texas prison. Since then she's visited thousands of prisoners and heads a program to foster healing by confronting inmates with their victims.

"People were deeply touched by the stories they heard," said Ted Frazer, chairman of the Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now, a sponsor of the conference. "We saw the violence at the core of humanity: people killed or injured, and the revenge feelings of victims. The miraculous part is the healing that comes from forgiveness."

Frazer's group spearheaded the successful drive for passage of a moratorium resolution by the Charlotte City Council. It now begins a statewide campaign to persuade legislators to halt executions while the death penalty is studied.

Meanwhile, the clock ticks on human lives. Frazer asked people to contact Gov. Jim Hunt and Gov. Elect Mike Easely, urging clemency for Bobby Lee Harris. On appeal, two N.C. Supreme Court justices recommended life imprisonment for Harris, who is borderline retarded. He's scheduled to die Jan. 19. ▾

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Book Review

Book on Aquinas runs into series of literary cul-de-sacs

REVIEWED BY MARK PATTISON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When I accepted "The Aquinas Prescription" to review, the book editor told me, "Don't say it's 'St. Thomas Aquinas for Dummies.'"

If you judge a book not on the cover but its insides, one could come to that conclusion givén the wide margins and generous spacing between lines of this relatively thin volume.

"THE AQUINAS PRESCRIPTION: ST. THOMAS'S PATH TO A DISCERNING HEART, A SANE SOCIETY, AND A HOLY CHURCH,"
by Gerald Vann. Sophia Institute Press (Manchester, N.H., 2000). 182 pp. $14.95.

But take a look at the words on those printed pages and you'd conclude that Gerald Vann's work is really saying, "St. Thomas Aquinas, you dummies!"

But Vann himself would never have made his point in that manner. For one thing, he died in 1963. This book is a reprint of a volume he wrote in 1939 and had published in 1940.

Vann, like Aquinas, was a Dominican priest. From his British perspective, he was writing before the Nazi onslaught and published this as the Nazis were swallowing huge chunks of Europe.

Little wonder, then, that Vann thought the world was sorely lacking what St. Thomas Aquinas, a doctor of the church, had prescribed.

It could be argued that Vann's interpretation of Aquinas left him in a good position to look society squarely in the eye and tell it its faults. "The human beings who are members of the church are always falling short of and betraying its perfection — as we know only too well the moment we look into our souls," he writes in the preface — a presaging of Pope John Paul II's "mea culpa" ceremony this past Lent.

In the introduction, Vann notes, "We are in the position of men having at their disposal numberless alternative means of swift and commodious transport but no place to go," also apropos in an age where travel is even swifter, but with many of the same spiritual dead ends.

He correctly identifies Aquinas' "Summa Theologica" as the "summa" of Aquinas' intellectual career. It was the only book sitting alongside the Bible at all sessions of the Council of Trent, Vann points out. "We are bound to confess the 'Summa' a perfect thing. There are no rags and tatters. There are no loose ends. There are no blind alleys from which no issue is possible," Vann says.

But, once he concludes with a brief history of Aquinas' life, crediting Albertus Magnus and St. Anselm as major influences on his thought, Vann runs into a continuous series of literary cul-de-sacs.

Vann's overarching point is that Aquinas had fused the mysticism of the Eastern church with the rationalism of the Western church, but that most of the world had pretty much ignored it, only further deepening the split between East and West and leading to the hell-in-a-handbasket situation Vann found the world in when he wrote "The Aquinas Prescription."

But the extremely circuitous writing style will make it tough sledding for many readers, and some will think it not worth the effort. Vann also gives so much space to others' laudatory sentiments about Aquinas, the reader could justly think Vann ought to have spoken for himself more often.

It makes 17th-century Dominican theologian Antonin Massoulie's quote, also included in "The Aquinas Prescription," all the more astute: "The best interpreter of St. Thomas is St. Thomas."

Pattison is media editor for Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Zephaniah 3:14-18a
Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6
2) Philippians 4:4-7
3) Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Whenever Christmas neared, my mother's requests for household help became more frequent, more urgent: "Dan, help your brother polish the silver," she'd say, or, "Honey, can you bring the groceries in?"

I loved Advent with its mystifying promise of hidden gifts, its anticipation of visiting relatives, its intoxicating aromas of once-a-year delicacies. But, perhaps distracted by all the excitement and despite intensified sensitivity to the signs of preparation, I became even less inclined to help than usual.

When, hip deep in culinary and cleaning and decorating projects, my mother would eventually give in to exasperation and lash me with guilt for my laziness, I would drag out what I thought of as the ultimate weapon in the battle for my labor.

In my whiniest, most abject voice, I would affect a look of innocent and wounded surprise and protest my righteousness in terms of affection: "But I love you, Momma." I don't know whether or not this ploy worked when I first tried it, but my memory now retains only her devastatingly effective retort: "If you really love me," she'd say, "take out the trash!"

John the Baptizer and his listeners in today's Gospel know this ultimate truth: What is in the heart is demonstrated — even made real — only by action. John's listeners ask not how we should feel or even what we should believe but, "What should we do?"

His answer is always a variation on the theme of generosity. In order to demonstrate and actualize conversion of heart, we have to give to those in need. As Advent winds down, let this question and its simple answer frame our preparation for the Christmas season. Let our focus turn itself to acts of simple generosity and quiet kindness to those, near and far, with great need. Let our gift be love.

QUESTIONS:

Who in your circle of friends and acquaintances has a need you can help meet? What is one specific way you can help those in need by lending your voice to the cause of justice in the world?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 17 - 23, 2000

Third Sunday of Advent, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18; **Monday**, Jeremiah 23:5-8, Matthew 1:18-24; **Tuesday**, Judges 13:2-7, 24-25, Luke 1:5-25; **Wednesday**, Isaiah 7:10-14, Luke 1:26-38; **Thursday (St. Peter Canisius)**, Zephaniah 3:14-18, Luke 1:39-45; **Friday**, 1 Samuel 1:24-28, Luke 1:46-56; **Saturday (St. John of Kanty)**, Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24, Luke 1:57-66

Readings for the week of Dec. 24 - 30, 2000

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45; **Monday (Christmas Day)**, Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (St. Stephen)**, Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Wednesday (St. John the Evangelist)**, 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8; **Thursday (The Holy Innocents)**, 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Friday (St. Thomas Becket)**, 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Saturday**, 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40

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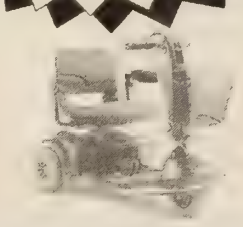

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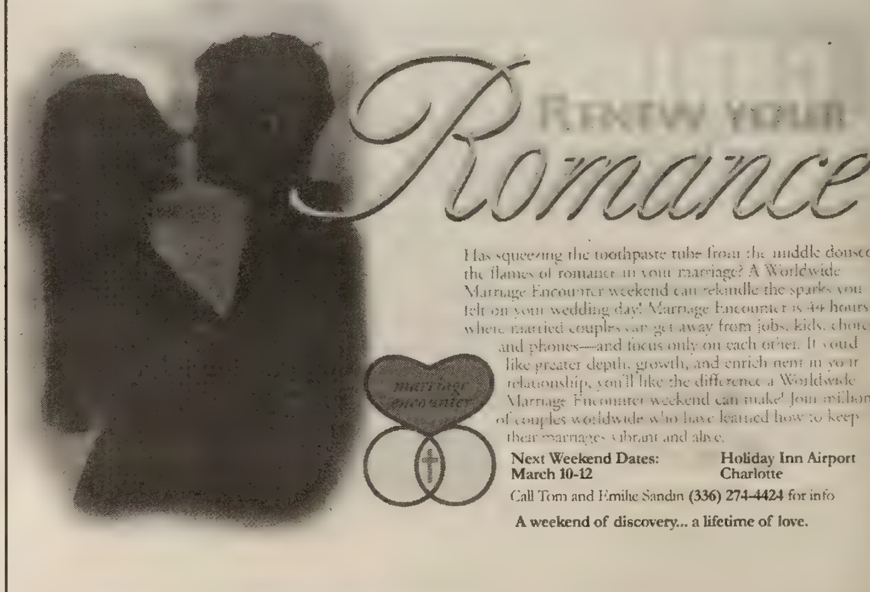

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"Mrs. Santa Claus" to air Christmas Eve on CBS network

By HENRY HERX
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Angela Lansbury stars in the holiday musical special, "Mrs. Santa Claus," to be rerun Sunday, Dec. 24, 9-11 p.m. EST on CBS.

The story offers some colorful fun as Mrs. Claus (Lansbury) takes her overbusy husband's sleigh and reindeer on a test run of a new round-the-world route the week before the Christmas of 1910.

But a storm forces her to make an emergency landing, during which Cupid's leg is hurt.

The site happens to be Manhattan's lower east side, where she joins in the activities of the polyglot immigrant neighborhood while waiting for the reindeer's injury to heal.

Calling herself Mrs. North, she helps Soapbox Sadie (Debra Wiseman) rally the women of Avenue A to join in a suffragette march, befriends motherless urchin Nora (Lynsey Bartilson) and even acts as a matchmaker.

Needing some money to pay for her room in a boarding house, Mrs. North takes a job as supervisor in a toy factory which turns out to be a sweatshop exploiting child labor.

When its owner, Mr. Tavish (Terrence Mann), refuses to improve working conditions, the dauntless Mrs. North leads the children on a strike, then organizes a citywide boycott of the firm's toys.

Meanwhile, at the North Pole, old Santa (Charles Durning) is worried that his missing wife won't return in time for his annual Christmas Eve ride.

Informed that Cupid's leg is now mended, Mrs. North hurries to the stable to depart but finds the furious Tavish there and all eight reindeer missing.

What a predicament — but, as any child knows, all ends for the best.

Scripted by Mark Saltzman and directed by Terry Hughes, the story's cheer comes mainly from the ethnic diversity of the American melting pot as Irish, German, Italian and Jewish neighbors live in harmony.

Christmas on Avenue A is a civic celebration and the musical's biggest production number is devoted to the various ethnic groups intermingling in a block-long street dance.

With music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, the songs have a Broadway ring and may remind some of Herman's more memorable compositions in such musicals as "Hello, Dolly!" and "Mame."

The real fun, of course, is Lansbury's return as a musical comedy talent whose four Tony Awards include one for her title performance in "Mame."

Though her voice is not what it was then, Lansbury puts over her songs with ingratiating charm and turns Mrs. Claus into a zestful grandmotherly figure.

The role also calls for Mrs. Claus to be a champion of women's rights, which she does in her own quiet way without need of a soapbox.

Though children may benefit from the musical's celebration of women's equality and ethnic diversity, what will hold their attention most is unhappy Nora's mischief-making and the poor urchins working in the awful sweatshop of the terrible Tavish.

Even if its tunes aren't very memorable, the musical production offers the buoyant Lansbury an entertaining vehicle which will please most members of the family.

Herx is the retired director of the U.S. Catholic conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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CNS PHOTO FROM NEW LINE

"Dungeons & Dragons"

Thora Birch stars in the fantasy-adventure movie "Dungeons & Dragons." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Thriller pushes limit with fast and furious action scenes

By GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — With nitroglycerine in their backpacks, a rescue team heads up snowy K2 in search of trapped mountain climbers in the action nail-biter "Vertical Limit" (Columbia).

Wasting no time, director Martin Campbell opens on a gorgeous Utah mesa where five climbers are jeopardized by a falling object — and two plummet to their deaths. Left hanging on one rope barely able to support them are expert climber Royce (Stuart Wilson) at the bottom, with son Peter (Chris O'Donnell) and daughter Annie (Robin Tunney) above him. Dad urges Peter cut him loose or all three of them will die. Caught between his sister's screams not to, and his father's insistence he obey or be responsible for killing his sister, Peter severs the connection.

Three years later, Peter is on a nature photography assignment in the Himalayas, where his sister is climbing K2 — the treacherous, second-highest peak in the world. Daredevil billionaire Elliot Vaughn (Bill Paxton), expert climber Tom McLaren (Nicholas Lea) and Annie fall into a deep crevasse which is then covered over by an avalanche.

They are as good as dead despite radio contact, but Peter gets five people to join him in a desperate rescue effort requiring that they transport volatile nitro to where they will blow the site open. With every hour, the threesome's chance of survival narrows — and villainous Vaughn would sacrifice the others in a heartbeat to save himself.

While the action scenes come fast and furious in thrill-a-minute style the characters are mostly stick figures. Character depth and motivation are in short supply and frankly of little interest in a movie where the visuals are spectacular and the suspense continual. The avalanche footage seems to be in 3-D and special effects of explosions and literal cliffhangers ratchet up the tension level.

A teary scene between the siblings as all looks lost doesn't work, and the theme of suicidal self-sacrifice lest others die is overworked.

Due to much intense peril, fleeting implied drug abuse, brief sex references and minimal rough language and profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says creation must be used for good of all

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Creativity even in the most humble jobs is an expression of God's creativity and must be used wisely for the good of others and the future of the Earth, Pope John Paul II said.

"The Creator has entrusted the earth to our wise and responsible stewardship," the pope said Dec. 13 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

While human beings were created for eternal life with God, their path to God runs through the world and through time, he told an estimated 35,000 people in the square where the Vatican Christmas tree had just been erected and the Nativity scene was under construction.

Too often people use creation unwisely "like domineering tyrants," the pope said. "In the end, they find themselves in a ravaged and hostile world, in a shattered and divided society."

The lack of harmony between humanity and creation, among people, and between people and God is the result of original sin and continues today because of sin, selfishness and injustice, he said.

The birth of Christ 2,000 years ago signaled the start of a renewed relationship of harmony, a relationship which requires the hard work, good will and creativity of all men and women, the pope said.

Strengthened by Christ's grace, Christians must work to fulfill God's original plan "of peace and development, of justice and solidarity, of the transformation and valuing of earthly and temporal realities," he said.

"We must continue the great adventure of humanity in the fields of science and technology, digging into the secrets of nature. We must develop — through the economy, commerce and social life — well-being, knowledge, and the victory over poverty and everything which humiliates human dignity," Pope John Paul said.

In every activity, he said, Christians must work to ensure that ethics have a priority over technology, that human beings have a priority over things and that the spiritual has priority over the material.

"Christians are called to collaborate with the Creator to realize on earth a 'human home' conforming to human dignity and the divine plan, a home where 'mercy and faithfulness shall meet, justice and peace shall embrace,'" the pope said.

Papal midnight Mass to move outdoors to accommodate crowds

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — To accommodate tens of thousands of Holy Year pilgrims, Pope John Paul II will depart from tradition and celebrate Christmas midnight Mass outdoors in St. Peter's Square, the Vatican said.

The Mass, which is broadcast around the world, is normally celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica, which can hold about 8,000 people.

But with up to 10 times that number expected to converge on the Vatican on Christmas Eve, the pope decided to risk inclement weather and hold the liturgy outside.

Guest Column

ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Children's divine inspiration

Usually when God spoke to people in biblical times, they knew it. These days, he seems to speak to us in more subtle ways, and sometimes, we have a difficult time hearing him.

Since I have had children, though, I've noticed God giving me lots of direction through them. These are moments when my children have their own divine inspirations or realizations about God. I'm sure this is God's way of prodding me to talk about him with my children more often!

I have especially noticed this with my 5-year-old daughter, Caroline. There are several instances of this in her young life that stand out in my mind.

The first one was when she had just had her third birthday, and we were preparing for Christmas. One of her teachers had given her an angel ornament that lit up when it was plugged into the Christmas tree lights. My older son was pulling out his favorite ornament, a model of astronaut Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon. This ornament also plugged into the Christmas tree lights and, when a button on it was pressed, repeated the famous words that Armstrong spoke when he took his first steps on the moon.

My son looked at the angel ornament that Caroline was holding, and said, "What does the angel say?" Before I could explain that the angel didn't talk like his astronaut did, she answered him: "She says not to be afraid."

What a wonderful opportunity to talk about Mary and the Christmas story! Unfortunately I was struck dumb at the time by the wisdom of my three-year-old. This is often the case, at least with me, when our children have these revelations. We think of great things that we could have done with our children's inspirations long after the moment has passed.

Another time, Caroline was so impressed by a Sunday school lesson in which she had learned that we are God's sheep, that she began to tell all of her friends that they were also God's sheep. She and I talked about what that meant. Thinking back on this time, it is amazing to me that my daughter, at age four, was already witnessing for God.

Sometimes I think God plays jokes on me! As we were saying grace one night, Caroline spoke up. "I think we should all hold hands while we pray," she said. I was ready to seize the moment and talk to my children about why I thought that was such a good idea, but then she completed her thought. "That way, we won't fall out of our chairs."

As my children get older, I am sure that I will get better at handling the opportunities that God gives me to nurture the Word in them. I know this will help my children to feel closer to God. These experiences also help me to feel God's presence more closely.

As I watch my children's faith grow, I have to marvel at the way God is already working in their lives. I am also just beginning to fully appreciate all that God has done for me.

Ellen Neerincx Sigmon lives in Hickory and is a regular contributor to The Catholic News & Herald.

Advent Reflection

FATHER JOSEPH KELLEHER
GUEST COLUMNIST

Advent and beyond: Being real

At this time of the year, we are painfully aware of the hustle, bustle and hoopla of the season. It is sad that our commemoration of a historical event, which occurred in such blatant simplicity, should now be re-enacted with so much complicated extravagance. Nothing could be further from the real.

It is not just commerce that is caught up in this fabricated hype. Even our churches appear to rival the Hollywood spectacular, while people are hungry and cold, in the expensive display of ornamentation to celebrate the birth of him whose self-description was "gentle and humble of heart." How removed from the real.

The Christmas event commemorated is God tangibly putting beyond question or doubt his personal, paternal, possessive love of us. When realized and lived, this is a breathtaking reality.

The Knights of Columbus at this time of the year have a slogan, a clarion call to the real: "Put Christ back into Christmas." I would suggest to do it this way: the way of deliberate simplicity.

"Deliberate" means that with purpose and conscious intent, I set about ordering my values and lifestyle with simplicity in view.

"Simplicity" means not only that I avoid the unreal, the fake, the appearance, but also the cumbersome and overdone.

For example, "gifts" that I have to give are not real gifts (which are those given for the heck of it).

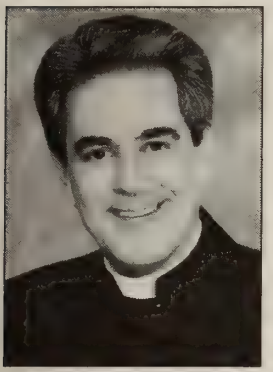
Going out of my way to oblige and accommodate others is a gift. (Think of the parking lot in the mall, where we witness so much customary violence.) Bringing sunshine into the lives of those around us who suffer silently from the absence of life-sustaining joy is a gift.

Finally, in this season, react to the ever-pervading Christmas cacophony by deliberately seeking and choosing silence — especially in prayer, where we simply listen to our loving God instead of monologous prattle.

The Christmas event commemorated is God tangibly putting beyond question or doubt his personal, paternal, possessive love of us. When realized and lived, this is a breathtaking reality.

So there's my desire for you to have a real — and thus happy — Christmas and New Year. Please pray for me that I practice what I recommend.

Father Joseph Kelleher, a retired priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, resides in Winston-Salem.



Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The Rest of Christmas

What will you be doing December 26th?

You have a number of options. You might be returning unwanted presents to stores or putting together newly-received gadgets. You could be cleaning up crushed tinsel and pine needles or removing eggnog stains from the carpet. And you will probably be returning to work, exhausted but relieved that you made it through another Christmas.

Too often for too many people, Christmas Day and the weeks leading up to it have become a burden. And that's a shame.

It's not that we have forgotten that Christmas is meant to be a time of celebration. We have lost track of just what we should be celebrating. Elements that could contribute to the spirit of Christmas are too easily transformed into something as bright and shiny as a Christmas tree ball — and just as hollow. The gift-giving tradition had its origins in the gold, frankincense and myrrh brought by wise men to a Baby.

But today, we expect to give and to get: offerings turn into acquisitions rather than tokens of love and appreciation.

And how could a vision of the Holy Family rejoicing in their first moments together help but encourage us to share this sacred time with loved ones? Still we tend to get caught up with making every get-together picture-perfect, or with socializing as an act of obligation.

What is, perhaps, truly marvelous is how often the essential joy of the holy day manages to reveal itself anyway. Maybe your aunt is retelling a family story you have heard too many times before. But this time your youngest laughs out loud, and for a moment, your spirit is light.

Maybe a card with a warm note arrives from a neighbor who has not spoken to you in years . . . or you look out the kitchen window while you are washing the dishes and see a star that dazzles and reminds you of one that appeared two thousand years ago.

Maybe we just need to recall that what we are really celebrating is the same thing that the angels and shepherds and Magi were: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

So how should we celebrate? First and last, by thinking and praying and reminding others about the newborn Child who bore in His tiny hands the gift of eternity.

This time of year, we hear holiday carols so often we may not hear them at all. One of them, "Joy to the World," has a verse that describes the heart of Christmas which can beat in us only because it first beat in the heart of Another.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders and wonders of His love.

Merry December 25th to you — and December 26th, too.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

The Bible and the Virgin Birth

Q. Our family discussion of Christmas turned to the subject of the virgin birth, or virginal conception, of Jesus. Our high-schooler said that in her class they discussed this subject and the church's teachings about it.

According to their instructor apparently, while it is church teaching, there is no support in the Bible for the belief that Jesus was conceived without a human father.

We were taught when I was young that the passage from Isaiah (7:14) refers to Christ and Mary when it says, "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son." Can we or can't we use that to prove that Jesus was conceived by Mary as a virgin?

A. First, let's be clear that the long-standing Christian belief in the virginal conception of Jesus is not totally dependent on support from Bible passages.

In fact, however, many elements in the New Testament are detected by Scripture scholars as pointing to a very early Christian belief in the virginal conception of our Lord. It's not possible to engage the subject more fully here, but today many experts would question the claim that there is no support in the Bible for that doctrine.

The book of Isaiah (actually at least three different books composed at different times) gives us rich insights into the significance of the coming of Christ. It is also true that Catholic tradition often uses those words in connection with Mary's virginity.

Several facts, however, prevent the passage from being a "proof" of the virginal conception of Jesus.

First, the Hebrew text, written about 600 years before our Lord, does not say "virgin" but "almah," a young girl. When it was translated into Greek much later, the Greek word "parthenos" was chosen, which usually does mean virgin.

It was this Greek translation, for instance, which was quoted in the Gospel of Matthew in the story of the infancy of Jesus (Mt 1:23).

Because the prophet did not actually use the word "virgin," most modern translations, working from the original texts, use the word "maiden," or "young woman," in this passage.

The (Catholic) New American Bible, for example, which you quote, does say "virgin," but a footnote explains the confusion over the exact meaning of the sentence.

Furthermore, there remains much uncertainty whether Isaiah himself intended this passage as a prophetic reference to the coming Messiah.

Quite possibly he meant them to refer to specific living people with whom he was having huge spiritual difficulties at that time of his life.

At any rate, it appears that no one, in Isaiah's time or later, understood this text as referring to the coming Messiah until it appears in the Gospel according to Matthew.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 324, Peoria, Ill. 61651.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

On the Light Side

BY DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

Ahh, the Benefits of Fruitcakes

For years I have felt a secret guilt about fruitcake. I like it.

Sure, I have tried to be like everyone else and make fun of fruitcakes — like how they show up on the atomic chart three elements to the right of lead. I have made jokes about using them for ballast in my boat and being heavier than the stoves they are baked in.

But in truth I rarely have met a fruitcake I didn't like — even the version my Aunt Shirley makes, which defies being eaten. It's not that it doesn't taste good. It's that it cannot be cut into slices. She does something in the "curing" process that turns the candied fruits into "chewy" objects even electric knives can only shred.

One does not eat Aunt Shirley's fruitcake in a genteel manner. Rather, one thunks off hunks. You can then roll them into bite-size "fruity-cake wads" about the size of Ping-Pong balls. These can, then, be popped into one's mouth. It's not pretty, but certainly effective.

My mother used to say, "If you don't behave yourself, I am going to stuff a wad of Aunt Shirley's fruitcake into your mouth."

"Says you," I'd respond under my breath. And, sure enough, 12-and-a-half seconds later it would be thunk, hunk, roll, wad and stuff.

"Mmmmmph," I would protest, pretending to be punished.

Civil authorities and riot police should consider using Aunt Shirley's fruitcake balls as a substitute for rubber bullets. They would certainly have the density to knock protesters or rioters off their feet — and then the latter would have a snack of indecipherable candied fruits in the paddy wagon.

If my Aunt Nadine's "Brandied Fruitcake" were used, the results would be a little unpredictable, however. Grandma used to claim Aunt Nadine used making and eating fruitcake as a poorly disguised excuse to "imbibe."

"I don't need an excuse," my aunt would tell her, "I only need an occasion, and since you are here, would you like a shot of fruitcake?"

Because Aunt Nadine has Italian roots, I have always been sympathetic to the theory that fruitcakes are of Italian origin because of the green and red national colors of the cherries. This does not take into account the pineapple or nuts, but maybe that has something to do with the Vatican or Sicily.

On the other hand, Irish relatives could also claim responsibility since fruitcakes on that side of the family are the color and density of high-grade peat.

Either way, I am sure fruitcakes have religious benefits in that some orders of nuns bake and sell them for fund-raisers, denying that the fruitcakes are simply bricks from an old convent that have been soaked for a couple of years in port.

And then there are the Trappists at Assumption Abbey in the Missouri Ozarks, who for years have marketed their fruitcakes as a way to support themselves. Thus, if Trappist Father Thomas Merton could belong to an order of men who in certain places make fruitcakes, I feel less guilty already.

But just out of curiosity: Does anyone know if they heat with peat in the Ozarks?

Cuba celebrates first eucharistic congress in more than 50 years

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

HAVANA, Cuba (CNS) — A recent eucharistic congress in Havana was "a historic landmark" since the last event of its kind in Cuba was held 53 years ago, said Orlando Marquez, spokesman for the Cuban bishops' conference.

The congress, held Dec. 8-10, was preceded by a eucharistic theological conference whose key speaker was Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston.

Marquez said, "We are very happy by the gifts God has poured upon us during these days of the eucharistic congress."

He said that although the congress was only archdiocesan and not national, "due to practical reasons," it had "a national flavor, because bishops and faithful from almost all dioceses attended the event."

On Dec. 8, all parishes in Havana had eucharistic adoration, and Dec. 9 the first public celebration of first Holy Communion since the Cuban Revolution was held as 2,000 children dressed in white received Communion at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Emilio Aranguren Echeverria of Cienfuegos.

Marquez said the highlight of the congress came Dec. 10 when some 5,000 people marched in a Corpus Christi procession to Havana's cathedral.

The congress was closed by Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana.

"This was provably the most important religious event held in Cuba, next to the pope's visit," said Marquez.

"Probably the most special moment in the cardinal's homily was his call to Cuban society and Cuban authorities not to be afraid of opening the doors to the church, so it can accomplish the mission given by the Lord," Marquez said. ▼

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University of Dayton center to be renamed for Bombeck

BY CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — The University of Dayton's children's center will be renamed the Bombeck Family Learning Center, honoring of one of the school's most illustrious graduates, the late humorist Erma Bombeck.

A brief ceremony was held Dec. 4 at the center, now undergoing expansion.

It will be renamed and dedicated in the fall of 2001.

Bombeck, who died at age 69 in April 1996, became a Catholic while a student at the Marianist-run University of Dayton. She met her husband, Bill, there and she graduated in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in English.

In the years following her graduation, she went on to become one of the best-loved American humorists with more than 900 newspapers picking up her nationally syndicated column, "At Wit's End." She also wrote a number of best-selling books.

The Bombeck family recently contributed $1 million to the university's Call to Lead fund-raising campaign.

The donation will go to the $3.8 million conversion of the child-care center into an early childhood learning demonstration school.

The center, which serves university employees and the wider community, currently enrolls 86 children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 6 years. After the renovation, it will be able to accommodate 126 children. ▼

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Religious Education Director: Full-time position is available at Saint Brigid Catholic Church, Alpharetta, Georgia (www.saintbrigid.org). Degreed applicant must be a practicing Catholic. The Religious Education Director will administer (design, develop, direct, and evaluate) the total parish catechetical program and provide leadership to assist the parish community in building a solid foundation for Christian living. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Benefits package included. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. Joe Corbett, Saint Brigid Catholic Church, 3400 Old Alabama, Alpharetta, GA 30022, or fax to (678)393-0071, or e-mail to fr.joe@saintbrigid.org.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

St. Jude, thank you for prayers answered and favors received. DJ

Students celebrate the jubilee year at Belmont Abbey College

By KATY VOLPONI
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

BELMONT — Campus Ministry at Belmont Abbey College celebrated the Jubilee year in a special way on Nov. 15. The date was designated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops as the day in the Jubilee year to specifically celebrate college students and Campus Ministry. It marks the 15th anniversary of the Bishop's pastoral "Empowered by the Spirit: Campus Ministry Faces the Future." Student leaders in Campus Ministry at Belmont Abbey College have been studying the pastoral and praying together on a weekly basis this past semester, as well as planning programs and events.

The team of student ministers worked with great gusto preparing the Campus Ministry center at Belmont Abbey for a festive day. Karrie Woody, RCIA minister, got balloons in bunches of red, green, blue, gold and white — the colors of the Jubilee emblem — and tied them to the pillars outside of the center. She and Chris Turner, peer/prayer minister, shopped for food and helped assemble some of the day's repast. Trays of breakfast treats, fruits, vegetables, cheese and crackers, cookies and sandwiches were laid out for visitors to partake in. Eric Nizinski, school chef extraordinaire and cafeteria worker Louise Gibson, helped with those. The cafeteria baker, Joyce Keene, did a fabulous job decorating a cake with the Jubilee emblem on it. It was delicious and beautiful.

There was an open house from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. About a hundred students, staff and monks came by to visit and bless the place with their presence. They also signed up for the numerous door prizes, which included a dozen books by Robert E. Coleman called "The Master Plan of Evangelization" donated by Lambda Gamma Xi sorority, Christian message T-shirts, mouse pads and plastic cups that had "With God all things are possible" inscribed on them and buttons advertising that "God is awesome." Mara McNulty, a sophomore, won the grand prize of the Benedictine rosary. Everyone was invited to write on the poster asking "What Am I Thankful For Today?" Father John Oetgen, O.S.B., wrote: "That I can write this."

Courtesy photo

Belmont Abbey College joined in the Jubilee Day for college students and campus ministry last month with a host of spiritual and social events.

Nicolle Bouffard, Music Minister, spent a lot of time making brightly colored fliers to post around the campus. Sharbel Pio ('00) made some very special invitations to send and post. Kara Bohlinger, Prime Time Minister and Bonnie Skok, Retreat Minister, made posters for strategic locations around campus. Karrie Woody and Chris Turner also made wonderful T-shirts for each of the team with the Jubilee emblem (with the Latin) and the names of each person and their ministry, i.e. Tom Bueschel, Liturgical Minister. On the back was a great picture of a lighthouse and a stormy shore with the Scripture verse: "Let your light shine before men that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Karrie Woody and the other ministers gave tours and told guests a little about what some of the activities available in Campus Ministry are about. Fr. Kieran Neilson, O.S.B., clowned around and made everyone laugh and feel welcome. Twice during the day, we all stopped and prayed the following prayer from Catholic Campus Ministry Association cards: "God, Our Creator and Our Love, we ask you to continue to bless us. We seek your living voice to enlighten the darkness of our hearts. May your Spirit penetrate the depths of our being and become the force which leads us to act justly, live humbly and love tenderly. We thank you for the gift of your presence, the challenge of your life, and the reality of your love within us. Amen."

At the end of the day, several of us trooped down to the Crusader room where we met Carol Brooks, Foundation, Government and Corporate Relations Director and gathered quilts and afghans to take to the Basilica for the Mass. Carol and Linda Pellerin, Abbey graduate and past employee work every Tuesday evening with students on quilts and afghans. The program really took off this year with more than a dozen men and women working diligently on projects. Nicolle Bouffard, Music Minister and proficient pianist had been working long and tirelessly on some great music. Singers Alex Larsen, Carrie Perrine and Karen Peiris were the choir of angels. Joe Klinker, sophomore and Hintemeyer scholar did an excellent job as cantor (with a little help from Victor Mraz) and playing the guitar. The monks all agreed to honor Campus Ministry and the college students by their presence in this liturgical celebration. Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., and Father David Brown, O.S.B., had been working with Victor Mraz, special celebrations minister to offer a marvelous liturgy full of Jubilee echoes in the readings, the homily and the music. The quilts gave the already beautiful Basilica an even more festive atmosphere.

That evening, a small group of students from the quilting group, Matt Tortorich and Amanda Frentz, and the Social Justice committee leader Sara Wisely, which is advised by Gayle Butterfield, Financial Aid counselor/Community Services Coordinator, Stephen Schott and Katy Volponi, director of campus ministry, went to an area in Gastonia and handed quilts and sandwiches to homeless men. Jesus went out to the poor and he respected them and loved them.

We reflected on the way back to the Abbey about where we might go if we found ourselves homeless one day and also what kind of system we can support that will keep our fellow human beings fed and sheltered. ▾

Katy Volponi is director of campus ministry at Belmont Abbey College.

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Priest misses Arctic region where he spent 58 years

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — Oblate Father Leonce Dehurtevent has done more camping than most die-hard outdoor enthusiasts.

For more than half a century, he traveled throughout the northern communities of the Northwest Territories, sometimes on dogsled, sometimes walking.

If he couldn't get to his destination before nightfall, he'd pitch a tent in the middle of nowhere. He fished every day and hunted for what he needed.

"I loved it," said the smiling 96-year-old priest. "God put me in the right place."

For 58 years, Father Dehurtevent did missionary work near the Arctic Coast, 48 of those years in Paulatuk, about 300 kilometers (186 miles) east of Inuvik.

It was in the middle of nowhere. The ground was frozen and covered with snow almost nine months of the year. In the earlier years, a boat would bring in supplies once every spring. There was no such thing as mail service.

But Father Dehurtevent couldn't imagine a better place to be. If it was up to him, he'd still be there now.

"I miss it," said Father Dehurtevent, who has lived at Placid Place, the Oblate's retirement residence, since 1996. "I still can't get used to Edmonton — it's so big."

He misses the people he worked with, some of whom often pop into Placid Place to visit when they are in town. "I baptized a lot of them, married them ... baptized their children."

Ordained in 1936, Father Dehurtevent left France for Canada a year later. Working with the Inuit, he learned the basics of their language in a year and was soon accepted within the community.

"It's easy once you speak their language," he said. "They accept you."

The blistery cold weather did not take a toll on Father Dehurtevent. He remembers his missionary work with great detail, from the routes he took with the dogsled to the way Inuit families converted their summer tents to winter lodging.

His skin does not show the signs from 50 years of tundra winds. In fact the wrinkles have been kind to Father Dehurtevent.

He has maintained his strong French accent, and sometimes alternates from English to French and back to English again when speaking with the other retired Oblates.

"It was good to be where I was. A lot of people would not like it. There were not many people around, no entertainment. You only have radio in the winter because it's better (frequency). It's a lonely place, but I never felt lonely. There were always people to see."

The people are few in the north region, but the land is vast. Father Dehurtevent and his dogsled would travel up to 100 kilometers (62 miles) just to visit one family. It was often a two-day trip in the most severe snowstorms.

"All that snow blowing around, it was easy to get lost," he said. "Yes, I got lost a couple of times, but I always managed to come back home."

In the 1960s when the Canadian government began grouping Inuit families into smaller villages with promises of housing and education, Father Dehurtevent's work got a little easier. He didn't have to travel for days to meet with families. He could easily walk from one house to the next.

Life changed for the people as well, many of them abandoning their native tongue and picking up English instead. By then the dogsled gave way to a snowmobile.

"For the first 25 years, life was very simple. It was a nice way to live. I saw things that I will never see anywhere else. The sunrise on the snow. It was so beautiful, you will never see it like that anywhere. The Northern Lights ... you see the sky vibrating with the colors — everything is so beautiful there. It was a good place for me." ▾

CNS PHOTO

O, Tannenbaum

Workers place a 109-foot tree from Austria inside St. Peter's Square Dec. 12 as the Vatican prepares for its Christmas celebrations. The pope will hold Christmas Eve Mass in the square rather than inside the basilica to accommodate tens of thousands of Holy Year pilgrims planning to attend.

Day Eight.
Today we enter Vatican City, where we will explore St. Peter's Basilica, the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel.

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Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Volume 10 • Number 15 • December 22, 2000

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Silent Night. Holy Night

CHRISTMAS BRINGS MEMORIES OF MANY GOOD [illegible] FRIENDS.

One such friend was my first pastor, Bishop John McNamara, the senior auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington. I smile when I recall how our relationship was like that of the elderly pastor and young curate in the movie "Going My Way." He had celebrated nearly sixty years as a priest when I was ordained. When he later died, a brother priest described Bishop McNamara as "having elevated our ideals of priesthood."

None could challenge his leadership in pastoral ministry. His parishioners loved him, for they recognized in him one who truly lived only "to serve others rather than being served." His whole life was centered upon Jesus.

My first Christmas as a priest can never be forgotten. The Bishop was as excited as his young curates in preparing for the celebration of the Saviour's birth. He watched with evident joy as we decorated the church and erected the manger in Our Lady's chapel.

Late in the evening on Christmas Day, I went to lock the doors of the Church. I had expected the church to be empty at that late hour. Yet, I heard someone speaking. It was my elderly pastor kneeling in front of the Christmas crib. He was pouring out his heart in prayer. I purposely kept quiet in order not to disturb him.

He knelt there in prayer for over an hour. He told God of his love for his people and their many needs they had entrusted to his prayers. Over forty-three years have passed since that night. Yet, I can still recall seeing that elderly priest kneeling before the Image of the Infant Christ while revealing the thoughts that filled his heart.

There are many joys in today's world. But it has its share of troubles. Warfare and hate continue to divide the human family. The litany of this world's evils is frightening: violence, hunger, hopelessness and racial prejudice abound. Even religions war against one another!

Where will we find that peace that angels sang of that first Christmas night? I believe that it is found when you and I have the humility to kneel and adore (as did Bishop McNamara) God living in an "infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." It takes humility to do this. It requires that we lay aside our pride and prejudice in order to recognize the Divine Child as the Father's greatest gift to our world.

You and your loved ones will be with me when I celebrate Midnight Mass and in the days that follow. God grant us the grace to understand that peace must first be within our hearts if we are to achieve peace in this world. God grant you this gift this Christmas. May the Divine Child fill your soul with his peace and joy.

And may you generously share these gifts with all whom you meet on Christmas Day and throughout the New Year.

+William G. Curlin

Bishop William G. Curlin

Catholic high school in Memphis receives gift of $1 million

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (CNS) — Bishop Byrne Middle and High School in Memphis has received a $1 million gift from an anonymous donor. "God has blessed us again," said Memphis Bishop J. Terry Steib in announcing the gift. "Our commitment to making Catholic education available in the under-served areas of our diocese has always remained a priority for us. It is a blessing to us that others see the sincerity of our commitment and want to help to make a difference for the children." The donation will be used to start an endowment fund for scholarships and financial assistance.

Church leaders pledge activism in international poverty reduction

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Church leaders from some of the world's poorest countries pledged to seek an active role in international plans for poverty reduction despite risks of manipulation or damage to church credibility. In a two-page statement concluding an unprecedented Vatican meeting, the leaders said that church officials must become more economically literate and must work harder to battle the corruption paralyzing their societies. More than 55 representatives from 19 poor debtor countries and 11 Catholic aid agencies met Dec. 3-6 at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace under the theme, "From Debt Relief to Poverty Reduction."

CNS PHOTO BY PAUL FINCH, CATHOLIC SUN

Franciscan chapel draws mall shoppers

Shoppers browse the gift and book shop Dec. 13 at the Franciscan Place located inside Carousel Mall in Syracuse, N.Y. The store also contains a chapel where Mass is celebrated three times a day.

U.S. religious leaders condemn racism in major statement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A diverse coalition of U.S. religious leaders has condemned racism as "a problem of the heart and an evil that must be eradicated from the institutional structures that shape our daily lives including our houses of worship." More than 30 faith-based organizations and denominations, including the U.S. Catholic Conference, Dec. 13 issued an unprecedented joint statement on racism during a press conference at Washington National Cathedral, the seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Leading the effort, which had been requested by President Clinton as part of his Initiative on Race, was the National Conference for Community and Justice, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews to fight bigotry and racism and promote respect and understanding.

Christians in India suspect zealots' intent to disrupt holidays

AHMEDABAD, India (CNS) — The recurrence of anti-Christian violence and Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat are part of a strategy in the western Indian state to disrupt upcoming religious holidays of minorities, some Christian leaders say. Since the anti-Christian campaign that led to major violence during Christmas of 1998, the state has been the site of more than 100 attacks for which church people blame Hindu right-wing groups.

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Next Edition:

Our next publication will be Jan. 5, 2001. The Catholic News & Herald will not publish an edition on Dec. 29.

We take this holiday opportunity to thank you, readers, for your support, and wish you and yours a blessed Christmas.

Merry Christmas from the editor and staff of The Catholic News & Herald.

Seeking Byzantine Catholics
Father Rick Rohger of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Cary, N.C., and several families in the area are looking for Byzantine Rite Catholics. If you are interested in possibly forming a Byzantine Rite mission or would like more information, please call:
Olga (704) 948-6471 or Becky (704) 566-0957

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

December 25 — 11 a.m.
Christmas Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

2 p.m.
Mass at Holy Angels and visit with retired Sisters of Mercy
Belmont

December 31
Midnight Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

January 1 — 11 a.m.
New Year's Day Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

January 3
Installation of Cardinal Theodore McCarrick
Washington, D.C.

Diocesan planner

December

23 CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Basketball Tournament is taking place at 9 a.m. at CCHS, 7702 Pineville-Matthews Rd., and at Holy Trinity Middle School, 3100 Park Rd. The championship game is being held at CCHS, and the Christmas Party is taking place after the game. For more details and to register, call Jennifer Johnson at (704) 543-9118.

24 BELMONT — Everyone is invited to attend holiday season Masses at Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St.: Christmas Eve Mass at 6 p.m. and midnight Mass, Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m. and New Year's Day Mass at 10 a.m. For details, call (704) 825-9500.

SWANNANOA — Father Andrew J. Latsko, pastor, and the congregation of St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, invite everyone to their holiday season Masses: this evening at 5:30 p.m., midnight Mass and 10 a.m. Mass on Dec. 25 with a dinner at noon on Christmas Day. There is also Mass on New Year's Eve at midnight and on Jan. 1 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact (828) 686-8833.

28 CHARLOTTE — The St. Vincent de Paul Church Respect Life Committee invites everyone to join them in remembering America's "Holy Innocents," the nearly forty million aborted unborn children since the legalization of abortion through Roe vs. Wade. This Mass, held at 6828 Old Reid Rd. and celebrated by Monsignor William Pharr, and the rosary for life are in remembrance of today's Feast of the Holy Innocents, the children killed by King Herod. For further details, call (704) 554-7088 or Diane Hoefling at (704) 541-3760.

31 LEXINGTON — The holiday schedule for Our Lady of the Rosary

2000 in Review: Month-by-month highlights

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — *Here is a month-by-month look at some of the religious news highlights of 2000:*

January

Gallup Poll of Americans finds Mother Teresa most admired person of 20th century. Government-approved church in China ordains five bishops without papal approval. Holy Land celebration of Orthodox Christmas brings unprecedented gathering of heads of 14 Orthodox churches. Pope John Paul II opposes granting of marriage rights to cohabiting couples. Cardinal John J. O'Connor, suffering cancer, marks 80th birthday. Dorm fire at Seton Hall University kills three, injures 50. Floods in Mozambique leave hundreds dead, quarter-million homeless. Pope says not even he can dissolve valid marriages. Abortion opponents hold 27th annual March for Life. Guatemalan police arrest four for 1998 murder of human rights leader Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera. Rally of Muslim militants in Indonesia turns into attack on a convent, seven churches. Illinois governor imposes moratorium on death penalty.

February

High Vatican official urges end to debates whether pope might resign. Sudan military bombs Catholic school, killing 15. Noted ecumenist, Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor is named archbishop of Westminster, England. Vatican, Palestinian Authority sign agreement on church rights. Texas Gov. George W. Bush denies anti-Catholicism charges after visiting Bob Jones University. Texas bishops ask Bush to suspend executions. Russian parliament extends deadline for religious organizations to register. Unable to visit Iraq, pope makes "spiritual pilgrimage" there. Pope visits Egypt, meets Coptic Orthodox Pope Shenouda III. Hundreds killed in Nigeria as Christian-Muslim violence spreads from North to South of country.

March

Kansas City Star's series on priests with AIDS provokes controversy. California voters say only a man-woman union is marriage. Pope asks forgiveness for sins by Christians; other bishops, leaders of other churches do likewise. U.S. bishops, AFL-CIO announce joint effort for immigration law reform. Vatican approves opening canonization cause of Dorothy Day. Father Daniel Coughlin of Chicago is first Catholic to be named House chaplain. Pope visits Israel, Jordan, Palestinian territories, prays at Western Wall in Jerusalem. Vladimir Putin is elected president of Russia. Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, resigns at age 75.

April

Several priests and nuns are attacked in northern India. House of Representatives approves Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Illinois bishops issue pastoral on racism. Cuban exiles in Miami hold daily vigils as Elian Gonzalez case heats up. Vatican official calls English version of Psalms "danger to the faith," orders removal from market. Jubilee 2000

See YEAR IN REVIEW, page 14

CNS file photo by Nancy Wiechec

Pilgrims flood Rome in Jubilee Year

A line of young people stretches beyond St. Peter's Square as pilgrims wait to enter the Holy Door during World Youth Day in August. The Holy Year drew millions of people to Rome, but the largest influx came during the international youth meeting with Pope John Paul II.

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Church, 619 S. Main St., is as follows: Today's Feast of the Holy Family is being celebrated with a family liturgy and a special family blessing at 10 a.m. with a Spanish Mass for families at 1 p.m. this afternoon. The New Year's Eve Vigil Mass is taking place at 9 p.m. with a party following the liturgy, and an 11 a.m. Mass is being celebrated on Jan. 1. Call (336) 248-2463 for further information.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, invites everyone to "pray out the old, and pray in the new" by ringing in the New Year in silence, celebration and prayer. The evening begins with supper at 7:30 p.m. tonight followed by a conference, faith sharing, quiet prayer, midnight Mass and morning brunch. For reservations, call (828) 926-3833.

January

4 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, is meeting tonight and Jan. 18 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call (336) 724-0561 for details.

HIGH POINT — There is a Latin Mass at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., tonight at 7 p.m. followed by adoration and Benediction. For details, call (336) 884-0244 or (336) 884-5858.

8 CHARLOTTE — Because of the holiday, churches in the Charlotte area are having their cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent meets tonight and Jan. 22 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 364-5431.

10 CHARLOTTE — Everyone is invited to the St. Gabriel Church Ministry Center, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. to learn how to discern what is real and important about one's unique grief experience and what are merely unrealistic expectations based on cultural myths. For details, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having their meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

11 CHARLOTTE — Adult Bible study on the Gospel of John is being offered at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., on Thursday nights from 7:30-9 p.m., beginning tonight and concluding March 1. Michael Coyle, a Franciscan University theology graduate, is leading the informative study. For more information, call the church office at (704) 536-6520, (704) 567-8322 or e-mail mecoyle@email.uncc.edu.

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Parish family gathers to mark 60 years

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — For its sixtieth anniversary, the parishioners of St. Benedict the Moor made plans befitting such a milestone. Forces of nature changed their plans.

When the predicted foot of snow never arrived on Dec. 3, organizers scrambled to reserve another date at the convention center. They booked the following Sunday.

The available date was fortunate. What got lost in the interim were significant changes to the anniversary program. Gone were the choirs, dancers and drummers. Even a local guest choir included on the revised schedule was absent.

No matter. It was a joyous time of fellowship set to the backdrop of familiar Christmas music. It was the season of Advent, and that seasonal spirit could not be broken. Intact was a parish family, gathered at the table to share the bounty. Though smaller in numbers than originally anticipated — with 150 or so attending the Dec. 10 dinner — camaraderie triumphed.

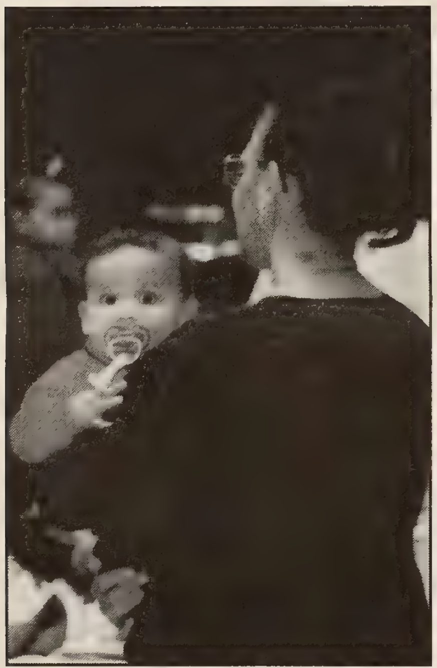

Photo by Joann S. Keane

One of St. Benedict's younger parishioners takes in the parish's 60th anniversary festivities in Winston-Salem.

"It's a great day, even though it's not everything we'd hoped for," said Jesuit Father Larry Hunt, pastor of the Winston-Salem parish. "But we're looking towards the future ... to the 75th anniversary."

Pastor since 1990, Father Hunt serves a community involved with organizations such as St. Monica's Guild, the men's club, the altar server's group, the youth group, religious education program, the choir, and a variety of commissions.

Established by the late Bishop Eugene McGuinness in 1940, St. Benedict the Moor was entrusted with the mission of serving the African American Catholic population. What evolved was a close-knit community of faith.

"The people really care about each other," said Mary Turner, a parishioner of 45 years. About 140 families call St. Benedict their home parish. "We've always been small in numbers but large in faith and caring," said Turner. "We make it that way."

A parish school served the community for three decades, closing in 1979. In the late 1950s, 250 students were enrolled in the kindergarten through eighth grade school. The St. Benedict *Mighty Bobcats* were noted for their academic excellence paired with noteworthy sports accomplishments.

"They excelled in all the fields they participated in," said Turner.

And so it was: in December, the parish gathered to remember the past and look to the future. Homage was paid to former pastors; candles were lit in memory of parishioners now deceased.

The anniversary dinner marked a near closing of the celebrations that have taken place throughout this jubilee year.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Mary Turner, a member of St. Benedict the Moor Church for 45 years, is pictured here with Dr. Evelyn Mitchell, who was a member of the planning committee.

The parish started the year of celebrations in April with confirmation. In May, a picnic; June took parishioners on a retreat weekend to Atlanta; July brought the summertime church picnic; August was a time for teens with a parish lock-in; September sizzled with a fish fry and fall festival; October gave teens an opportunity to showcase their talents through a display of their artistry.

Not to rest on their laurels, a grand finale celebration is planned for January. ▼

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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A Season Of Giving: Catholic Social Services Style

By **ALESHA M. PRICE**
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The spirit of Christmas is alive and well, a time for giving for many people who want to share their good fortune and blessings with others. Families in need all over Charlotte are reaping the benefits of the generosity of individuals, businesses, churches, schools, neighborhood groups and the work of dedicated social workers from Catholic Social Services (CSS) in Charlotte.

The Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center, as in other years, is overflowing with gifts galore as people are delivering their packages, and clients are picking up the items which will make their Christmas a true holiday this year.

"People are moved at this time of the year because this is the season of giving and receiving," said Geri King, director of CSS Charlotte. "Giving and people's generosity are the backbone of this ministry. It is this giving and generosity of people in and out of the faith community that make it possible. We are a conduit, in that, things come in, and we can send them out to those in need."

Gifts, food, clothing and gift certificates pour in from various sources almost up until Christmas Eve, and the social workers coordinate everything that comes in and goes out of their office. Clients pick up their goods, and some things are delivered to those who lack transportation or are not able to travel.

Sharon Davis, CSS social worker, received her first call this year from a family needing Christmas assistance in August, and the first calls from sponsors can come in as early as September from established and new sponsors.

The social workers begin with their own client base, families who have been helped previously, but they also receive phone calls about other needy families and referrals from parishes and other groups or individuals. Clients include the elderly, mentally and physically challenged individuals, refugees, patients from the Kidney Foundation and others, said Davis.

> **"I recently delivered gifts to a family, and the mother literally sobbed with joy because they wouldn't have had anything at all for Christmas."**
>
> — *Sharon Davis*

There exists a reciprocal relationship between client and sponsor, much like the act of giving and receiving at Christmastime.

"People are willing to do whatever we ask of them for the benefit of the clients. They ask us what our needs are, and we tell them the client wishes," explained Davis. "We provide them with the client "wish lists," which include sizes, needs, etc., and serves as a guide to assist the sponsor.

"However, we receive donations; some have donated Christmas trees, holiday hams and turkeys, grocery and department store gift certificates and other items."

"We give the new, unwrapped gifts to the clients so that they can take them home to wrap which allows them to feel a part of providing Christmas for their family," she continued.

To date, 77 bags of presents and other items have already been given out, and each client, nearly 500-750, — man woman and child — receives an average of two to three presents.

To handle the volume, certain days are assigned to individuals to drop off items for families. Even with this plan in mind, the number of gifts is staggering. Over 75 food baskets are usually delivered to the center a couple of days before Christmas, adding to the hustle and bustle of activity during the days before Christmas.

One client assigned to Barbara Grisinger, CSS social worker, was so overjoyed about the assistance provided that she thanked her repeatedly even before knowing what she would receive. Another client received a Christmas tree and decorations along with rental assistance from a Charlotte parish.

"I recently delivered gifts to a family, and the mother literally sobbed with joy because they wouldn't have had anything at all for Christmas," said Davis. "It nearly brought tears to my eyes because it brings you back to what Christmas is supposed to be about. It isn't really about having something but knowing that there are people out there who still care and that they mean something to someone."

King agreed, "This is a gratifying time of year for the staff because you can see the human movement of the heart which is what Christmas is about, sharing your blessings with others. This is a time of the year when the Lord moves people's hearts in different ways, and you can see his presence in the giver and receiver together." ▼

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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TV priest, author named director of The Christophers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. James P. Lisante, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., who is a TV host and author, has been named director of The Christophers. John Flaherty, chairman of The Christophers' board, made the announcement Dec. 11 in New York. The nonprofit organization uses print and broadcast media to spread the Gospel message of love, service and hope. "We are pleased to have Msgr. Lisante join us," Flaherty said in a statement. "We believe that his background, enthusiasm and versatility make him well-suited to communicate The Christopher approach of putting hope into action to a society that is always changing."

Heisman winner is graduate of St. Paul Catholic high school

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Awards are rolling in for student-athletes with ties to Cretin-Derham Hall Catholic High School in St. Paul. Forty-eight hours after Cretin senior Joe Mauer was named Gatorade National High School Football Player of the Year, 1990 Cretin-Derham Hall graduate Chris Weinke was awarded the Heisman Trophy as college football's best player. "I'll say it 100 times tonight," Weinke said after receiving the honor Dec. 9, "but this is beyond what I ever expected." A Minnesota native, Weinke is the quarterback for the Florida State University Seminoles. He grew up near St. Andrew Parish in St. Paul and attended school there. The school is now known as Maternity of Mary-St. Andrew.

Religious orders ask forgiveness for their part in slavery

BARDSTOWN, Ky. (CNS) — The leaders of three orders of women religious founded in Kentucky in the early 1800s have apologized for their communities' role in perpetuating slavery. At a reconciliation service at St. Joseph Church in Bardstown, Sister Joan Scanlon, president of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, told those of African-American descent in the congregation that the sisters had come "to ask for an outpouring of the warm waters of forgiveness." The other orders involved in the Dec. 3 service were the Sisters of Loretto and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Operation Christmas Child

Students from St. Leo School in Winston-Salem gather around the gifts collected for Operation Christmas Child, one of the school's holiday outreach efforts. Thanks to the coordination of 3rd-grade teacher, Maureen Patti, 160 shoe boxes were filled. They will be dispersed to needy children around the world.

Guadalupe ornament a hit for Hallmark

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Amid the displays of collectible Hallmark Christmas ornaments of the Grinch, Mark McGwire, Santa, Star Trek and Harry Potter characters, an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has proven to be one of the most popular of the year. The pressed tin, hand-crafted image of the patroness of Mexico and the Americas, new this year, is selling out in stores across the Southwest as well as in Hallmark's wholesale stocks, according to spokeswoman Kristi Ernsting. Some stores are keeping waiting lists for the ornament. "It was developed this year for the Mexican-American market, since she's such an important part of the Hispanic culture," Ernsting said.

Cardinal: Christians, Muslims must educate children in dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians and Muslims must educate their children in the way of dialogue to help them live in a world of religious and cultural plurality, said Cardinal Francis Arinze. The cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, commented in his annual letter to Muslims celebrating the Dec. 27 end of Ramadan, a month of fasting. "Ramadan is a time for assessing relationships with God and with one's fellow human beings, a time for turning back to God and toward one's brothers and sisters," he said. Fasting, a practice Catholics also value, "is one of the ways in which we give worship to God, come to the help of the poor and strengthen family ties and the bonds of friendship," he said.

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Joy to the world

Students go global with Advent project

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — Thanks to an enterprising spirit and concern for the needy, a group of eighth-graders are bringing joy to the world at Christmas time.

The two eighth-grade classes of Our Lady of Grace School in Greensboro have gone global with a justice and peace project designed to help bring people out of need and into better lives.

"The kids had already heard about some of the peace and social justice issues, and that there were things going on right here at home," said Danita McDonald, one of the eighth-grade teachers. She was referring to a member of a Greensboro lay Franciscan group who spoke to the students about spirituality and helping the needy.

"They knew that things really needed to be taken care of," McDonald said.

The classes were seeking outreach projects when McDonald received a catalog in the mail from Heifer Project International, an interfaith ministry based in Little Rock, Ark. The project provides animals to needy families around the world to help increase agricultural production, provide food and help families become self-reliant.

"When this came up, they thought it was an interesting idea to take part in the Heifer organization because it wasn't just about giving someone a gift," McDonald said. "It would be helping a family bring themselves up out of poverty."

The students — 46 in all; 24 taught by McDonald, 22 by Janice Norton — researched the list of animals that could be purchased, and they settled on a water buffalo for a family in the largely Catholic Philippines.

"It was nice to help people who are less fortunate than you," said 13-year-old Katie Keller. "We raised enough money to give to them, and I hope maybe they'll appreciate what we've done. I think they will. I hope God helps them and blesses them."

McDonald said the buffalo will be used as a plow animal and for transportation to and from market.

"We found that if one had a water buffalo, you could produce four times as much grain," she said.

But how would these students pay for the $250 bull? The students hosted a pre-holiday bake sale and cake raffle, and took total charge of the event — from planning who'd bake what to manning tables at the sale.

"All of the students each baked something and brought it in," said Joey Packheiser, 13. "It was fun just making the goods because you're baking with friends and stuff."

Those goods — the gourmet cakes among them — caught the attention of locals known for having a sweet tooth. The bake sale raised $537.

"This went way, way beyond our expectations," said McDonald, who added that the students were prepared to hand over baby-sitting money and other funds had they not met their goal. "It's so pleasant to work with kids who are so giving — and so excited about giving."

On the second day of Christmas...

With a surplus of funds raised from the baked goodies, the students needed to figure what to do next. Having taken justice and peace efforts to a worldwide level, they wanted to bring things a little closer to home, too.

> "There is not just one part of the world, or one person, or one community that needs help," said Joey Packheiser. "There are lots of people in need. We tried as best as we could to help people with the work that we could do. I'm sure that we'll continue to try — through this year and through next year, and the year after and so forth."

Just as a water buffalo can help in the fields, the students discovered that a sheep's wool could also bring a needy family income.

So, with the bull on his way to the Philippines, the students offered some more funds to Heifer International for a sheep that will find its home near the Maine-Canada border.

The rest of the money was donated to the lay Franciscans to help Greensboro's homeless, and to the parish's Christmas Angel Tree project to buy a gift for an elderly resident.

"It was nice, because we were helping people in the world, in our country, in our community and in our parish," said Keller, who baked one of those prized gourmet cakes.

Justice and peace efforts are an integral part of Catholic education, McDonald said. And though McDonald is the teacher, she said the students taught her a few things this Christmas, too.

"It's just wonderful to work with these young people who are 12, 13, 14 years old and are doing some very adult things," she said. "These kids can certainly follow in our footsteps, probably better than we're doing right now, taking up that service and social justice banner for our church into the 21st century."

Joey Packheiser hopes to be among those carrying that banner.

"I liked this project extremely because we were doing this effort for somebody else," he said. "It was probably as close as I could get to being like the Good Samaritan-type character."

"There is not just one part of the world, or one person, or one community that needs help," he added. "There are lots of people in need. We tried as best as we could to help people with the work that we could do. I'm sure that we'll continue to try — through this year and through next year, and the year after and so forth." ▾

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Celebrating the Feast of

Taylorsville procession marks feast day honoring Mary

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

TAYLORSVILLE — Each year at this time, thousands of people from all over Mexico walk to Mexico City to visit the shrine on the Hill of Tepeyac in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Virgin Mary. They do this to remember her appearance as a Native American woman to Juan Diego in 1531.

Hispanic members of Holy Trinity Catholic Church had a colorful procession of their own in her honor early on Sunday morning, December 10. Even though it was only a mile from their church to the armory where they held morning Mass, they chose a three-mile route to get there.

The group of about 75 adults and children included 20 dancers and two guitarists dressed in Native American costumes, several people bearing large images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and others carrying flags of Spanish-speaking nations from around the world.

"It's a sense of pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady," said Sister Andrea Inkrott, coordinator of Hispanic ministry in the Hickory Vicariate. "Traditional Indian dances, music and song are always part of the celebration."

"It's a sense of pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady," said Sister Andrea Inkrott, coordinator of Hispanic ministry in the Hickory Vicariate. "Traditional Indian dances, music and song are always part of the celebration."

Many of the dancers' costumes had bells and beads hanging from them that added to the music of the procession. They also carried maracas that they shook as they walked and danced.

Sister Andrea also said that there was an element of sacrifice involved in the celebration — the reason for the long walk on a cold morning.

At the time that the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, she said, the Indian culture had been, for the most part, destroyed by the Spaniards. It was important that Mary appeared to Diego as an Indian and spoke his language, she said.

The procession began at 8:00 a.m. and ended at 9:45 a.m. when the group finished their walk to the armory. Along the way, the group stopped several times so that the dancers could perform native dances. Many in the group sang along the way, and sometimes chanted, "Maria! Maria! Rah, rah, rah!"

Two of the children in the procession carried small box-shaped items that were symbolic of these pilgrimages. Each box had other items attached to it, including a gourd to symbolize the water that they carried with them, a bowl to symbolize the food they would prepare along the way, and a rolled-up straw mat to symbolize what they would use to sleep on their journey.

"I think it's nice that the parents encourage their kids to do this so that they don't lose their traditions and their roots," said Sister Andrea. ▾

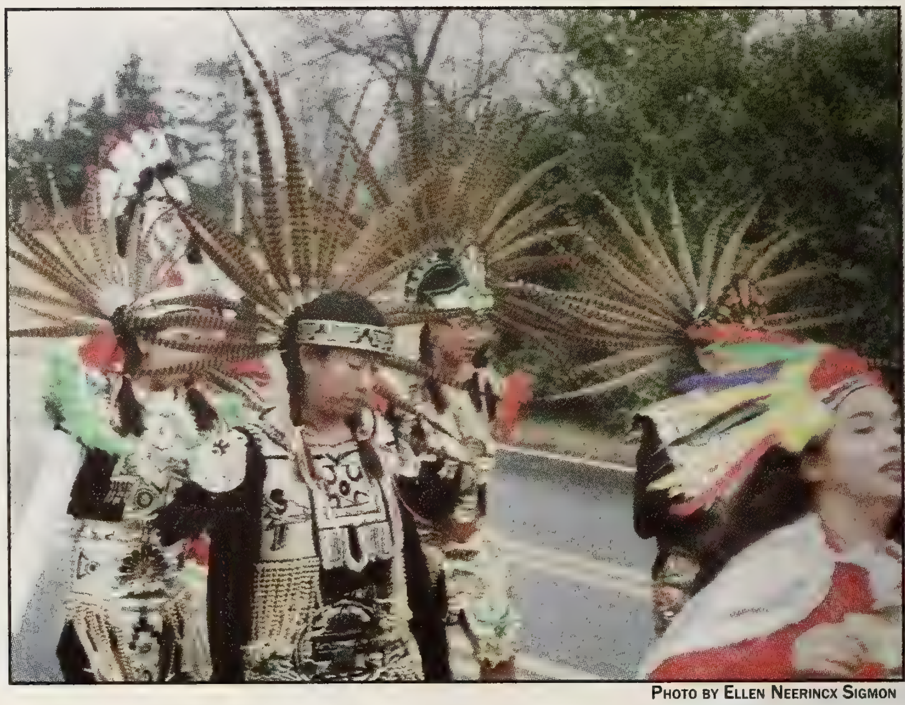

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Dressed in native costumes, dancers participated in the procession.

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary appeared four times in 1531 to an Indian, Juan Diego (declared Blessed in 1990), on Tepeyac hill outside of Mexico City, and instructed him to tell Bishop Zumagarraga of her wish that a church be built there. The bishop complied with the request about two years later, after being convinced of the genuineness of the apparition by the evidence of a miraculously painted life-size figure of the Virgin on the mantle of the Indian.

The mantle bearing the picture has been preserved and is enshrined in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The shrine church, originally dedicated in 1709 and subsequently enlarged, has the title of basilica.

Benedict XIV, in a 1754 decree, authorized a Mass and Office under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe for celebration on Dec. 12, and named Mary the patroness of New Spain. Our Lady of Guadalupe was designated patroness of Latin America by Pope Pius X in 1910 and of the Americas by Pius XII in 1945.

— from "Our Sunday Visitor's 2001 The Catholic Almanac"

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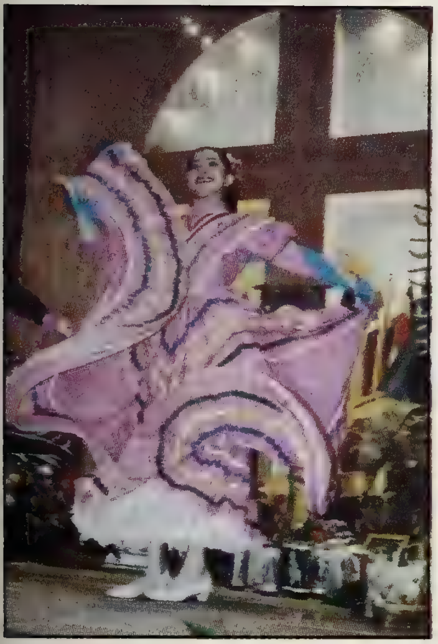
Our Lady of Guadalupe

PHOTO BY CHRIS KEANE

More than 3,000 people attended a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day Dec. 12 at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte. The feast was marked by celebrations across the Diocese of Charlotte.

PHOTO BY CHRIS KEANE

PHOTO BY CHRIS KEANE



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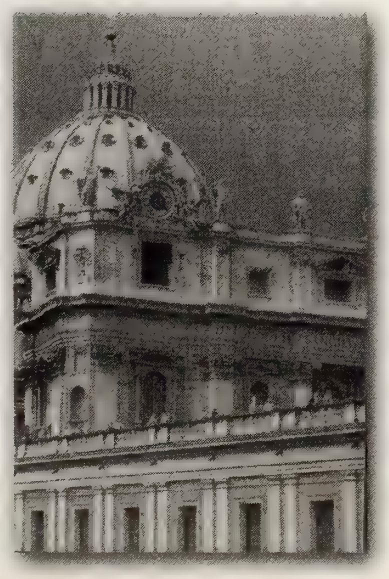

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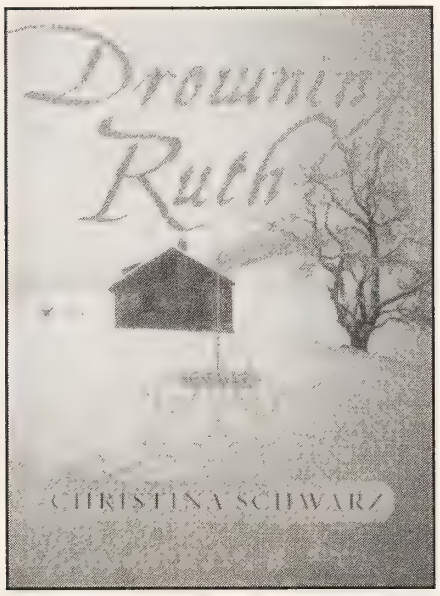
Book Review

‘Drowning Ruth’: Disjointed, contrived, but still compelling

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

“Drowning Ruth,” Christina Schwarz’s first novel, is a gripping and compelling narrative, although it is as flawed as its main characters, all of whom survive by feeding off others, manipulating them to their own ends as a long-ago tragedy haunts each of them in unforeseen ways.



Published by Doubleday at $23.95, the book’s hearty sales record is another tribute to the exposure provided by Oprah’s Book Club. While it is readily apparent that the book’s emotional appeal is gender-rooted, the familial interplay at the heart of the story is suspenseful enough to sustain the interest of any male who picks it up.

Set in rural Wisconsin, the story begins in 1919 when Amanda Starkey, having lost her nursing job in Milwaukee, returns home to live on the family farm with her married younger sister Mathilda and Mathilda’s 3-year-old daughter, Ruth, as they await the return of Mathilda’s husband, Carl, from service in World War I.

A foolish if understandable romance, however, has left Amanda pregnant, and the two sisters concoct a scheme to hide the impending birth and provide for the secret adoption of the baby. On the date of the birth, Ruth and Mathilda fall through the ice on a lake surrounding their temporary home on an isolated island that is part of the farm property.

Mathilda drowns and Amanda is left to place her newborn on her own, grieve for her sister and raise Ruth as if Ruth were her own, continuing as surrogate mother even after a seriously wounded Carl is discharged.

The story is told mostly by Amanda, frequently in flashback, and sometimes by Ruth or a narrator. Therein lies part of the problem as the suspense builds to the eventful denouncement some 20 years later. Simply put, it’s a disjointed approach, although it makes it possible for the author to add a fresh detail here and another there as the sense of foreboding is intensified.

Another problem, albeit one not likely to be of concern to the reader more intent on continuity than method: the chain linking all the parallel lives together or advancing a particular plot development too often smacks of contrivance in matters of large and small consequence.

Such caveats aside, “Drowning Ruth” brings us back to a more innocent age, one that nevertheless spawned as much deceit, subterfuge and manipulation as our own is thought to do. Powerful human emotions are evoked, motivations are shown to be at once altruistic and self-serving, and Schwarz does for the Wisconsin landscape what Stephen King has done for Maine.

The images of water are particularly pervasive. The lake and what happened there and what is happening now is always present, looming over every scene, whether it be a frigid night or a romantic summer evening. It is a force seemingly with a spirit of its own, a force which will have the last word in its own mysterious way.

Grief, distrust, suspicion, resentment, possessiveness and family bonds all come into play as Schwarz adroitly works out the knotty interpersonal relationships. Invariably, pragmatism holds sway over moral considerations in which shades of gray cloud decision-making as secrets slowly erode like a shoreline constantly scoured by ice.

Describing Amanda’s emotional state, Schwarz’s narrator observes at one point: “She felt as if someone were playing a game with her, making a move and then sitting back with a cruel smile, waiting to see what she would do in response. So far, she hadn’t made the right moves. That was obvious. Whatever her intentions, in the clinch, she’d always let her instincts drive her, and her heart, as it turned out, was an idiot, not to be counted on.”

Whatever its faults, “Drowning Ruth” is a forceful story about choices and consequences and lives lived — or given up — for others, one way or another. ▾

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Word to Life

December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Cycle C Readings:
1) Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
2) Hebrews 10:5-10
3) Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

By BEVERLY CORZINE
Catholic News Service

In today’s Gospel reading the elderly, pregnant Elizabeth joyfully welcomes the youthful but also pregnant Mary into her home. Elizabeth’s son leaps in his mother’s womb in response to Mary and her unborn son. Elizabeth understands the significance of the moment and the identity of Mary’s child.

How ordinary their embrace may have appeared to a local villager, returning from the field on a nearby path. Would our anonymous passerby dream that the meeting he had just witnessed would be a great moment of inspiration for painters and poets throughout the ages?

Indeed, a moment of incredible irony exists here in this scene. Two women exchange an animated greeting while at the same time, in the unseen world of the womb, two lives prepare for their entrance into a world that will be forever changed because of them.

Given the circumstances of each child’s conception, Elizabeth and Mary must later have wondered, “Really, what child is this that I hold here in my arms?” Even though the responsibilities of rearing these special children might have appeared daunting, Elizabeth and Mary, along with their husbands, proceed in faith to do God’s will.

Soon, we will be celebrating the mystery of the incarnation. We will be singing a carol that centers on the theme, “What child is this?” The words of this song often trigger memories of children I have known over the years. Most of these children were happily making their way to adulthood and working to make their dreams come true. Yet some were not. A teacher’s time is often filled with trying to answer the question, “What child is this?” about someone in her class.

I remember vividly a troubled high school boy from long ago whose behavior had become the bane of my existence. One afternoon I decided to look in his cumulative file for answers. Searching in the chilly records’ room, I found the file. I opened it. Clipped on his initial form was the face of a smiling, eager child. I stared in amazement at this happy face. What happened? What changed his eager joy to pain? Why has this precious child in the picture chosen so many wrong roads?

Then I wondered. Did anyone ever introduce him to Mary’s child?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Dec. 24 - 30, 2000

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Micah 5:1-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45; **Monday (Christmas Day),** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-6, John 1:1-18; **Tuesday (St. Stephen),** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59, Matthew 10:17-22; **Wednesday (St. John the Evangelist),** 1 John 1:1-4, John 20:2-8; **Thursday (The Holy Innocents),** 1 John 1:5-2:2, Matthew 2:13-18; **Friday (St. Thomas Becket),** 1 John 2:3-11, Luke 2:22-35; **Saturday,** 1 John 2:12-17, Luke 2:36-40

Readings for the week of Dec. 31, 2000 - Jan. 6, 2001

Sunday (The Holy Family), Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14, Colossians 3:12-21, Luke 2:41-52; **Monday (Mary, Mother of God),** Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:16-21; **Tuesday (Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen),** 1 John 2:22-28, John 1:19-28; **Wednesday,** 1 John 2:29-3:6, John 1:29-34; **Thursday (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton),** 1 John 3:7-10, John 1:35-42; **Friday (St. John Neumann),** 1 John 3:11-21, John 1:43-51; **Saturday,** 1 John 5:5-13, Mark 1:7-11

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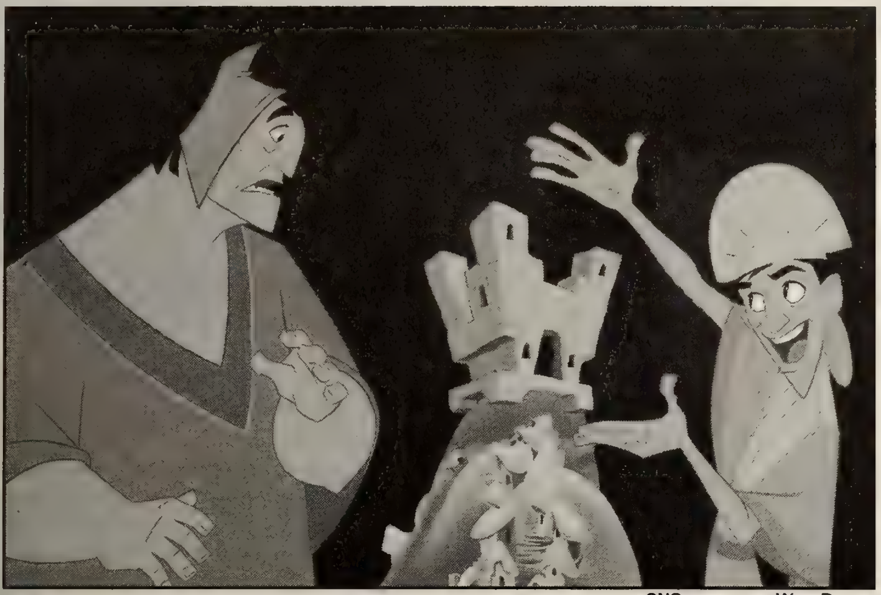

CNS PHOTO FROM WALT DISNEY

"The Emperor's New Groove"

Wonderful animated feature in which the cocky emperor (voice of David Spade) of a mythical South American kingdom is turned into a lowly llama by his wicked adviser (voice of Eartha Kitt) and must rely on a good-hearted peasant (voice of John Goodman) to regain his empire. With its simple message that kindness is best, director Mark Dindal's sprightly film tickles with crisp animation, bouncy music and an excellent ensemble cast of voices. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

"Chocolat" ridicules, presents narrow view of Christianity

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A single mother opens a beguiling chocolate shop during Lent, tempting the quiet townsfolk of a provincial French village in the unpalatable fable "Chocolat" (Miramax).

Director Lasse Hallstrom ("The Cider House Rules") pits a wise, modern woman against what is characterized as the sanctimonious self-righteousness of the Catholic Church, with the church being the predictable loser as the film mocks faith traditions, religious tenets and the Catholic sacraments.

On a blustery winter's day, Vianne (Juliette Binoche) and her daughter Anouk (Victoire Thivisol), dressed in matching red capes, blow into the charming village of Lansquenet, where she scandalizes the residents by opening a tempting chocolaterie — during Lent. Vianne's heathenism — she does not attend Mass and is planning a fertility festival on Easter Sunday — especially provokes the town's mayor, Comte De Reynaud (Alfred Molina), who makes it his business to rid the town of the impertinent Vianne and her bewitching bonbons.

Set in 1959, the film's narrow view of Christianity equates piety with self-righteousness, presenting Vianne as the only character who shows compassion and love for a fellow neighbor. (And go figure, she's not even Catholic!)

From her Mayan mother, Vianne learned the secret, curative aspects of cocoa and inherited the mission of wandering through the French countryside to impose her therapeutic sweets on the needy. At Lansquenet, she divines the villagers' favorite confections, arranges familial reconciliations, shelters a battered wife and revives sex lives, all the while raising feminist consciousness.

It is one thing to criticize religious hypocrisy, and reveal it for what it is — an obstacle that prevents the faithful from fulfilling their call to be truly Christ-like. However, it is quite another to maliciously ridicule abstinence, penitence and morality while hiding behind a disingenuous call for tolerance as this film does. And knocking Catholicism to make a case for feminism is a weak argument at best.

Far from being an epicurean feast, "Chocolat" only minimally entices the viewer with its culinary delights. The beautiful Binoche seems uncomfortable around so much chocolate, and the dainty treats that cause so much raucous are rarely seen.

There is a slender subplot that romantically links Johnny Depp, as the rogue Roux, a Gypsy "river rat," with Vianne, but the extraneous story line adds little by way of interest, and Depp's performance is poor with his Irish brogue slipping in and out. The rest of the talented cast — Lena Olin as a battered kleptomaniac, Judi Dench as a diabetic with a hankering for sweets and Carrie-Anne Moss as her priggish daughter — are wasted.

In the end, everyone is happy having acquiesced to Vianne's supposedly better way of life, but the film's patronizing view of Catholicism and mean-spirited presentation of faith is bitter "Chocolat" indeed.

Due to trivialization of religious practices, brief violence, a sexual encounter with shadowy nudity, an instance of profanity and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. ▼

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope praises decision to close Chernobyl

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II congratulated Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma for his decision to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

"It is highly encouraging that your country has taken a meaningful step toward peace, giving your compatriots and the whole world a sign of hope for a more secure and fraternal world," the pope said in his message to Kuchma.

The text of the message was released Dec. 15 at the Vatican just minutes before Kuchma gave the formal order to turn off the last working reactor at the plant where, in 1986, another reactor exploded and caught fire, spewing radioactive waste over Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and into Western Europe.

Pope John Paul also told Kuchma he is "looking forward" to his visit "to the beloved Ukrainian nation," in late June.

Nina K. Kowalska, the Ukrainian ambassador to the Vatican, distributed copies of the pope's brief letter and spoke to journalists about the impact of the Chernobyl closing.

"There will be no immediate, concrete positive impact, but the psychological effect is very important, and it is important for the future," she said.

In the short term, the closing means more than 6,000 workers at the plant and in related jobs face unemployment, she said. In addition, without the reactor, Ukraine faces a greater shortage of electricity than it suffers now.

While the shut down means the reactor no longer will produce electricity, the complete closure of Chernobyl and the safe disposal of nuclear waste produced there is expected to take as long as 30 years, Kowalska said.

Work also is continuing on monitoring and finding a way to safely dispose of the estimated 200 tons of radioactive fuel inside the now cracking "sarcophagus" constructed around the reactor that exploded in 1986.

The shutdown, financed with loans from the European Union, is psychologically important for Ukrainians because it shows they no longer have to deal with the problem alone, Kowalska said.

"In Ukraine there are 3.4 million victims of the radiation. It is worse than a war," she said. More than 1.2 million children are among the Ukrainians suffering radiation-related blood, digestive and lung diseases.

Pope thanks organizers ahead of Vatican Christmas concert

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ahead of the Vatican's annual Christmas concert, Pope John Paul II thanked the organizers and international lineup of musicians for making possible "this noble and worthy event," which raises funds for new church construction in Rome.

Meeting with the artists and promoters Dec. 15, he said the new parishes in Rome's periphery "will remain as a sign of the church's attention to the new evangelization."

Organizers planned about 20 musical acts during the Dec. 16 evening concert, the eighth of its kind, in the Paul VI audience hall.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Who is the beggar you choose to help at Christmas?

A string of events recently overwhelmed a single-parent friend. And this eventually led to my taking a much more personal evaluation of the question: Just what do we put into the holiday "share boxes" common this time of year?

Never a recipient of public or private charity, our friend was for the first time in her life "there" — at the receiving end.

I go too fast. Background first.

Raising three children, one with special needs, this young mother hurt herself on the job. Not thinking the injury to her back was too serious — and knowing she is the core source of her family's income — she toughed it out. For too long. The injury's effects spread.

The young woman eventually found herself unable to do her job. She barely could use her left arm. Pain became nearly constant. She was forced to take time off. Sick leave and vacation were quickly eaten away as she struggled with government agencies and her HMO for decent medical care and her legitimate right to help from the state while she healed.

Easier — much easier — said than done.

A friend of hers at her office knew of her struggle. He asked her to become a recipient of holiday assistance from his church. She reluctantly — and tearfully — agreed. It was a lesson in humility and dignity she shares when asked. Her children were embarrassed even though hardly anyone could tell they were receiving "charity" food. But they learned, she notes, much.

They learned that the core ingredient to helping others in need is dignity.

Our friend found herself in an odd situation. She was grateful — very grateful — for the unsolicited extension of concern. Yet she struggled with what she hoped was false pride, but feared were touches of indignation. Some of the "gifts" of food and clothing were clearly throwaways. Outdated canned goods. Moldy or threadbare shirts and pants. Broken toys.

Back on her feet and working nearly full time again now, she says she has thought a lot about what she and her children will place in the "bounty bins" in the future. She was so edified by "the little gifts that clearly showed someone reaching out to us in such a caring, thoughtful way even though they did not know us personally" — donations that went beyond staples, for example "luxury" foods (black olives and a tiny smoked ham and special olive oil).

"For every can of green beans — which I love — that I donate in the future," she laughs, "I am going to attach a little gift certificate to a fast-food joint or for a pizza."

"The question really isn't 'Should beggars be choosers?' she says. "It's really, 'Who is this beggar I am choosing to help?'"

Comments are welcome. Write Dan Morris at 441 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Your family and Cyberspace

The Internet, e-mail and Cyberspace access are more and more taking center-stage in families. The rapid growth in this technology makes what was once considered sci-fi commonplace in our homes. Trying to understand how all this happens can be mind-boggling for those of us who remember when getting an extension phone in a bedroom was cutting-edge. However, young people seem to grasp it as "no big deal." It's part of the ordinary means of connecting.

While Cyberspace access brings us freedom to new avenues of commerce, information and communication, it comes with risks. Parents should be aware of these risks. So, we would like to inform our readers of a valuable resource by the U.S. Bishops. It is a pamphlet titled "Your Family and Cyberspace," a brief, readable document that is written for leaders of families.

In the document are the following safety tips:

1. Take the time to become educated about the Internet-it's an investment in the safety and health of your children.
2. Select an Internet Service Provider (ISP) that provides the option of ISP-filtered access.
3. Put any computer with Internet access in a public area of the house-not in a bedroom or den.
4. Spend time on the Internet with you child, even if you are only an interested learner-you may be surprised by how much you enjoy it.
5. Encourage you children to think about what they find on the Internet and to ask you if, for instance, they find "Catholic" information that doesn't sound like what they've learned about the Church at home or in school.
6. Focus on the good sites and material available.
7. Guide your children in how to use email responsibly. It's a fun and useful part of the Internet, if used properly.
8. Encourage your children to bring anything questionable to your attention, and praise them for bringing problems to you.
9. Caution your children never to give personal information-such as name, address, or telephone number-to anyone on the Internet without your permission, and never to send their pictures.
10. Tell you children not fill out questionnaires they find on the Internet without your permission.
11. Tell your children not to respond to any belligerent or suggestive contact or to anything that makes them uncomfortable-and to let you know if anything like that happens.
12. Do not permit face-to-face meetings with people they meet on the Internet, unless there's a good reason to do so and you or someone you trust is present.
13. Don't overreact if your children bring something inappropriate to your attention, or they will be intimidated and not do so again.
14. Don't miss the significance of hidden disks-usage of pornographic or hate-filled material tends to be secretive.
15. Remind your children that these rules apply whenever they use computers at locations outside the home, such as libraries.
16. Above all, communicate. The best protection is good relationships and healthy Christian family life in which family members talk and pray together.

Your Family and Cyberspace is available in a print edition and may be ordered by telephoning (800) 235-8722. Ask for publication number 5-381; the cost is $0.75 for a single copy, plus shipping and handling. Go to the Web site at http://www.nccbuscc.org/comm/cyberspace.htm for the online edition.

Light One Candle

FATHER THOMAS J. McSWEENEY
GUEST COLUMNIST

The last New Year and the next

Well, another new year is almost upon us, and I'm wondering if your own memories of what things were like exactly one year ago are anything like mine. If you can't remember it all that clearly, don't be embarrassed. Actually it was a time, looking back, that most of us would probably rather forget.

Try this for openers: Y2K. Surely that must ring a bell. How about emergency food supplies? Extra gasoline for the car? A load of wood for the fireplace? Spare cash for the wallet? Flight cancellations? A quiet New Year's Eve at home? All of this, and a great deal more, was "just in case" — just in case the computer glitch that was expected to accompany the new year 2000 really did cause the kind of energy and banking and transportation problems that would send us all back to the Stone Age. Given the media buildup accorded Y2K, it wasn't that hard to imagine. Even some who were hesitant to admit it took the whole thing quite seriously.

And what happened when midnight rolled around last December 31? Exactly nothing — or just about as close to nothing as anyone can imagine. Of course, it took the efforts of many to make sure that was the case; financial institutions and other corporations spent millions to avoid the wholesale computer crashes the world feared. But the fact is that life went on, just as it had always gone on. It wasn't long before people everywhere put "Y2K anxiety" out of their minds for good.

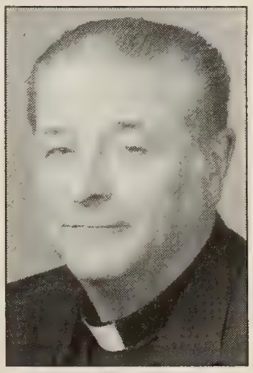
That might be a little premature. Not because of any new Y2K-type scenarios, of course, but because of the lesson that last year's near-hysteria left behind. It goes something like this: You never know what's going to happen, so always be prepared. Expect the unexpected. Cardinal John Henry Newman expressed the thought with considerably more precision: "The right rule is to hope nothing, to fear nothing, to expect nothing, to be prepared for everything." The Lord himself gave the same advice in the parable about the master returning from the wedding feast: "You too must stand ready, because the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Luke 12:40)

Here's another thought to take into the new year. More than simply standing ready, as Jesus enjoined us, live each day as fully as you can. Use the gifts that God has given you, and use them wisely. Approach life with the right attitude. Don't waste time accumulating possessions for their own sake; they might be pricey as all get-out but in the long run they're worthless. Instead concentrate on what really matters: friends and family, helping others, honoring the Lord in everything you do.

No one ever said it better than the prophet Micah: "You have already been told what is right and what Yahweh wants of you. Only this, to do what is right, to love loyalty and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

The trappings of our preparations for this new year are likely to be quite different from those of last year; the Y2K hoopla will be only a distant memory. But like the arrival of all new years, it will be a time both to look back and to look forward, to count up the treasures of the past and to await, in joy and hope, the Lord's plan for the future. I truly hope that your own future will be a bright one. Happy New Year!

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Shopping on Sunday

Q. I am a 16-year-old who is being taught in my high school CCD class that shopping on Sunday is a mortal sin. My family used to shop almost every weekend, usually on Sunday, and we always looked forward to it. It was a recreational activity. But our priest says it is a mortal sin because we make the stores stay open on Sundays so they get business. I never heard this before. Is it true? If shopping on Sundays is a sin, then what is the difference in going to a golf course, an amusement park or a theater?

Where are we supposed to draw the line between "doing business" and "doing recreational activities"?

A. Christian prohibitions against certain activities, especially "servile work," on Sundays go back to the times of agricultural and feudal societies. It is not necessary to go into those problems here, because the Catholic Church's attitude and rules about Sunday observance now exist on a wholly different level.

We are obliged to participate at Mass on Sundays, of course. Beyond that, the obligations we are to observe are explicitly intended as aids to keeping a spirit of reverent reflection, worship and rest.

Vatican Council II, calling Sunday the original Christian feast day, urges that its observance should always be proposed and taught "so that it may become in fact a day of joy and of freedom from work" (Constitution on the Liturgy, 106).

The Code of Canon Law, the official legal guide for Catholic daily life, says much the same. "(The faithful) should avoid any work or business which might stand in the way of the worship which should be given to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day or the needed relaxation of mind and body" (1247).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church repeats those thoughts, adding that we should avoid making unnecessary demands on others that would prohibit them from observing the Lord's day. Situations require some people to work on Sunday, but everyone should take care to have sufficient time for leisure (2185-2187).

For reasons indicated in these sources, keeping the Lord's day holy is an important part of our Catholic life. And we obviously do have some obligation, for everyone's benefit, to help establish a reasonable Christian understanding and observance of Sunday rest.

Clearly, however, there is nothing in these Catholic rules that would in any way automatically prohibit shopping on that day, certainly not under threat of mortal sin.

Perhaps you misunderstood what the priest said. The rationale you relate for calling Sunday shopping mortally sinful is surely odd and, I believe, extremely hard to defend.

As you tell it the shopper's sin would be a serious one of undermining the fabric of Christian society or of enabling and closely cooperating with the serious sin of others, the stores and their employees.

Among other things, that would mean establishing first that those others are sinning seriously, at least objectively, by working on Sunday, and second that your cooperation in shopping is so closely connected that you also sin seriously. This would be difficult to prove.

It doesn't, as they say, take a rocket scientist to understand simply and prudently the vision and guidelines contained in the words I quoted from the council and from canon law.

Of course, the significant population growth in our society of Muslim, Buddhist and a multitude of other religious and ethnic groups, not to mention Jewish people, adds a variety of other moral dimensions to the subject, which also could affect our decisions.

Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

A disaster little noted

Around 12:30 a.m. on Oct. 11, 2000, a coal slurry impoundment in Martin County, Ky., broke. The rupture poured an estimated 250 million gallons of sludge down the tributaries of the Tug Fork of the Big Sandy River. While local residents slept, an ecological disaster rivaling the Exxon Valdez was destroying all fish and most wildlife around the creek beds. People awoke to a sea of black water blocking driveways, covering septic systems and tearing out bridges.

The spill happened in a rural county, in coal country, in Appalachia. No one died; few homes sustained damage. Water fowl at large escaped the slime, although smaller creatures like turtles, muskrats and frogs probably succumbed.

The biggest news story concerned the drinking water of local communities and beyond.. Five water treatment plants on the Tug Fork shut down their intake source when the slick approached. The Big Sandy River ran black for 75 miles. Cincinnati, followed by Louisville, closely monitored the spill after it entered the Ohio River.

To the people in Martin County, however, the sludge moved in and stayed. For years, a 72-acre waste reservoir built over and beside a honeycomb of abandoned underground mine works acted as a settling pond. A preparation plant owned by Martin County Coal, a subsidiary of A.T. Massey, washed coal and stored slurry in the pond where the heavy elements settled out and the water clarified enough to return to the creeks. A roof collapse in the abandoned mine ruptured the pond near its base, and sludge flowed out two openings. The spill's "more liquid form" gushed down Wolf Creek, while the slower-moving sludge headed down Clearwater Fork. Had the spill not bifurcated, it would have been reminiscent of the disaster at Buffalo Creek.

In 1972, an earthen dam built by the Pittston Corporation on Buffalo Creek in West Virginia broke, spewing 132 million gallons of water and coal waste through a 17-mile valley. Coming like a tidal wave, the spill killed 125 people, wiped away three communities, injured 523 people and left 4,000 homeless.

Martin County, like many rural places with mineral deposits, relies on mining for its economic survival. In 1998 more than 56 percent of the total county wages came from coal mining.

Traditionally, the economic system justifies the devastation of land and the danger of slurry impoundments, as the inevitable price a community pays for jobs and tax revenues generated by the coal industry. But, coal industry trends today favor more advanced technology — reducing the number of workers — and industry mergers weaken unions that diminish important community oversight. Coal communities derive fewer economic benefits while incurring higher risks.

The future begs an economics that promises sustainable communities, "communities where people and the rest of nature can live together in harmony and not rob future generations," as the Appalachian bishops wrote in their 1995 pastoral, "At Home in the Web of Life."

Year in Review, from page 3

campaign against debt forms human chain around Capitol. Bishops ask Congress not to give China normal trade status. Vatican seeks international law prohibiting child soldiers. Federal authorities seize Elian Gonzalez from Miami relatives in armed raid. In Easter address, pope urges new world order of peace. New Vermont law gives marriage benefits to same-sex civil unions.

May

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom says religious freedom is harshly abused in Sudan and China, endangered in Russia. Cardinal O'Connor dies; new head of New York is Arcbhishop Edward M. Egan. Pope leads prayer service commemorating all Christian martyrs of 20th century. International Anglican-Catholic dialogue summit held in Canada. Pope visits Fatima, Portugal, to beatify two children who saw apparitions of Mary there in 1917, reveals third secret of Fatima. Pope turns 80. Under Vatican instructions Father Robert Nugent and Sister Jeannine Gramick are ordered not to talk about the investigation that led to banning them from gay ministry; Sister Gramick says she cannot obey the order.

June

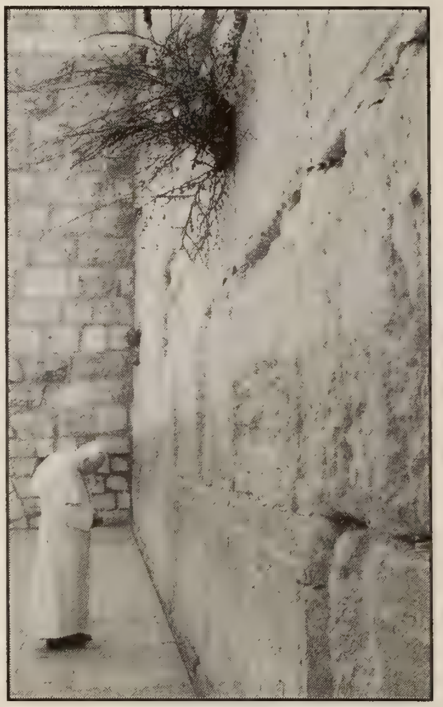
Vatican envoy to Congo says rebel forces there are targeting churches, Catholic institutions. Following Catholic objections, American Medical Association votes down proposal to require hospitals to provide contraception and sterilization. Rwandan Bishop Augustin Misago is acquitted of all charges of involvement in the massacres in Rwanda in 1994. Mehmet Ali Agca, who shot the pope in 1981, is released in Italy, extradited to Turkey. Jubilee-year international eucharistic congress is held in Rome. U.S. bishops meet in Milwaukee, discuss priest shortage, adopt ongoing formation plans for priests and deacons, offer families guidance on Internet use, promote pledge for better media. International Catholic-Jewish theological dialogue is started. National Council of Churches proposes broader inter-church structure to include Catholics and Evangelicals. U.S. Supreme Court calls Nebraska partial-birth abortion ban unconstitutional; upholds use of federal funds for computer and library supplies for religiously run schools. Elian Gonzalez returns to Cuba with his father.

July

Mexicans elect Vicente Fox Quesada as president, ending 71 years of Institutional Revolutionary Party rule. Vatican says it harms church to let those who are divorced and civilly remarried receive Communion. U.S. Catholics celebrate their diversity at Encuentro 2000. Pope calls World Gay Pride 2000 gathering in Rome an affront to the church. Indiana bishops' video on death penalty is shown in parishes throughout state. International Catholic-Orthodox meeting in Maryland cannot agree on Eastern Catholic churches. Camp David summit fails to advance Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Philippine bishops condemn massacre of 21 Christians by Muslim rebels. Vatican issues new General Instruction of the Roman Missal.

August

National party conventions move U.S. election season into high gear. Estimated 1.5 million youth converge on Rome for World Youth Day; papal Mass draws 2 million participants. Shroud of Turin is unveiled in Italy for jubilee year display. Church leaders condemn National Institutes of Health decision to fund stem-cell projects using aborted fetuses or embryos. U.S.-born human rights activist in Kenya, Mill Hill Missionary Father John A. Kaiser, is found murdered. Boys Town changes name to Girls and Boys Town. German Catholic Church forms $2.3 million fund to compensate for forced labor used by church institutions in World War II. Pope praises use of organ transplants. Hundreds of world religious leaders gather for U.N.-sponsored Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders.



CNS FILE PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope prays at Wall

Pope John Paul II prays at Jerusalem's Western Wall during his visit to the Holy Land in March. He became the first pope in history to pray at Judaism's most holy site.

September

Popes Pius IX, John XXIII are beatified. Vatican doctrinal congregation issues declaration on unique role of Christ and church in salvation of all humanity. Pope performs exorcism on teen-age Italian girl. State Department report finds religious persecution a worldwide phenomenon. Jewish scholars urge Jews to change their attitude toward Christians. Vatican official Cardinal Roger Etchegaray visits China. Over parents' objections, British court orders surgery that will kill one conjoined twin to save the other. Pro-life leaders lament approval of RU-486 as abortion pill in United States. Vatican protests new Chinese rules against missionaries. New Israeli-Palestinian violence breaks out in Middle East.

October

Mother Katharine Drexel and 120 Chinese martyrs are declared saints. Facing growing protests after opposition electoral win, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic concedes, steps down. New England bishops issue pastoral on environment. Celebrating jubilee with bishops, pope entrusts world to Mary. Vatican criticizes efforts at U.N. to downgrade family. Congress permits sales of food, medicine to Cuba. Congress commits $435 million to debt relief for poor countries, reaches compromise on abortion-related family planning funding. South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, a convert to Catholicism, wins Nobel Peace Prize.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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Librarian: Our Lady of Grace School has an opening for a certified librarian, beginning immediately. Experience preferred. Send resume and request for application to: Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403 or Fax: (336)274-7326.

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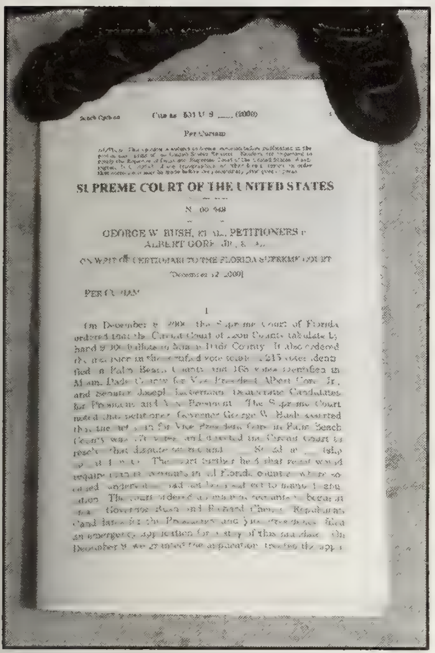
PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

St. Jude, thank you for prayers answered and favors received. DJ

Los Angeles County workers end strike after plea by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony. Bishops, priests jailed in China. Sudanese bishop says government attacks on Christians are intensifying. British church leaders criticize human cloning proposals. Joint Catholic-Jewish historical commission issues first report on Pope Pius XII and Jews.



Cite as: 531 U.S. ___ (2000)

Per Curiam

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 00-949

GEORGE W. BUSH, ET AL., PETITIONERS v. ALBERT GORE, JR., ET AL.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

[December 12, 2000]

PER CURIAM.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Contested election

The first page of the Supreme Court ruling in the Bush vs. Gore case is displayed outside the court following its release late Dec. 12. The high court voted 7-2 that the Florida Supreme Court ruling ordering recounts presented constitutional problems, but split 5-4 on whether new recounts should be ordered to remedy the problem. The decision was viewed as a victory for Texas Gov. George W. Bush in the contested presidential election.

November

U.S. extends religious worker visa program three more years. Florida jury clears former Salvadoran officials of responsibility for 1980 rape, murder of four U.S. missionaries. Vatican official at U.N. warns of weakening protection for world's refugees. Vatican says pope will visit Ukraine in 2001. Voters in California and Michigan reject school vouchers, Maine voters repudiate assisted suicide. Presidential election hangs on legal challenges in Florida. Archbishop Eugene Marino, first U.S. black archbishop, dies. U.S. bishops, meeting in Washington, issues statements on Middle East, Sudan, immigration, criminal justice reforms, church art and architecture, U.S. "culture of death." Pope John Paul II Cultural Center dedicated in Washington. Southern bishops issue pastoral statement on poultry industry. Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington, shortly after 80th birthday, retires; Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick is named to succeed him. Vatican officials urges better world monitoring of genetically altered foods.

December

French bishops oppose legalizing prostitution, condemn sexual exploitation. Vatican hosts international strategy session on poor country debt relief, pope calls debt reduction a step in fighting poverty. Vatican declares investigation over after Austrian theologian Reinhard Messner signs 16-point affirmation of Catholic teaching. Indonesian bishop says Muslim militants are forcing Christians to convert under death threat. London newspaper calls for end to law forbidding British monarch to marry a papist. Lutheran-Anglican-Catholic meeting discusses authority of bishops. Vatican Academy for Life condemns euthanasia. Vice President Al Gore concedes presidential election to Texas Gov. George W. Bush. ▾

Family celebrates Christmas tradition with mountain trip

By KATIE GLODOWSKI
Special to
The Catholic News & Herald

Every year my family and I go to the mountains and cut down a Christmas tree. It's a tradition we've had for many years. It first started before my sister and I were even born.

My parents would always go up to the National Forest in Vermont, only thirty minutes away from where they lived. Waist-deep snow was often a part of their adventure. And if you can believe it, it was only one dollar to get yourself a Christmas tree.

I guess this was something my parents really enjoyed doing because they continued the tradition with us.

A lot of years we would cut down our Christmas tree and then walk around the town we were in with all the lights and decorations up. We could always manage to find a little store somewhere to spend all our money in.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Glodowskis — Katie, Ed, Anna and Jane — cut down the perfect tree in West Jefferson. The family are parishioners at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte.

This year we went to West Jefferson. Other years we've gone to Boone, Asheville and Brevard. In West Jefferson we found a nice tree farm with plenty of trees to pick from and festive surroundings. There was a little barn where you could have hot chocolate or hot apple cider. You also had a chance to warm up. They even had a small bonfire where we roasted marshmallows. We rode on a hay wagon up the mountain to where all the trees were. There, you could roam around and take your pick. My sister and I had fun running through the trees trying to find the perfect Christmas tree. After we chose our tree and cut it down, they bailed it up for us. We put it on top of our car and tied it down securely.

Then we made our way to the Daniel Boone Inn. It was only one day after Thanksgiving, so we were still pretty stuffed, as you can imagine. Here, there was no menu. You just sat down, made yourself comfortable and watch out, here comes the food.

They just kept bringing more and more food to the table and we stuffed ourselves with platter after platter of homemade food. It was a real treat.

Everyone enjoyed the entire day, and we were worn out by the end. It's a great tradition and one we've always enjoyed. I know I'll always remember the fun I had. ▾

Katie Glodowski, 14, lives in Charlotte with parents Jane and Ed Glodowski and sister Anna.

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MARCH FOR LIFE
Washington, D.C.
January 21-22, 2001

Itinerary:
Sunday, 1/21:
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— Mass at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Monday, 1/22:
— Mass with Bishop Curlin at 10
— Rally / March for Life at 12 noon
— Return to Charlotte in the evening

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Pope calls dialogue 'obligatory path' to achieving peace

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Dialogue among cultures and traditions, while fraught with difficulties, is "the obligatory path" to achieving lasting world peace, Pope John Paul II said.

Dialogue protects the distinctiveness of each culture and draws out expressions "of the underlying unity of the human family," he said in a message for the World Day of Peace, Jan. 1.

The 24-page message, titled "Dialogue Between Cultures for a Civilization of Love and Peace," was released Dec. 14 at a Vatican press conference.

The pope criticized "the slavish conformity of cultures" around the globe to certain aspects of Western culture. He said societies had the duty to ensure that influxes of immigrants did not upset the local "cultural equilibrium."

Bishop Diarmuid Martin, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said the pope's emphasis on dialogue as an intrinsic value that will be increasingly important in a globalized world was "another example of the pope's original thinking."

He said the pope had a "different message" than that popularized by the 1996 book, "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order," written by Samuel P. Huntington, a Harvard professor. Rather than a "clash," the Vatican official said, "it is dialogue between civilizations that (the pope) proposes as the creative way to resolve problems" caused by the increasing mix of cultures brought by globalization.

> **"In the dialogue between cultures, no side can be prevented from proposing to the other the values in which it believes, as long as this is done in a way that is respectful of people's freedom and conscience."**
>
> *— Pope John Paul II*

The pope said he intended the text to give some guidelines for reflection on the theme of cultural dialogue, which he acknowledged was "in constant flux and defies all preconceived models."

He lingered especially on the theme of migration, devoting nearly four consecutive pages to the rights and duties of cultures which find themselves living together.

Asserting that a person's own culture is "a structuring element of one's personality, especially in the initial stages of life," he said it was appropriate for societies to be concerned with maintaining their cultural identity, particularly for the sake of their children.

"From this point of view, a reasonable way forward would be to ensure a certain 'cultural equilibrium' in each region, by reference to the culture which has prevalently marked its development," he said.

"This equilibrium, even while welcoming minorities and respecting their basic rights, would allow the continued existence and development of a particular 'cultural profile,' by which I mean that basic heritage of language, traditions and values which are inextricably part of a nation's history and its national identity," he said.

But he added that laws alone were not enough to maintain a region's traditional culture.

"As long as a culture is truly alive, it need have no fear of being displaced. And no law could keep it alive if it were already dead in people's hearts," he said.

CNS photo by Debbie Hill

Holy Land violence dampens Christmas observance

An Arab man passes by Christmas decorations at a store in Nazareth Dec. 7. Holiday business was slow and celebrations stalled because of the Palestinian and Israeli clashes in the Holy Land.

"In the dialogue between cultures, no side can be prevented from proposing to the other the values in which it believes, as long as this is done in a way that is respectful of people's freedom and conscience," he said.

One possible application of this principle surfaced at the press conference when a journalist asked about a reported attempt of the Archdiocese of Bologna, Italy, to prevent the construction of a mosque there. In response, Bishop Martin cited this passage, though he declined to comment on the Bologna case in detail.

In the same vein, Archbishop Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, president of the justice and peace council, underscored a passage in which the pope said that "the cultural practices which immigrants bring with them should be respected and accepted, as long as they do not contravene either the universal ethical values inherent in the natural law or fundamental human rights."

The pope also turned a critical eye toward Western culture and its disproportionate influence, through media and economic wealth, on the rest of the world.

"Western cultural models are enticing and alluring because of their remarkable scientific and technical cast, but regrettably there is growing evidence of their deepening human, spiritual and moral impoverishment," he said.

The pope said Western cultural models were "marked by the fatal attempt to secure the good of humanity by eliminating God."

"A culture which no longer has a point of reference in God loses its soul and loses its way, becoming a culture of death," he said.

In addition, the spread of Western culture meant that "other estimable cultures and civilizations" were being eroded from within and lost, the pope said.

"The fact that a few countries have a monopoly on these cultural 'industries' and distribute their products to an ever growing public in every corner of the earth can be a powerful factor in undermining cultural distinctness," he said.

Noting that dialogue was frequently obstructed by "the tragic heritage of war, conflict, violence and hatred, which lives on in people's memory," the pope asked Christians to "become witness to and missionaries of forgiveness and reconciliation."

He appealed especially to young people to "become craftsmen of a new humanity" and said that at Rome's World Youth Day celebrations in August he was "able to glimpse a more peaceful and human future for the world."

"Feeling your closeness to me, I sensed a profound gratitude to the Lord, who gave me the grace of contemplating — through the multicolored mosaic of your different languages, cultures, customs and ways of thinking — the miracle of the universality of the church, of her catholicity, of her unity," he said.

In another sign of hope, the pope said he was pleased that the United Nations had declared 2001 the "International Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations." ▾

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 5, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 17

Inside

Girl scouts answer calls for help with program ...Page 4

Priest says young adults a church priority ...Page 9

Celebrating the New Year
Maggie Valley retreat center hosts spiritual celebration ...Page 15

Local News

Gastonia parish breaks ground for future ...Page 5

Murphy church regains first building ...Page 7

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13

Mother Benignus remembered as visionary, champion for those with special needs

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

BELMONT — In her lifetime, Mother Mary Benignus Hoban filled many roles as a Sister of Mercy. From novice mistress to superior general, Mother Benignus spent her consecrated life in selfless service to others. She was called a tough administrator, a caring caregiver and a person who through faith and perseverance always found ways to get things done. Mother Benignus died Dec. 30 at the age of 94.

Her legacy will forever be tied to Holy Angels, where Mother Benignus was co-founder and president emeritus of the residential facility serving children and adults with mental retardation and physical handicaps.

In 1955, a severely handicapped and medically fragile infant was taken by her overwhelmed and desperate mother to a day care center operated by the Sisters of Mercy. The infant was given a grim prognosis. However, Mother Benignus and the other sisters wrapped the baby in love and affection. They obtained the medical care available in the mid-1950s. The baby, named Maria Morrow, survived and with the constant care of Mother Benignus, Maria thrived. Forty-five years later, Maria leads a happy, productive life and is

See MOTHER BENIGNUS, page 14

File photo By JoAnn S. Keane

Mother Mary Benignus with Maria Morrow in a 1994 Catholic News & Herald photo at Holy Angels.

Pope set new canonization record in 2000

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a record-breaking year in a record-breaking pontificate, Pope John Paul II declared more saints than he had in any other year of his reign.

Canonization ceremonies in the year 2000 added 151 new saints to the church's calendar, according to Vatican statistics.

In addition, the pope beatified 56 men, women and children during the year.

Pope John Paul's previous one-year record for saint-making was in 1988 when he canonized 117 Vietnamese martyrs and eight other saints.

Since becoming pope in 1978, Pope John Paul has beatified 996 people and canonized 446.

Archbishop Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, told Vatican Radio Dec. 28, "The principal explanation for the great number of canonizations and beatifications during the Holy Year and, in general, during the pontificate of John Paul II lies in the great pastoral importance he attributes to them.

"It should not be forgotten that one of the principal themes of his Petrine ministry from the beginning has been the valuing of holiness, convinced as he is that 'the history of the church is a history of holiness,'" the archbishop said.

Especially during the jubilee celebrating the 2,000th anniversary of Christ's birth, offering the world examples of real men and women who followed Jesus is a witness "of the truth of the presence and work of God in history," Archbishop Saraiva said.

The year's new saints came from Asia, Africa, America and Europe, he said, demonstrating the fact that "holiness knows no geographical or cultural boundaries and has no racial prejudices."

Campaign asks church bells to toll for executions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A simple tolling of church bells has begun to mark each execution carried out in the United States, part of a national campaign that started in the Diocese of Richmond, Va. Dominican Sister Dorothy Briggs and other members of her religious order around the country are spearheading a drive to get churches to toll their bells or to display banners or other signs of support for the campaign against the death penalty. The sisters are working in conjunction with the national organization Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, or CURE. Sister Briggs told Catholic News Service that since September, the "For Whom the Bells Toll" campaign she runs has sent out 1,000 letters introducing the idea to men's and women's religious congregations. Dozens have let her know of their plans to participate and "almost every other day I receive word that others are tolling the bells," she said. As of mid-December, she'd heard of participating churches or religious communities in 24 states.

Pope to close Holy Door Jan. 6 in simple ceremony

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will close the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 6 in a simple ceremony designed to remind people that their pilgrimage toward Christ must continue, said the official in charge of Vatican liturgies. During a Dec. 22 meeting with reporters, Bishop Piero Marini, master of papal liturgical ceremonies, outlined the service that will precede Mass on the feast of the Epiphany. The ceremony will be similar to the rite used since 1975 when, for the first time in centuries, the closing of the door did not include the pope spreading mortar and laying the first bricks of the wall that blocks the doorway between holy years. A procession, which will include lay people representing each continent, will precede the pope to the atrium of the basilica.

CNS photo from Reuters

Carnival Parade

Young girls in colorful costumes wait to dance in a traditional carnival parade on the main avenue of San Jose, Costa Rica, Dec. 27, in the annual year-end celebration.

Ratzinger links Christian anti-Judaism to Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A top Vatican official said it was undeniable that some Christians failed to oppose Nazi atrocities because of anti-Jewish sentiment, but said the tragedy may have awakened the church to a new era of dialogue with Jews. The experience of the Holocaust's horrors may have prompted a "new vision" of Catholic reconciliation with Jews after centuries of anti-Judaism and "deplorable acts of violence," said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in a front-page article in the Vatican's newspaper Dec. 29. He said Catholic dialogue with Jews belongs to a unique category because the Jewish faith "for us is not another religion, but the foundation of our faith."

U.S. Catholic Bishops given report on cloning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a dialogue on cloning, bishops and scientists found significant areas of common ground despite major differences in their approach to the issues, said a committee report sent to the U.S. Catholic bishops in December. It said dialogue participants agreed that "the cloning of animals and of human genes and somatic cells — except from embryos — for research purposes is morally neutral." They differed on the cloning of human embryos for research. "Nearly all the scientist participants support such work," the report said, while the bishops held that "because the embryo is a human being, research that harms or destroys it is impermissible."

L.A. parishioners vow to stem tide of gang violence

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — About 500 people filled the hall of St. Frances X. Cabrini Church in South Central Los Angeles Dec. 16 to tell Sheriff Lee Baca they were tired of being afraid of local gangs. "We don't want any more crimes in our community," said Maria Silaya, whose son was killed during a shooting at a doughnut shop across from the church. Her son isn't the only victim of violence in the community. Five others were killed last October within two weeks of each other. Two died at the end of November and two more at the start of December. That's why members of St. Frances X. Cabrini and nearby Ascension parishes were out in such force. "We are here today because we are determined to gain control of our neighborhood," declared Alfonso Delgadillo, a parishioner for the past 15 years and now a community leader.

Kenyan bishop urges government to contain violence

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The head of the Kenyan bishops' conference urged the government to contain the culture of violence in the country. In a Christmas message, Bishop John Njue of Embu, president of the Kenya Episcopal Conference, said violence was threatening to tear apart the country. "Peace is urgently needed here in Kenya, where rapid social, political and economic changes are taking place at this time of history. Only time will tell whether the changes will bring or disrupt peace," he said. Bishop Njue said the bishops are concerned about structural violence in the society. He said Kenyans are fed up with violence and that a peaceful Kenya is the greatest heritage that this generation can leave the next one.

Sales of 'morning-after' pill condemned in Britain

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Church leaders and pro-life groups condemned the British government's decision to allow the over-the-counter sale of the "morning-after" pill. Cardinal Thomas Winning of Glasgow, Scotland, said the pill, known as Levonelle, was abortifacient and not contraceptive. Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, London, said: "To make the morning-after pill available to teen-agers over the counter encourages sexual promiscuity and increasingly isolates young people in difficulty from the help and advice they need." The British government, which announced the decision in mid-December, said the pills would be available at pharmacies beginning Jan. 1 as part of a strategy to cut teen pregnancies.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 8-12
Retreat for Region IV Bishops

January 20-22
March for Life
Washington, D.C.

January 29 - 10:30 a.m.
Mass
Bishop McGunness, Winston-Salem

January 30 - 10 a.m.
Mass
Holy Trinity, Charlotte

January 31 - 9:45 a.m.
Mass
Charlotte Catholic, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

January

10 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a special Hawaiian-themed program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

11 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre is presenting "The World Goes 'Round: The Songs of Kander and Ebb," beginning tonight at 7:30 p.m. through Jan. 20 at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mount Holly Rd. The revue features songs from the duo's hit Broadway plays including "Caberet," "Chicago," "Kiss of the Spider Woman," and others. For more information, call the theatre at (704) 825-6787.

CHARLOTTE — Adult bible study on the Gospel of John is being offered at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., on Thursday nights from 7:30-9 p.m., beginning tonight and concluding March 1. Michael Coyle, a Franciscan University theology graduate, is leading the informative study. For more information, call the church office at (704) 536-6520, (704) 567-8322 or e-mail mecoyle@email.uncc.edu.

13 BELMONT — Queen Of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., has chartered a bus traveling to the Rally for Life in Raleigh today. The bus is picking up people from Queen of the Apostles at 7:30 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., at 8:15 a.m. and Northside Baptist Church at 9 a.m. For more information, call Jan Rogers at (704) 825-9600 or Ron Rogers at (704) 827-7593.

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., is celebrating a Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite in Malayalam at 6:30 p.m. tonight. For details, call the church office at (336) 884-

Women in Religion to host retreat on the Celtic vision

HICKORY — All women and men of the Unifour are invited to attend "The Celtic Vision," an interfaith retreat from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2001, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, 902 Second St. NE, Hickory.

Leader will be the Rev. Elizabeth Canham, D.Min., an ordained Episcopal priest and the founder/director of Stillpoint Ministries in Black Mountain.

Early Celtic Christianity was earth-centered, poetic, humorous, mystical, and characterized by pilgrimages undertaken with deep trust in the Creator. This day-long retreat will explore images of the divine manifested through earth and in the lives of some outstanding women of myth and history.

Through poetry, story, and visual material the participants will reclaim their place in the sacred circle.

This event is sponsored by the ecumenical Women in Religion discussion group, which meets monthly at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Hickory. You may register by mail by obtaining a flyer from your church or organizational office, or by calling Frances Frock at (828) 322-2372 or Helen Gitlin at 828/322-3842. The registration fee of $15 ($5 for full-time students) includes coffee break and lunch.

Greensboro Council of Catholic Women sponsors events

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is sponsoring several events in January. On Jan. 17, the women will meet at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms F and G at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., to discuss and plan a service project at the Servant Center, a facility for homeless and disabled men.

On Jan. 24, the group is having a potluck luncheon and informational session with entertainment by the High Point Senior Chorus at noon at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd. Council members are supplying the food and beverages.

All members, those interested in joining the Catholic women's group and those who want to simply share fellowship with others are welcome to attend. For more information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

Diocesan pilgrims among 8.5 million people attending papal events in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 8.5 million people — including pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte — attended papal Masses and audiences in 2000, the Vatican said. The figures released Dec. 30 by the Prefecture of the Papal Household reflect only the number of free tickets the office distributed for papal events. The figures do not include people who showed up in St. Peter's Square without a ticket, nor people who came for the pope's Sunday recitation of the Angelus following a morning papal Mass in the square, the Vatican press office said. The prefecture, headed by U.S. Bishop James M. Harvey, said its figures for the year 2000 refer only to events at which Pope John Paul II was present and not to the number of Holy Year visitors to the Vatican.

Diocese to honor memory of King, celebrate Black History Month

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — During a weekend preceding Black History Month, the Diocese of Charlotte will honor the memory of an African American who had a dream of racial equality and peace.

The diocese's African American Affairs Ministry sponsors the 16th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on Jan. 27 beginning at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave., in Charlotte.

Combined as both a preparatory celebration of Black History Month in February and a post-birthday celebration honoring Dr. King, the event will include talks on King's legacy, the contributions of blacks in the church, and a Mass celebrated by Father Mauricio W. West, the diocese's vicar general and chancellor.

To have such a celebration in a diocese with growing cultural diversity is significant, said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, director of the African American Affairs Ministry.

"Certainly if we all can consider ourselves God's children, we should consider each other brothers and sisters - regardless of ethnicity, color, background or anything else," he said.

The featured guest speaker at the event is Dr. Hilbert Stanley, director of the National Black Catholic Congress, headquartered in Baltimore.

Daniel Rudd, the son of Catholic slaves, founded the National Black Catholic Congress in the 1880s as an organization committed to evangelization of African Americans, inviting them as full participants in church and society.

The Congress hosts a national gathering each year, and the Jan. 27 celebration will include the first of several workshops to prepare for this July's gathering in Chicago, said Rev. Mr. Todd.

"They have a pastoral plan," he said of the Congress, "and these workshops will be on what black Catholics can do and have done in the church."

Born Michael Luther King, Jr., on Jan. 15, 1929, King became a Baptist minister and ardent civil-rights supporter. He met with President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to urge civil-rights support, was arrested in 1963 after leading segregation protests in Birmingham, Ala., and in August of that year gave his famous "I have a dream" speech before 250,000 in Washington.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn. A national holiday honoring him was instituted in 1986.

Black History Month has its roots in south side of Chicago, where blacks from the South migrated in droves in the early 1900s. In the late 1910s, Dr. Carter Woodson began promoting "Negro History Week" to highlight the contributions of African Americans. Chicago blacks gathered at the Wabash Street YMCA in Chicago — a refuge for thousands of blacks in an era when they were often unwelcome — to celebrate the week.

By 1926, the week was observed in the second month of February, the same timeframe as the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The observance developed as Black History Month in 1976.

A nominal registration fee applies for the Jan. 27 diocesan celebration. For further information, including registration and admission fees, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd at (704) 370-3339.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

0244 or (336) 884-5858.

14 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the unborn is being held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. For further information, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on Jan. 18 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Jan. 28 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

15 WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscan Fraternity of St. Claire will begin formation classes in Feb. 2001. If you are interested in exploring what it means to be a Secular Franciscan, you are welcome to attend informational meetings from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., tonight or on Jan. 18. For more information, call Suzanne Stevens at (336) 723-8481.

16 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Father Eric Kowalski is presenting "Confession: The Right Rite for the Soul," a session about the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

19 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting a session about the impact and psychological implications of divorce on children tonight from 7-9 p.m. in Room 102 in the parish center. Jeanne Murrone, Ph.D., licensed clinical child psychologist and St. Gabriel Church parishioner, is leading the discussion. All are invited to attend this gathering and potluck, and for further details, call Lisa Kelley at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 44.

24 ASHEVILLE — The Business Group, Catholic Social Services - Western Regional Office and Marriage Ministry of St. Eugene Church are presenting "Money and Marriage" today from 7-8:30 p.m. at Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern St. The workshop; led by Bonnie Scully, certified financial planner; is designed for couples involved with marriage preparation programs or any couple who wants to improve or work on their personal finances. Proceeds from the sale of Scully's book about managing money will benefit CSS. For more information, call CSS at (828) 255-0146.

27 CHARLOTTE — An information session about volunteering for the 1st National Gathering for African-American Catholic women, being held in Charlotte from July 27-29, is taking place today during the annual Martin Luther King Celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. To volunteer or for further information, call (704) 568-1573 or (704) 370-3354.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia on the fourth Monday of this month from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided with advanced notification. For more information about the support group or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Girl Scouts work to answer calls for help

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — For some, cellular phones have become a necessity for daily life, whether conducting business or casually talking to a friend or family member while driving home. These mobile gadgets have replaced regular home phone usage for many people who have found them to be convenient. However, for many women suffering from any type of abuse, owning a cell phone could be a matter of life or death.

Battered women's shelters up and down the East Coast have been benefiting from the generosity of others through the collection of used cell phones reprogrammed to speed dial 911 in case of an emergency through business collections and donations. Women who are experiencing abuse from a husband, boyfriend or family member may call emergency services with the push of a button.

Deborah Eshelman, Our Lady of Mercy Cadette Girl Scout Troop 241 Leader and an Our Lady of Mercy Church parishioner, had seen a website about a national cell phone program and thought that it would be a positive project for her seven Cadette Girl Scouts which includes her daughter Sarah, 13. Through a friend who works at the battered women's shelter in Winston-Salem, Eshelman discovered that she could do the same phone collection and donation locally.

The Cadettes covered large boxes with decorative paper for phone collections at St. Leo the Great Church, Holy Family Church, Our Lady of Mercy Church and Our Lady of Mercy School. The teens also wrote the church bulletin and school newsletter announcements, and then, the phones began to ring in non-stop.

"The back of my van is filled with boxes of phones and chargers, and some of them look brand-new," said Eshelman. "The response has been overwhelming, so much so that I don't know if the shelter will be able to handle all of them. The really gratifying thing is when we called the parishes to ask them if we could place the boxes in the narthexes because they were so enthusiastic and open about the project."

From left to right, Cadette Girl Scouts Sarah Eshelman, Chrissy Hellinger and Kathyrn Baker sort and count their cell phone collection for their project in conjunction with several Winston-Salem churches and the local battered women's shelter.

She predicts that the project, which has been underway for a little less than a month, will produce the collection of over 250 phones. At their last Cadette meeting, the teens counted approximately 130 phones that Eshelman will transport to the shelter to be passed out to the women.

The phones are in place just in time for the New Year, which Jane Taylor, coordinator of shelter services for the Mecklenburg County Shelter for Battered Women, said is when shelters seem to overflow. "Many women try to keep things together during the holiday season because they don't want Christmas to be disrupted. After the first of the year, they usually make a move and go to the shelters," said Taylor.

Taylor said that the court system in Charlotte gives out phones to as many women as possible when they file restraining orders against spouses or mates. However, the phones can be most effective if the woman already has a restraining order filed or a court case is pending because the trail is easier for the police to pick up.

"I didn't think we would get this many. This is an important project because the more people get involved, the more lives that can be saved," said Sarah Eshelman whose sister Susan, 7, is a Brownie Girl Scout. "This is not only important for the wives but also for the children who might also be abused."

Unfortunately, Deborah Eshelman knows someone who has experienced domestic violence, so this project was bittersweet for her.

"My heart filled with pride as I watched them carry the phones back and forth, and they had so much fun collecting and counting them because they really didn't realize how many were involved," said Deborah. "This would be a good project for them to do at any time of the year, but especially when people have received new phones for Christmas. They are old enough to understand they are making a difference and helping someone."

Chrissy Hellinger, 13, said that she was surprised about the response and was happy that the churches care about the people that need help. "This makes us all feel better because we can save someone's life and her family. I realized that we just saved 130 lives from the phones we counted."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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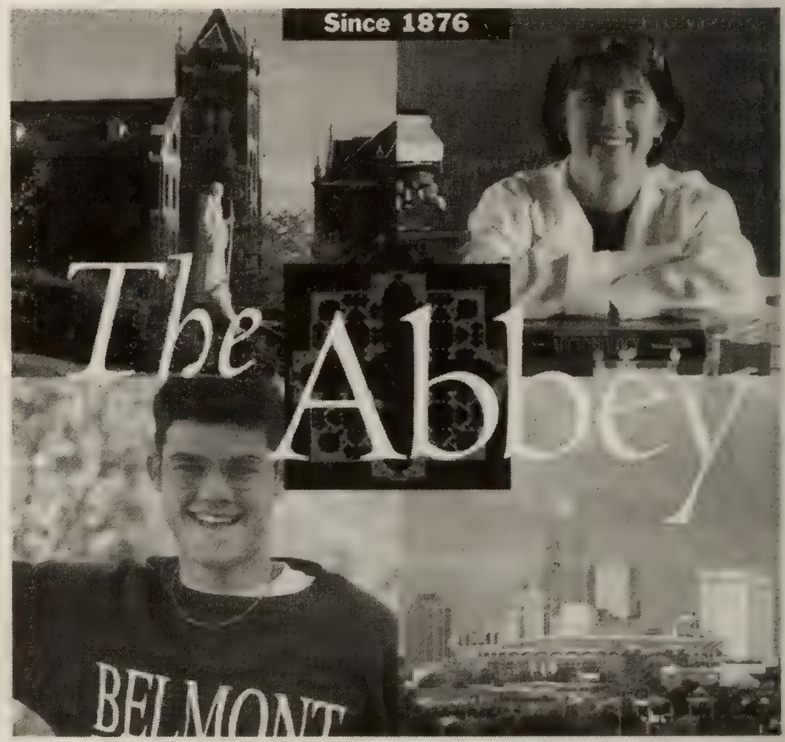

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Parish and school share in groundbreaking for new facilities

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

GASTONIA — Students at St. Michael School got an extended recess Dec. 15. Bracing against the unusually brisk pre-Christmas chill, kindergartners and pre-teens were given a peek into the future as a bit of Gaston County soil was tossed for perpetuity.

While some might see this as another groundbreaking in a rapidly growing community, there was uniqueness to this ceremonial show of shovels. It's a twofold project: A new parish church planned simultaneous to an expansion of St. Michael School.

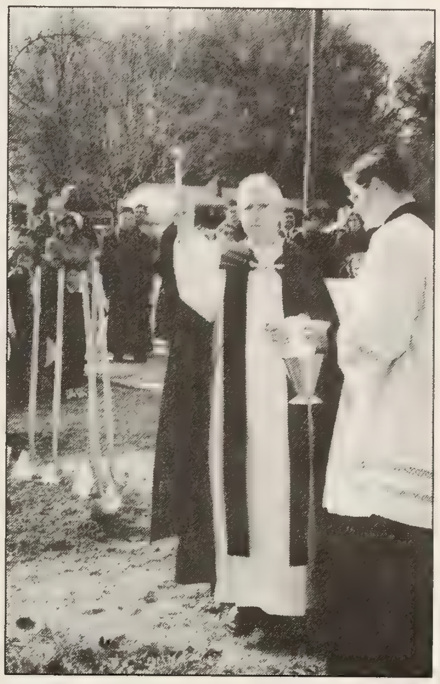
As he blessed the soil prior to breaking ground for the school addition, Bishop William G. Curlin said, "It's not the building that's important, it's building ourselves in Christ." Our children are here at St. Michael to learn about Jesus Christ and how to apply Him in their daily lives, he added.

"Today we are extending our love for Christ, assuring that in the generations to come, all the young people in this school will come out filled with the love of Jesus Christ and bring that joy into the world."

Dedicated in 1903, St. Michael Church was initially established as a mission of Mary Help of Christians Church in Belmont. Belmont Abbey priests administered to the Gastonia parish until 1925 when St. Michael attained parish status, with Benedictine priest as the first resident pastor. The school was dedicated in 1952, and staffed by Sisters of Mercy from Belmont's Sacred Heart convent.

Photos By Joann S. Keane

Father John Allen and Principal Joe Puceta break ground for the new parish project. "We are eagerly awaiting the first sight of the new addition that will be the first major addition to the school since 1952," said Puceta.



Bishop William G. Curlin, assisted by Parochial Vicar Father Chris Gober, sprinkles holy water in preparation for the groundbreaking. "Recognizing the need to adequately serve our brothers and sisters, you have generously sacrificed in support of Project 2000 which will benefit all who love St. Michael Parish," said Bishop Curlin.

"This marks the beginning of a very exciting phase of the parish's life," said Father John Allen, pastor. "Building a church and school together is going to provide us with expanded facilities to serve our growing community."

Dubbed 'Project 2000,' St. Michael's $3.3 million project will provide 13,500 square feet of worship space with seating for 900 - a substantial increase from the current stone church's capacity of 300.

The school will add much needed classroom, lab and teacher workspace. A 1996 article in The Catholic News & Herald speaks of the early stages of Project 2000, with initial planning under the direction of former pastor, Father George Kloster.

"The new addition will provide new library space, new classrooms and new science facilities," said Principal Joseph Puceta. "These changes will enhance the already excellent education offered to our students and will serve the school's future students as well."

"I've seen, approved and blessed your designs," said Bishop Curlin. "You are going to be very proud of your new church. You've long needed this. What a marvelous day it will be when you come together for the dedication of the church and new school facilities. Remember, you did it. You're the ones to make this come true."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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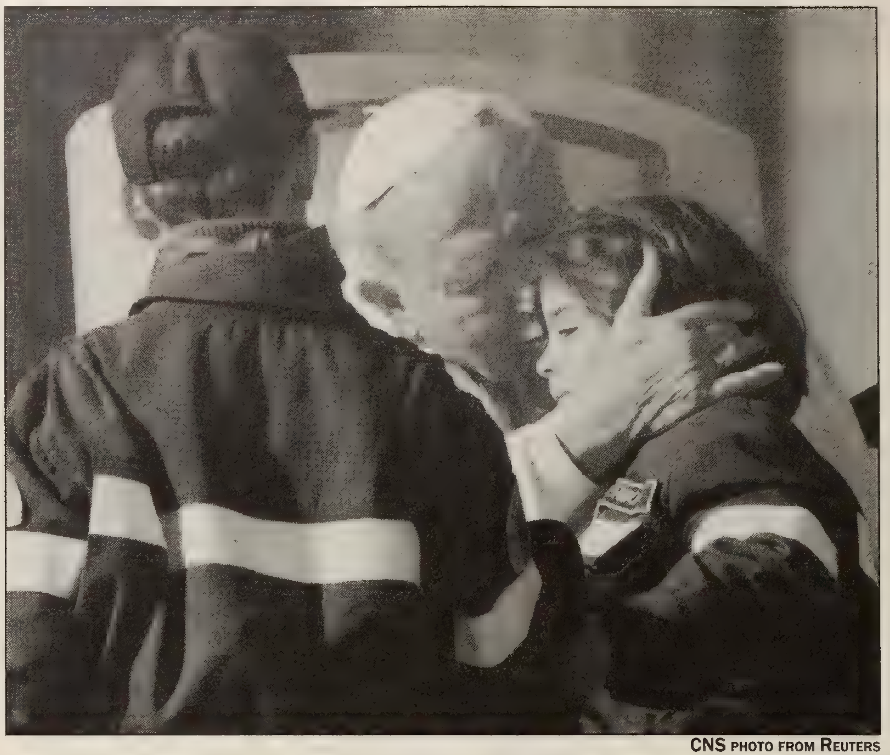
Detroit priest faces new challenges at JPII cultural center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father G. Michael Bugarin has the job of seeing the new Pope John Paul II Cultural Center through to completion and then running it after it opens in late March. Dedicated in November, the center not only honors the life and ministry of Pope John Paul II, but also will serve as an information center about the Catholic faith and a showplace for traveling exhibits from the Vatican Museums. Situated just up Harewood Road from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, it promises to become a major attraction for visitors, especially Catholic visitors, to the nation's capital. As secretary to Detroit's Cardinal Adam Maida from 1993-98, Father Bugarin was "on the periphery of a lot of the conversations" that led to the development of the center. As president of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Foundation, the cardinal spearheaded the cultural center project. "It's a project that's near and dear to (Cardinal Maida's) heart, and I said yes immediately," Father Bugarin recalled of the cardinal's request in December 1997 that he take on the directorship while also pursuing graduate studies in canon law at The Catholic University of America.

Estrada impeachment trial draws wide interest, say church leaders

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — A surprise witness at Philippine President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial and a Christmas message from the presiding judge, the chief justice, have held people's interest during a 10-day recess. Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, Dec. 27 that clergy, religious and lay leaders whom he met over the holidays in his southern archdiocese were "happy to hear and see a credible witness" link Estrada to bank accounts he allegedly held under a fictitious name. Church leaders report that the trial session on Dec. 22, the last in 2000, has been widely discussed at holiday socials.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Celebrating Jubilee

Pope John Paul II kisses a girl Dec. 30 during his last jubilee audience of 2000 in St. Peter's Square.

Bishop Garner, retired Newark auxiliary, dead at 80

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — A funeral Mass was scheduled for Dec. 29 for Bishop Robert F. Garner, a retired auxiliary in the Newark Archdiocese who died on Christmas Day. The 1 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica in Newark was to be followed by interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington. "He died peacefully surrounded by many family members," said Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark in announcing the death. "He served well and would have completed a quarter century as a bishop this spring. Bishop Garner, 80, had been retired for the past five years. Born April 27, 1920, in Jersey City, Robert Francis Garner attended St. Patrick's School in Jersey City, St. Peter's High School, Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark on June 15, 1946.

What did the Magi see? Astronomer poses theories

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — The Evangelist Matthew talked about where Jesus was born and how the wise men found him by following a star. But was that fact, fiction, fantasy or something else? What, if anything, did the wise men see? Terry Flower, a College of St. Catherine physics professor and astronomer, probed the night skies Dec. 12 to assess when and where Jesus was born and how his Eastern visitors found him. Speaking to an audience of about 60 in the college chapel, Flower said Jesus probably was not born Dec. 25, for even in Israel the weather would have been too chilly for sheep to be outside at that time. Flower said the "star of Bethlehem" that attracted the wise men to Jesus' birthplace most likely was the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces in May during the year 7 B.C.

Layman brings Christians, Muslims, Jews together

OTTAWA (CNS) — A Catholic layman who lives and works with the poor in West Ottawa was the driving force that brought leading Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders to Parliament Hill to pray for peace and justice in the Holy Land. Frederick Schubert, 42, a member of the Third Order of St. Francis and director of His Mercy, a Catholic drop-in center, convinced leaders of the Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities to join in an interfaith prayer vigil Dec. 21. Representatives of each of the faiths prayed separately during the one-hour ceremony, then joined in a common prayer for peace and justice in the Middle East. The vigil ended with the lighting of a peace candle.

Cardinal Ratzinger links Christian anti-Judaism to Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A top Vatican official said it was undeniable that some Christians failed to oppose Nazi atrocities because of anti-Jewish sentiment, but said the tragedy may have awakened the church to a new era of dialogue with Jews. The experience of the Holocaust's horrors may have prompted a "new vision" of Catholic reconciliation with Jews after centuries of anti-Judaism and "deplorable acts of violence," said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in a front-page article in the Vatican's newspaper Dec. 29. He said Catholic dialogue with Jews belongs to a unique category because the Jewish faith "for us is not another religion, but the foundation of our faith."

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St. William Church reclaims original church building

By JO ANN ALBERTS
Correspondent

MURPHY — St. William Church begins this new year with an important piece of history back in its possession: its original church building.

St. William, as a parish, and the entire part of the diocese from Waynesville to the Tennessee border was once served entirely by the Glenmary Home Missioners.

Glenmary specialized in coming to small towns with few Catholics where, without their presence, there probably would not have been a Catholic Church. Murphy would be a prototypical example.

The Glenmary methods of evangelization were developed specifically for this type of environment — involvement in the community, tent preaching, radio programs, ecumenical ministry. The Glenmary goal was always to develop the local parish to a point where it was strong enough to be turned over to the diocese; then, they could move on to another place which needed their distinctive ministry.

The Glenmarians were the first resident priests in Cherokee County, arriving in 1954. From Murphy, they served Cherokee, Clay and Graham Counties. Later, the Glenmary Sisters came to Hayesville and founded Good Shepherd Home Health agency.

The Glenmary priests served St. William until 1988 when, having developed the parish according to their criteria for self-sustainability, they turned the parish over to the diocese. During this time and under their leadership, new churches were built in both Murphy and Hayesville, and, probably more importantly, a firm foundation for the Catholic Church was established.

As a memorial to the wonderful work that the Glenmarians have done, not only in this parish but in all of western North Carolina, St. William proudly has selected Glenmary house as the name of their most recent expansion.

On July 25, 2000, the St. William parish re-acquired its original church building, located at 731 Andrews Road just west of the existing St. William property, which has for many years belonged to the Providence Presbyterian Church congregation.

"The ministry of the Glenmary priests, brothers and sisters in the mountains of North Carolina provided a foundation for the growth of the church in the western party of the state that we have today," said Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William. "Their mentality and ministry were especially adapted for real mission work. ...

GLENMARY HOUSE

Photo by Jo Ann Alberts

St. William Parish in Murphy heads into 2001 with a "new" addition: its original church building. The parish re-acquired the building last summer, and the Murphy parish welcomes it for expanded parish use.

"By their presence they helped break down walls of bias and prejudice against Catholics. We owe them a great debt."

Until Nov. 1, Providence continued to use the building while St. William committees anticipated the minor renovations needed to adapt the structure for parish and community activities.

St. William's history extends back to 1937 when a priest named Father Lane preached a series of lectures on the Cherokee County Courthouse steps. The following year, several priests from the diocese of Raleigh began offering Mass in Murphy every fifth Sunday —in the home of parishioner John Manthey, in the Henn theater, in a funeral parlor, or in the dining room at the Hotel Regal.

In 1952, Father Lawrence

See MURPHY, page 8

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Murphy, from previous page

Newman, pastor of St. John Church in Waynesville,

built the original St. William Church with the help of a successful appeal for donations from people by the name of Murphy throughout our country. The church was named St. William in honor of a 12th-century Italian abbot and spiritual reformer, St. William of Vercelli.

Bishop Vincent S. Waters dedicated the small, red brick church, which included a parish hall and living quarters for a priest. Although there were only five permanent Catholic families at the time of the dedication, the church was able to seat seventy people.

"The original St. William Church holds many fond memories for my husband, Charlie, and me," says Flo Valentine. "But one in particular is that on April 15, 1981, we celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary by renewing our vows. Father Healey presided and our third daughter, with her two small sons, flew in from New York to be with us.

"The original St. William Church holds many fond memories for my husband, Charlie, and me," says Flo Valentine.

"It was a very quiet, unannounced ceremony during a weekday morning Mass. We remember there only being two more people present."

In 1954, The Glenmary Home Missioners took over responsibility for the newly created Catholic parish of Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties. Father Joseph Dean ('54-'60), became the first pastor of St. William and the first resident priest in the county.

In 1955, additional property was purchased next to and behind the original church. By 1960, mission stations had been established in Hayesville ('55), Lance Cove ('55-'60,Tusquittee ('57-'58), Texana ('57-'68), Robbinsville ('57-'66), and Andrews ('58).

The first Mass ever offered in Hayesville was at Swanson's store on the square, New Year's Day, 1955 by Fr. Dean. Soon thereafter, at the invitation of Fr. Dean, the Sisters of Providence (Holyoke, Massachusetts) came to Murphy ('56-'78) to manage and staff the local Petrie Hospital, renaming it Providence Hospital. The dedicated and cheerful work of the Sisters contributed greatly toward the acceptance of the Catholic Church in this area.

An ever-increasing number of Catholics moved to Cherokee and Clay Counties from Florida until, finally in 1983, Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley directed that plans be undertaken for new churches in Murphy and Hayesville.

In Hayesville, parishioners Mr. & Mrs. Richard Berguin gave a choice tract of 5.3 acres on Route 64. Groundbreaking for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church was in early 1984; the first Mass was offered in December of that year; and, formal dedication of the church and hall occurred on July 25, 1985 by Bishop John Donoghue of Charlotte, Father Frank Ruff, president of the Glenmary Home Missioners, and Father T.J. Meehan, pastor.

The new Murphy church groundbreaking took place in late 1984; the first Mass was offered on Christmas Eve 1985; and, Bishop Donoghue formally dedicated the new St. William Church on April 24, 1986 with nearly 300 parishioners and guests attending.

Now in the year 2001, St. William continues to grow and was in real need of space for conducting such activities as the children's Faith Formation classes; outreach to youth and senior groups and to the Spanish-speaking community; for arts and crafts workshops; and for such parish meetings and activities as the Women's Guild and the Men's Club (existing and ever-growing groups which raise money to provide for practical needs of the church and rectory facilities and which do the groundskeeping and building projects).

The Providence Presbyterian Church has approximately 2,450 square feet, comes with an additional half-acre and 15-20 more parking spaces. It is in very good condition and is ready for immediate occupancy.

Aging pope welcomes new year

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Pope John Paul II guided the church through a packed calendar of events during Holy Year 2000, one question trailed him like a shadow: What comes next?

More than a year ago, according to a widely circulated story, the pope told top aides not to pencil him in for anything past Jan. 6, 2001 — the day he would swing shut the Holy Door and, with it, the jubilee.

The implication was that the 80-year-old pontiff, left increasingly frail by neurological disease, would cut back his official activities or even resign once he had successfully led the church into the third millennium.

Other longtime papal observers warned of a "post-jubilee letdown" that, psychologically or even physically, might affect the Polish-born pope after his crowning achievements of the jubilee.

But as the Holy Year winds down, it's becoming clear that this pope has no intention of closing up shop once he closes the Holy Door.

Instead, he's getting ready for yet another year of consistories, synods, canonizations, foreign travel, public liturgies, speechmaking and meetings.

"I don't see him slowing down. I think the pope will be returning to the kind of activity that existed before the jubilee. If anything, the intense agenda of the jubilee has postponed many issues that must now be dealt with," papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said in mid-December.

In January, the pope is expected to name about 25 new cardinals, once again changing the face of the body that one day will elect his successor. After they receive their red hats — probably in late February — Pope John Paul will have chosen 110 out of 120 potential papal electors. The new batch of cardinals is expected to include Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York and possibly Archbishops Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington and Justin F. Rigali of St. Louis. Among other cardinals likely to be named are those from Italy, England, Ireland, India, Nigeria, Brazil, Argentina, and several other Latin American countries.

Perhaps the most taxing item on the pope's 2001 calendar is the regular assembly of the Synod of Bishops in October, postponed from 2000. The pope presides personally over its long general sessions, then typically lunches with groups of participants. He is expected to take a particular interest in this year's theme, the role of the bishop.

The pope will continue his globetrotting papacy after the Holy Year, although the trips planned will keep him fairly close to home. In May, he'll resume his series of pilgrimages to biblical lands when he makes his first visit to Syria.

In June, he ventures into Ukraine, where a Catholic minority is eagerly awaiting him but where Orthodox Christians are still wary of a papal visit. A stop in Athens, Greece — where St. Paul preached — could be tacked onto that trip, depending on reaction from the Orthodox Church of Greece.

In September, the pope is expected to make his way to Armenia in Western Asia, another predominantly Orthodox country that is celebrating the 1,700th anniversary of Christianity. For now, it looks like a hoped-for post-synodal trip to Oceania has been ruled out because the long flight could prove too fatiguing for the pontiff.

According to Navarro-Valls, the pope's travel plans reflect a top priority for the coming year: improving ecumenical relations, especially with the Orthodox. By personally venturing into the Orthodox heartland, the pope hopes to build bridges and soothe conflicts, confident that he is a pontiff who truly understands the East.

Foreign trips are the most widely covered part of a papacy, but most of Pope John Paul's time is spent in a series of invisible meetings behind the Vatican's walls. Among the most important are "ad limina" visits made by individual bishops to consult personally with the pope and his aides. Suspended during the Holy Year, they are set to pick up again in 2001, with groups of bishops from Latin American countries.

The pope is also expected to resume his frequent habit of visiting Rome parishes on weekends. To date, he has visited 290 parishes in his diocese, and has about 38 left. Sources in the Rome vicariate said the first visits are being tentatively lined up.

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Young adults must become priority in church, priest says

By MARY ST. PIERRE
Catholic News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — With the explosion of the computer age, more young adults than ever are holding leadership positions within Fortune 500 companies, yet those in the 20- to 30-year-old group often find few opportunities to participate in the life and development of the Catholic Church.

This, according to Father John Cusick, director of a very successful young adult ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago, must change.

"At any given moment young adults in Florida, the Chicago area, or any place else are making significant decisions in their professional lives and in positions of management, but within the Catholic Church we are hesitant to give them any responsibility or authority," Father Cusick told The Florida Catholic, Orlando diocesan newspaper, in a phone interview.

"This has to change," he added. "The church has to make them a priority and we all know, if the Catholic Church makes something a priority, it will happen."

In the Diocese of Charlotte, the young adult community in Charlotte and surrounding areas was presented with the opportunity to participate in a program designed with them in mind. Theology on Tap (TOT), sponsored by Campus and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte, is a program that originally began in Chicago as a way for people in their late teens through their thirties to connect and share their faith through a series of discussions, music and dialogue.

"TOT was a success, and we received a positive response from the attendants and others as well," said Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. "People in the Asheville and Piedmont-Triad areas of North Carolina are interested in starting their own groups sometime this year.

"Once people got together for TOT, other ideas surfaced. One group of participants toured Belmont Abbey Basilica and College and met with Abbot Placid Solari, and another group is planning a retreat. TOT is also being planned for the spring. They are getting more involved in their parishes, generating ideas and are finding support from their parish priests and others, which is characteristic of this diocese," said McDermott.

The profile of many young adults today, according to Father Cusick, is that of a person of intelligence, often highly educated, not shy about liking material things, yet with a strong sense of the need to help the less fortunate. They grew up with the true spirit of stewardship by being involved in church and community activities throughout their childhood and want to continue to make a difference when given a chance.

"Young adults have an innate sense of altruism," Father Cusick said. "They want to do good, they want to be good stewards, they want to lead good lives. While all this may be good, what measures are we as a church taking on the local and national level to educate our young adults about stewardship and then accept them as good stewards?"

They also have an earnest desire, Father Cusick said, to deepen their relationship with God, especially after their children are born.

Years ago it was pretty much a given that young adults who had drifted away from the church were welcomed back in, no questions asked, along with their children who were then baptized and received as new members of the Catholic Church. Proper documentation was required of course, such as proof of marriage within the Catholic Church, but that was about it.

"Today we seem to forget about our young adults until they want to have their children baptized," Father Cusick said. "Then, suddenly the parents have to go to classes if they want their children baptized or want them to receive their first Communion. If they can't attend the classes when we schedule them, they can't have their children even so much as baptized."

While it is often children that steer young adults back to being active Catholics, the fact of the matter, according to Father Cusick, is they are marrying later in life which means they are away from the church for a longer period of time than in the past.

"The average age now of young adults today whom I marry is between 28 and 34," Father Cusick said. "This means they are living without the church longer and longer."

Collectively, Father Cusick believes, the Catholic Church is famous for a kind of "one-size-fits-all" approach when it comes to adults. Young adults, he said, are extremely eager to be involved in the life of the church as active Catholics and good stewards.

The church must come to recognize this by bringing about necessary changes to fit the needs and schedules of young adults and welcome them in as vital members of our faith communities, he said.

"They are desperately looking for ways to connect their faith with their daily life," Father Cusick said of young adults. "They want Jesus Christ to make sense to them and be a viable spiritual tool in their homes, at work and in the community. They don't need someone preaching on what the Gospel says but rather how they can make it work in their lives."

For more information about Theology on Tap or other young adult events in the Diocese of Charlotte, call Jennifer Rupp, diocesan program coordinator for youth and young adult ministry, at (704) 370-3359.

Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story.

New York Archbishop unharmed after attempted handcuffing

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York was unharmed after a man with a history of mental problems tried to handcuff the archbishop during the distribution of Communion at the 10:15 a.m. Mass on New Year's Day.

Timothy Byrne, 38, of Hoboken, N.J., was wrestled to the floor of St. Patrick's Cathedral after the handcuff attempt by two cathedral ushers who are also New York City police officers, police said, and shackled with his own cuffs.

Byrne was charged with attempted unlawful imprisonment, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon, disrupting a religious service, harassment and resisting arrest, and arraigned Jan. 2.

According to police, Byrne, who was already wearing cuffs on one of his hands, lunged at Archbishop Egan in the center aisle of St. Patrick's Cathedral and grabbed his arm. "I have to arrest the bishop!" he yelled as he tried to attach the other end of the cuffs on the prelate. But the archbishop wrested his arm free and police and ushers subdued Byrne.

Byrne was arrested in September 1999 and sent to a mental hospital after threatening to cut off President Clinton's head, according to the New York Daily News.

Byrne's father, Patrick Byrne, told the newspaper, "He's just got problems."

The New York Times reported that federal authorities declined to prosecute Byrne after determining that he was mentally ill. It added Byrne had been receiving care from two New Jersey mental health centers.

Byrne has been suing the Catholic Church for more than a year, claiming, among other things, it has fraudulently collected money from parishioners, duping the public.

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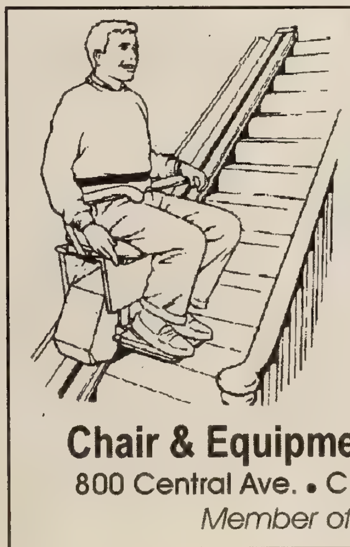

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Book Review

New book on Waldheim falls short of balanced view

REVIEWED BY AGOSTINO BONO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the mid-1980s, former U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim was nominated by his Christian Democratic party as their candidate for president of Austria. Although the post is mostly ceremonial, carrying little political influence beyond local patronage, Waldheim's campaign ignited international controversy after allegations that he was involved in Nazi atrocities as a soldier during World War II.

Waldheim won. But his 1986-92 term of office was punctuated by numerous investigations and studies to determine what culpability, if any, he had as a junior officer in the German army.

These turned up many gray areas in which factual evidence clearly pointing one way or another was hard to find, leaving much room for interpretation and speculation.

Because of the intensity of the controversy, the Waldheim case has become a significant footnote in the larger post-World War II European attempts to come to terms with its Nazi past and the Holocaust.

THE WALDHEIM AFFAIR: DEMOCRACY SUBVERTED,
by Harold H. Tittmann III. Olin Frederick, Inc. (Dunkirk, N.Y. 2000). 129 pp., $22.95.

"The Waldheim Affair," however, falls far short of a balanced view. As clearly stated in the beginning, it is an unabashed exoneration of Waldheim. Author Harold H. Tittmann III, a retired U.S. corporate lawyer, thinks an injustice was done to Waldheim and that he was subjected to defamation campaigns by groups lacking solid proof tying Waldheim to responsibility for war crimes.

Tittmann cites Austria's Socialist Party, the World Jewish Congress and the U.S. government's Office of Special Investigations as the chief anti-Waldheim culprits.

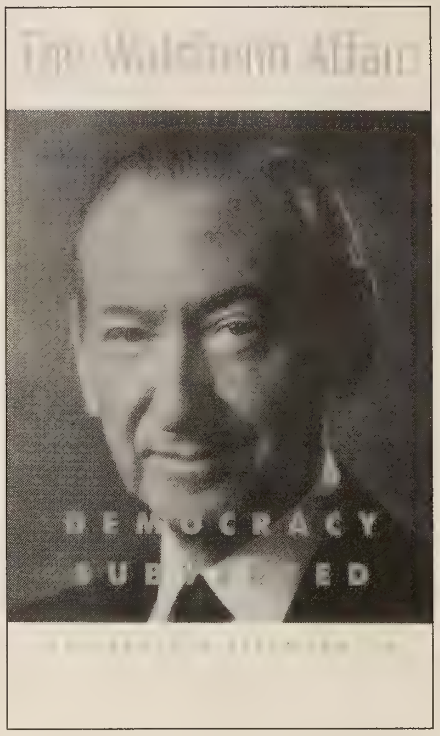
According to Tittmann:

— The Socialist Party wanted to defeat Waldheim in the presidential elections.

— The World Jewish Congress, worried about rising anti-Semitism in Europe, wanted to show that the ghosts of the past are alive and well in highly visible government posts.

— The fledgling Office of Special Investigations, responsible for formulating a "watch list" of people denied entry to the United States because of ties to Nazi war crimes, needed a high profile case to justify its existence before a skeptical U.S. Congress.

The United States became a major protagonist when Waldheim was placed on its watch list, straining ties with Austria.



Nor was the Vatican aloof from the fray. Pope John Paul II came under heavy fire from Israel and Jewish organizations because he received Waldheim as a head of state and gave him papal honors at a time when many Western countries were boycotting the Austrian president.

This book briefly mentions the flak aimed at the Vatican but does not discuss the Vatican's reasons for its actions.

Given the book's pro-Waldheim leanings it is likely to convince those already siding with Waldheim and antagonize those who already are his critics.

Anyone fresh to the case will need to supplement this work with more critical studies of Waldheim's war years.

Bono, now on the Washington staff of Catholic News Service, was its Rome bureau chief during the Waldheim controversy.

Word to Life

January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

Cycle C Readings:
1) Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 10-13
2) Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
3) Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Magi, gifts, protection from harm. All of these elements are present in the life story of a friend of mine whom God rescued from an abusive marriage relationship. Her husband was in a high-pressure job that sometimes was more than he could handle. When the pressures mounted, the abusive behavior began.

One evening the abuse came to a climax. He was bearing down on her neck, with the apparent intent to kill, when the doorbell rang. My friend says the interruption at just that point saved her life. She's sure God arranged the timing.

She left the marriage and continued to be a good mom to their daughter, since grown up and married to a good husband. And our friend began to develop career interests of her own. Over a period of years, she became quite proficient in her new field, earning national recognition — and even international recognition.

A European company began to court her. They wined and dined her, literally, in Europe. They made increasingly lucrative offers, finally winning her signature on a contract.

Magi, in this case corporate kings, pouring wealth into her lap, parallel to the promises made to Israel in the Isaiah reading, "For the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you."

And like the Psalms reading about the Messiah, my friend experienced the literal fulfillment of the promised Savior's concern for those who are threatened, that night when her life was on the line: "For he shall rescue the poor man when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him."

But why did my friend endure, persevere and overcome her harsh treatment so admirably well? Why has she now become someone who generously gives to mission efforts to bring the Gospel to others, to make the Christ child known where he is not?

Certainly grace is at work in her life. But there are human factors as well.

The home she grew up in was one where courage, kindness, compassion and Christian faith were more than words. They were lived out every day. And so, whether she has been in the best or the worst imaginable circumstances, Jesus always has shown himself to her. Her life itself is an Epiphany.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 7 - 13, 2001

Sunday (Epiphany of the Lord), Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6, Matthew 2:1-12; **Monday (The Baptism of the Lord),** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 2:5-12, Mark 1:21-28; **Wednesday,** Hebrews 2:14-18, Mark 1:29-39; **Thursday,** Hebrews 3:7-14, Mark 1:40-45; **Friday,** Hebrews 4:1-5, 11, Mark 2:1-12; **Saturday (St. Hilary),** Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 2:13-17

Readings for the week of Jan. 14 - 20, 2001

Sunday, Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-12; **Monday,** Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday (St. Anthony),** Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday,** Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday,** Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; **Saturday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian),** Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21

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The top 10 films of 2000

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

CNS photo from Miramax

"All the Pretty Horses"

Actors Henry Thomas and Matt Damon in a scene from "All the Pretty Horses," a drama about the romance between a Texas cowboy and the daughter of a wealthy Mexican rancher. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

NEW YORK (CNS) — Critics agree that this has been one of the most dismal years for good films in recent times. There have been many disappointments, some lukewarm exceptions and only a few movies receiving outstanding kudos.

However, among the standouts were some very good films worthy of making it onto the Office for Film and Broadcasting's top 10 films for the year 2000, listed in alphabetical order. Here's to better movies in 2001!

— "Best in Show" is a droll canine comedy that follows a quirky group of dog-lovers going to ridiculous lengths to compete and win at a major dog show. Drawing consistent chuckles, the film mocks this pastime-turned-obsession with an impressive improvisational style, well-drawn characters and zippy pace.

— With an engaging narrative and high-energy dance sequences, "Billy Elliot" is a stirring tale set in Northern England in which a coal miner's young son rises above the tough macho culture that surrounds him to follow his dream of becoming a ballet dancer.

— Set in 1936 Spain just before the Civil War, "Butterfly" is a moving drama about an extraordinary relationship between a shy, young boy and his compassionate and liberal school teacher. The intelligent film aptly captures the coming-of-age moments in a boy's life as the tension of pre-fascist Spain subtly fuels the film's momentum.

— "Cast Away" is a finely crafted drama in which a harried businessman is transformed after surviving a plane crash that leaves him stranded on an uninhabited island for four years before he makes a daring escape in hopes of returning to the woman he loves. With Tom Hanks' superb performance at its center, the film movingly probes what matters most when someone is stripped of his everyday life and possessions.

— "Chicken Run" is a delightful clay animation feature about a plucky chicken and her hen pals cooped up in a British egg farm who, with the help of a flying Yankee rooster, must escape the cruel clutches of an egg farmer before she turns them into chicken pies. The fantastic anthropomorphized features and the narrative's witty details make the film visually pleasing and cleverly amusing.

— An accomplished film with spiritual dimensions, "The Color of Paradise" centers on a blind Iranian 8-year-old, much loved by his rural grandmother and little sisters, whose widowed father callously leaves to apprentice with a blind carpenter before fate intervenes. The affecting drama captures the deeply felt emotions of the vulnerable child, embittered father and tender grandmother, as well as the natural beauty of Iran's lush countryside.

— A thrilling drama, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is a set in 19th-century Qing-Dynasty China, in which a famed warrior's precious sword is stolen and must be recovered at all costs. The film blends mesmerizing martial arts with stunning special effects into a script brimming with intrigue and suspense.

— Keenly dramatizing a totalitarian society, "East-West" tells the story of a physician who returns with his family to his Russian homeland just after World War II only to find brutal living conditions that drive his Parisian wife to desperate action endangering several lives.

— "Remember the Titans" is an uplifting drama set in 1971 about the desegregation of two powerhouse high school football teams that learn to overcome racism and go on to victory under the leadership of their African-American coach. The fact-based saga shows the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, fear and societal prejudices.

— "Traffic" is a powerful thriller that intersects four stories concerning the international drug trade. Stunning visual virtuosity and the stellar ensemble performances create a stark picture of greed, corruption and social decay.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

Following are the U.S. Catholic Conference classification and the Motion Picture Association of America rating for the above movies:

"Chicken Run": A-I — general patronage; G — general audiences.

"The Color of Paradise," "Remember the Titans": A-II — adults and adolescents; PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Cast Away": A-II — adults and adolescents; PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "East-West": A-III — adults; PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Billy Elliot," "Butterfly": A-III — adults; R — restricted.

"Best in Show": A-IV — adults, with reservations; PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Traffic": A-IV — adults, with reservations; R — restricted.

Movie Capsules

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"The Claim" (MGM)

Muddled period piece in which a young man (Peter Mullan) trades his wife (Nastassja Kinski) and daughter (Sarah Polley) for a significant gold claim during the California rush of 1849, and then must face his grave mistake when they arrive 20 years later in the town he has founded. Breathtaking landscapes aside, director Michael Winterbottom's flawed film is dramatically hollow with a fractured narrative and gimmicky camera work that only serve to irritate. A few intense sexual encounters, an implied suicide, some violence, full frontal nudity, and fleeting rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Wes Craven Presents Dracula 2000" (Dimension)

Far-fetched thriller set in the present day, in which an antiques dealer (Christopher Plummer) travels from his home in London to America to save his daughter (Justine Waddell) from his lifelong nemesis, Dracula (Gerard Butler). Despite a few frightening moments, director Wes Craven's sleek update has no bite, with ordinary special effects and a convoluted narrative that ends with a cockamamie explanation of Dracula's origins. Intermittent violence with some gore, a few sexual references, fleeting partial nudity and sporadic rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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Father Rick Rohger of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Cary, N.C., and several families in the area are looking for Byzantine Rite Catholics. If you are interested in possibly forming a Byzantine Rite mission or would like more information, please call:

Olga (704) 948-6471 or Becky (704) 566-0957

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges Christians to open hearts to Christ in new year

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told Christians to begin the year 2001 by opening their hearts to Christ.

"In this way, we will be able to undertake the new year with unshaken confidence," he said Jan. 3.

Addressing about 20,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square in the final days of the Christmas season, the pope focused his first general audience of the year on Christ's birth in a Bethlehem stable and what it revealed about God.

"In the grotto of Bethlehem, the infinite love that God has for every human being is expressed with disarming simplicity," he said.

He said the tradition of nativity scenes in homes and churches — begun in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi — allows Christians to contemplate "God made man for us."

"Francis' intuition is surprising: The nativity scene is not only a new Bethlehem, because it re-evokes the historical event and carries out its message, but it is also an occasion of consolation and joy," he said.

The nativity scene "celebrates the alliance between God and man," manifests the "mercy and love which binds God to his children," and attests the brotherhood which should unite all believers as children of one God, he said.

The pope said Christians also contemplate in the nativity scene Mary's role in God's plan for humanity.

"The Madonna shines as the model for those who entrust themselves with whole heart to the promises of God," he said.

Ahead of the Jan. 6 closing of the jubilee year, "let us intensify our commitment in these last days of the Holy Year," he said.

"Let us open our hearts to Christ, the sole and universal path which leads to God," he said.

Congressional leaders, chaplain to present pope with gold medal

ROME (CNS) — More than a dozen members of the U.S. Congress and the chaplain of the House of Representatives will present Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal Jan. 8 at the Vatican. The delegation will be led by Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., speaker of the House, and by Sen. Sam D. Brownback, R-Kan., Senate sponsor of the bill. It will include Republicans and Democrats, according to the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. Father Daniel P. Coughlin, the first Catholic appointed House chaplain, was scheduled to join the delegation flying to Italy aboard a U.S. military aircraft. The House of Representatives approved the awarding of the medal to the pope in May, and the Senate followed suit in early July. President Bill Clinton signed the measure July 27.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

The New Year's unlimited possibilities

With the new year beginning, I find myself remembering all the hoopla a year ago as we were about to enter a new millennium. Most of the concern seemed to center on problems, dire predictions of computer meltdowns, of terrible environmental disasters that would flood, shake or sizzle areas of our earth and, worst of all, or asteroids or satellites that would fall from the sky and destroy us.

On the far side of all that were the predictions of great so-called spiritual import that the new millennium would herald a "new age," with many unearthly wonders to come. Some "psychics" wrote best-selling books about how they could communicate with the dead.

More announcements of so-called holy happenings, such as weeping statues of Mary, made the newspapers. Even Hollywood got in on this wave of unearthly happenings, bringing out a bunch of movies with "miracle" themes that were really only show-biz magic.

Now we can look back over the year and relax. It turned out that 2000 was merely a number, that the world went on pretty much as before. We still had weather calamities, scary stuff going on in some countries, contested elections, economic games from the oil producers, amazing advances in medicine, work that still merits a peace prize — I could go on!

It doesn't take brilliance to see that we live in a world where there are bad things and setbacks alongside good things and progress. I used to wonder what God thought of us, looking down from heaven.

Perhaps because I am a parent, I concluded God must be so very proud of what his children have achieved. We've gone from being cave people to sky people in space machines. What tremendous progress humankind has made in these centuries.

It is sad, yes, that some go astray and can cause so much harm with their various forms of warfare. But, remarkably, none of the evil ones of history have really won. Goodness always seems to win out — the goodness of people and the goodness of the earth. I believe God is pleased.

God gave us a world having the raw material we would need to fill our ever-changing needs for food, transportation, communication, learning, caring — what we would need to blossom. God commanded us to fill the earth, and we have been doing this since the dawn of creation. God looks down at us and all we've done, and I wager, God says, "This is good."

As a new year begins, I wonder how much further we will go, and I find an answer. Our journey is unlimited.

The secrets of the universe keep unfolding. The new frontier is now the unseen mysteries of the human body itself. What will we learn as we probe the intricacies of the human brain? I think God is in the cheering section every step of the way.

This is what I'm thinking of as we start 2001 — a year labeled by a number but holding the promise of progress, of "increasing and filling" God's earth.

Celebrating Jubilee

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Vicar for Education

The Jubilee for Catechists and Religion Teachers

It is always an exciting and enlivening experience to visit Rome. The privilege of being in the presence of the Holy Father at any time is a truly memorable moment. During this Jubilee year, millions of pilgrims from throughout the world have gathered around the visible sign of the Church's unity. They have listened to the comforting and challenging words of Pope John Paul II. They have been touched deeply by his faithfulness in service even within the context of his personal suffering. Those visitors have departed the Eternal City enriched and encouraged by the depth of his Faith, the breadth of his hope and the expansiveness of his love.

On Dec. 9-10, representative catechists and religion teachers from every continent met at the Vatican to celebrate the Jubilee. Those of us who were delegates from the United States were blessed beyond measure to participate in the gathering. The sessions that we attended were sources of strength as we reflected upon our identity as disciples of the risen Lord and our mission as His witnesses. It was a particular privilege for us to surround the altar erected on St. Peter's square as the Holy Father celebrated the Liturgy on Sunday morning, Dec. 9.

During the homily the Pope reminded us of the sacred role and serious responsibility of the catechist. He stated that the catechist is commissioned not only to teach the hearers about the Person of Jesus but also to assist the maturing believer to become intimate with Him. The Holy Father observed that the authority of the catechist is measured by the degree of his or her personal intimacy with Jesus. He stressed that the effectiveness of the catechist as teacher is related directly to his or her being a faithful disciple of the Lord. John Paul paraphrased the insightful statement of Pope Paul VI who wrote, "People today don't believe teachers, they believe witnesses. And if they do believe teachers it is because they are witnesses." Prior to concluding his homily, the Pope expressed appreciation to the countless men and women throughout the world, whether lay, religious or priests, who have accepted generously and are implementing faithfully the ministry of catechist.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was a keynote presenter during the meeting. Within his address the Cardinal stated that catechists are commissioned to assist maturing believers to discover the responses to two fundamental questions. How does one learn the art of living? Which is the path to happiness? He stressed that every catechist must remember that Jesus taught day by day and at night He prayed. The Cardinal warned that all attempts to catechize, regardless of the method employed, are empty without the foundation of prayer. He also observed that Jesus didn't save the world with His words, but with His giving of Himself. In that regard, the Cardinal reminded us of the pertinence to the catechist of Christ's message, "Whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

At the conclusion of the gathering at the Vatican those of us who participated in the Jubilee celebration departed both refreshed and renewed. I personally expressed gratitude to God for the privilege of serving with so many devoted and dedicated catechists within the parishes and schools of our diocese. My prayer was and is that we'll continue to be faithful friends, dedicated disciples and wise witnesses of the risen Lord as we teach as Jesus did.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Because We Matter

It's no surprise that the holidays bring out the extremes in human nature. You get pumped up with anticipation, then deflate with sadness in the realization that expectations are unlikely to be met.

I remember an evening back in college, when those feelings got me thinking about the purpose and meaning of life. Leaving my friends at a holiday get-together, I went home early and flipped on the television. There, for the first time, I was enthralled by a movie called "It's a Wonderful Life." Directed by Frank Capra, it celebrated the difference one life can make. Later, through my friendship with him, I learned that the movie reflected Frank Capra's vision. "It was a film to say that no man is a failure, that each person's life touches so many other lives," he said. "And that if you're not around, it would leave an awful hole."

It seems to me that Frank Capra and Maryknoll Father James Keller, founder of The Christophers, knew a great deal about the value — and wonder — of every human life. Begun in 1945, The Christophers still proclaims a message the world so desperately needs to hear: that every person matters, that there's nobody in the world exactly you and that you can make a difference for the good.

Today, with this column, it's my privilege to begin work as the new director of The Christophers.

Let me share with you a little bit of my own background. Born in Brooklyn, I'm a priest of the Diocese of Rockeville Centre (on Long Island, N.Y.), and have been ordained for twenty years. I took a while deciding to become a priest, but never regretted the decision. As Jesuit Father John Powell said, the priesthood is a wonderful way to be "fully human, fully alive." For over a decade, I was diocesan director of the Family Life Office, dealing with matters from marriage preparation to adoption outreach, from pro-life concerns to bereavement counseling. Recently, I have hosted the TV series "Personally Speaking fòr the United States Catholic Conference." "Of Life and Love" is one of three books I have written in addition to a column on family life. It has also been my joy to serve as a parish priest, currently as pastor.

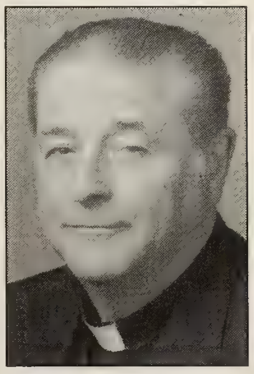
I hail from a family I love deeply, and my Mom and Dad are truly my dear friends. My two sisters Patti and Joan are married and have five delightful children between them. It's been my richest blessing to be a part of the lives of my nephews and nieces. For one of them, Matthew Paul, I was the Lamaze coach at his birth. What a privilege to witness the miracle of a new life coming into the world! At the other extreme, it has been a challenge to watch my parents fight off cancer and heart disease with grit, determination and an abiding faith. Through it all, God's presence has been keenly felt. My family is an anchor and a reality check!

The gift of friendship is a special grace in my life, and I feel richly blessed by extraordinary friends. I have recently lost my closest friend of thirty years, Father Joe Lukaszewski. The value of Joe's presence in my life is yet another reminder how enormously every single one of us matters.

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak with you each week through this "Light One Candle" column. And I hope that my words, like those of my honored predecessors from Father Keller to Msgr. Tom McSweeney who has returned to his home diocese of Erie, Penn., will give you something worth thinking about.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Did Jesus Raise Himself From the Dead?

Q. I was taught and I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven by his own power because he was God. Why do people today, even clergy, say that Jesus was "taken up" into heaven?

Isn't this wrong? Don't we believe that our blessed mother Mary was the only one assumed into heaven?

A. There's nothing at all wrong with this expression. It is how to describe our tradition of what happened to Our Lord at the end of his earthly life.

St. Peter was possibly the first to speak of Jesus with these words. In his discourse at the first Pentecost, he proclaims that "God raised this Jesus." In doing so "God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2).

St. Paul, however, is the one who, if we may put it this way, sanctions this way of speaking about the risen Lord. In only one place (1 Thes 4:14) does he say that Jesus "rose again," seeming to imply it was by his own power.

Every other reference to the resurrection and glorification of Jesus in the Pauline letters attributes this event to the Father. It was he "who raised Jesus from the dead" (Rom 4:24). Galatians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 6:14 and numerous other Pauline texts say the same.

It was common in the early church, as with Paul, to view the resurrection and ascension as one single event in the exaltation of Christ and of our salvation, carried out by the Father of glory, "raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens" (Eph 1:20).

It was in this exaltation, sharing the Father's glory, that Jesus received his own power to give new life, even resurrection, to those who believe in him. (See, for example, 1 Cor 15:20-24.)

The usual understanding of these words of the apostle Paul is that the power of the resurrection is ascribed to the Father of all life, as part of the attribution of the whole of redemption to the Holy Trinity, with each of the three divine persons holding a respective role.

Q. Father Dietzen:

We want to thank you for the great recipe for eucharistic bread. One of the catechumens from our RCIA helped me this year and was thrilled to help make the bread that would become the body of Christ at her first Communion.

We have tried them all in our spread-out parish and appreciate the one you sent. Our bread bakers say it is much easier to work with, and we use it regularly.

A. I am grateful to you and the many others who wrote with their "success stories" about the recipe we mailed. It was requested by more than 700 readers. As I mentioned before, the recipe was developed by a deacon, a professional baker, in Idaho. The ingredients are only wheat, flour and water, but the instructions for preparation are quite specific.

I'm glad it is helpful in many parishes around the country who wish to prepare their own bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. The recipe is still available by sending a self-addressed envelope to me at Guildhall, Peoria, Ill. 61651-0325.

Ten Principles of Catholic Social Thought

BY FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS COLUMNIST

Part VII: The Principle of Stewardship

Our Catholic faith tradition urges us to show both gratitude and respect to the Creator by exercising proper stewardship of creation. The fundamental idea of stewardship is this: Wealth possessed is held in trust for others.

The possession of assets — material or spiritual, physical or intellectual — involves serious social responsibilities. The greater the wealth, the more awesome the responsibility.

Moreover, the human person's coexistence with gifts of creation that he or she does not own but depends upon for the maintenance of life — woodlands, croplands, grasslands, air, water and all the other assets that are part of "natural creation" — implies a stewardship relationship of the individual toward the environment.

The steward is a manager, not an owner. This truth is grounded in the first verse of Psalm 24: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Another rendering of this verse puts it this way: "The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who live there."

Ownership is proper to God. Use of all our wealth is God's gift to us. We are stewards, not owners. From a theological perspective it is apparent that no one of us owns anything absolutely. God owns everything you possess, despite the fact that your name appears on the legal title.

Private ownership is necessary for the orderly conduct of affairs in any person's transit through life. Not to be forgotten, however, is the fundamental fact of God's sole ownership not only of "the earth" but also of all that the earth contains.

This means that God owns the mineral deposits and also all that is produced or fabricated from the earth's natural endowment. Similarly, our intellectual property — the ideas generated by our creative but created human minds — also belongs to God.

Return now to the fundamental idea of stewardship, namely, that wealth possessed is held in trust for others. Everyone has some wealth. All have wealth of mind and body. Like other assets, these are subject to depletion. Good stewards care for them and use them well so long as time permits. Think of all your personal assets, and consider how well you are cultivating, caring for and preserving them, and think also of how you are using those assets in the service of others. Once you acknowledge that they are God's gifts to you, you cannot avoid declaring yourself to be "much obliged."

Your obligation is both to say thanks to God (as well as "make thanks" ritually in the Eucharist) and to "do thanks" in a practical demonstration of your gratitude by using your wealth for the good of others.

Think as well of the natural environment that literally surrounds you. Your stewardship responsibility looks out, and up, and all around. "Sustainability" is the word to keep in mind. Since life itself is dependent on this environment, it must be used, but used with great care to assure that it will be there to sustain the life of future generations.

There is a human responsibility for the preservation of plant and animal life too, but our faith tradition understands God's plan as providing plant and animal life for the enrichment of human life. Hence in caring for nature, humans care for themselves. "Stewardship" is a wonderful word that holds great potential for prompting — if not pushing — us to work together to build an even more wonderful world.

Mother Benignus, from page 1

employed at Holy Angels.

Through the years, the day care center has transformed into a specialized residential facility with group homes, a summer camp, and an adult activity club among the various providers of educational, spiritual, medical, therapeutic, vocational and social programs and services for children and adults.

In 1997, Mother Benignus was honored by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation as recipient of the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award, an honorarium bestowed for a life of service, faith and commitment. Mother Benignus was honored as a woman with a quiet voice and a big heart. The award came with $25,000, all of which Mother Benignus allocated to several Holy Angels projects.

Mother Mary Benignus was born Feb. 27, 1906, in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland. Her baptismal name was Mary Brigid Hoban, though she took the name Sister Mary Benignus upon entering the Sisters of Mercy on Nov. 9, 1926. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Mount Mercy College, Pittsburgh, and her master's degree in English from the University of Pittsburgh.

Her first ministerial assignments were as teacher at St. Anne's Orphanage and St. Leo's School in Belmont and at St. Mark's and St. Benedict's in Newton Grove, NC. She also taught at the Sacred Heart College, Belmont and at Our Lady of Mercy High School. From 1942 - 1948, Mother Benignus served her community as Director of Novices. She was elected Bursar General in 1948 and served in that capacity until 1957. In 1957, she was elected Major Superior of the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont. She served again as Major Superior from 1966 - 1972. From 1963 - 1965, Mother Benignus was chief administrator at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville. In 1972 she began her ministry as president of Holy Angels where she remained until 1997.

Bishop William G. Curlin called Mother Benignus, "the Mother of great charity for all of us." In 1996, on the occasion of her 90th birthday, he said, "You built the foundation of Christ with the wonderful children of Holy Angels."

Mother Benignus served on the Boards of Directors of Mercy Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital, Sacred Heart College and Holy Angels. In the early 1970s, she was an officer for several national religious organizations, including the Federation of the Sisters of Mercy and the Conference of Major Superiors of Women. She was recipient of the Abbot Walter Coggins Humanitarian Award in 1993.

Mother Benignus was the daughter of the late Thomas Hoban and Sarah Gannon. She is survived by her sister, Sarah Hoban, of Ireland; six nieces, two nephews, and a cousin.

In a 1997 interview with The Catholic News & Herald, Mother Benignus defined the key ingredient in her lifetime of work. "Love is everything," she said.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Sister Mary Regina Harriss, RSM, dies at 82 in Belmont

BELMONT — Sister Mary Regina Harriss, RSM, 82, died Friday, Dec. 29, 2000 at Marian Center, Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont. She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Feb. 2, 1937 and was in her 63rd year as a Sister of Mercy.

Sister Mary Regina was born Oct. 14, 1918, in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Her birth name was Julia Harriss; she took the name Sister Mary Regina upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on Aug. 8, 1936.

Sister Mary Regina is a graduate of Sacred Heart Academy, Sacred Heart Junior College, and earned her bachelor's degree in Accounting from St. Louis University. She also attended Women's College at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

From 1939 through 1949, she ministered at parochial schools throughout the diocese. She served at St. Patrick's School, Charlotte; Sacred Heart School, Salisbury; St. Mary's School, Wilmington; Holy Redeemer School and St. Benedict's School, both in Newton Grove. In 1949 she was assigned to St. Joseph's Hospital where she remained until 1967. From 1967-1975, Sister Regina ministered at Sacred Heart College where she was the business manager. She returned to St. Joseph's Hospital in 1975 as an accountant and continued in that capacity until mid-1992. During that time, she also served as Secretary for the St. Joseph's Healthcare Board of Directors. She remained at St. Joseph's Hospital Convent where she ministered as Treasurer for that community. In 1996, she returned to Belmont and continued an active prayer ministry.

Quietly reserved, Sister Regina was nonetheless known for her quick, dry wit, her devotion to friends, and her deep spirituality. Sister Regina was also an excellent cook and seamstress.

Sister Mary Regina was the daughter of the late Barrett Harriss and Katherine Habel Harriss. She is survived by her sister, Margaret Mahaney of Bethesda, MD, two brothers, Joseph W. Hariss and his wife Maxine of Farmville, Virginia, and Robert V. Harriss and his wife Ines of Orlando, FL. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Librarian: Our Lady of Grace School has an opening for a certified librarian, beginning immediately. Experience preferred. Send resume and request for application to: Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403 or Fax: (336)274-7326.

Pastoral Associate: St. Bridget's, an active parish community of 2800 households in Richmond, VA, is seeking applicants for the position of Pastoral Associate. Areas of ministry include welcoming members in to the community, deepening involvement of existing members and extending the presence of the parish into the larger community. A master's degree in religious studies and pastoral experience are required. For details contact the Search Committee, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

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Principal, Elementary: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Raleigh, NC announces its opening for Principal, effective July 1, 2001. We are a parish-based K-8 coeducational school serving 538 students. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have an advanced degree and administrative experience. Prospective candidates interviewed immediately. Direct inquiries to: Principal Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 2710 Overbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27608. (919)782-1670 ext.123; Fax (919)420-2188.

Religious Education Director: Full-time position is available at Saint Brigid Catholic Church, Alpharetta, Georgia (www.saintbrigid.org). Degreed applicant must be a practicing Catholic. The Religious Education Director will administer (design, develop, direct, and evaluate) the total parish catechetical program and provide leadership to assist the parish community in building a solid foundation for Christian living. Salary commensurate with credentials and experience. Benefits package included. Please send cover letter and resume to Fr. Joe Corbett, Saint Brigid Catholic Church, 3400 Old Alabama, Alpharetta, GA 30022, or fax to (678)393-0071, or e-mail to fr.joe@saintbrigid.org.

REAL ESTATE

For Rent: Catholic family has 2/2 log cabin alongside creek on 2 acres, fireplace, etc., outside Banner Elk, as location for undirected, individual silent retreat. Seek God in silence, solitude, and in his beautiful outdoors. Church nearby. Vegetarian meals available, just bring toothbrush. (828)898-5328.

Retreat rings in New Year at Maggie Valley

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — "O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant." The congregation sang enthusiastically as the priest, deacon and servers processed up the aisle of St. Margaret Church. It was the start of New Year's Eve Midnight Mass.

New Year's Eve Midnight Mass?

Yes. In what is becoming a tradition at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center and St. Margaret Church, people are celebrating the end of the old year and the start of the new with an evening retreat and Midnight Mass.

The event was held for the first time Dec. 31, 1999, through Jan. 1, 2000, as an alternative way to celebrate the new millennium. It's now becoming a way to celebrate the end of each old year and the start of the new. Last year about 15 people stayed overnight for the retreat; that figure doubled this year, with another eight attending the retreat but not spending the night.

Joe and Elizabeth Doerr, parishioners at Immaculate Conception in Hendersonville, attended the first retreat and were back for the second.

"We liked the idea," Joe said.

"Even if you don't have big problems, it's wonderful to come and worship the day," Elizabeth said.

"And what a great way to start the new year." Joe added, remembering New Year's Midnight Masses when he was growing up in Flint, Mich. "This is choice."

The most recent program, Dec. 31, 2000, through Jan. 1, 2001, followed the format of the first retreat. The evening began with dinner in Living Waters' dining room. The reflection center's kitchen staff, headed by Patsy Connor, prepared baked pork chops, whole-kernel corn, rice and gravy, and apple salad, followed by desserts homemade by some of the retreatants.

"It's a good beginning for the new year, and its good to welcome the new year with Catholic Christians," Bill Waterson said.

Then, some 40 attendees gathered in the reflection center's conference room. In his talk on "new beginnings," Augustinian Father Terry Hyland,, director of the reflection center, focused on relationships with others and with Jesus Christ. Sometimes our relationships with others need work, he said. "Choose just one person and pick up that 500-pound phone and give that person a call," he said.

Often, our relationship with Jesus Christ also needs improvement. Augustinian Brother Bill Harkin, reflection center associate director, read the parable of the "Prodigal Son." Just as the elder and younger son's attitudes in the story were their problems, so our problems are often based in our attitudes, Father Terry said.

He talked about how the Father is always there to welcome us, no matter what we have done, no matter what our attitudes have been. He shared stories of people he has known who were able to change their lives by changing their attitudes. And those attitudes can be changed by prayer. "Prayer changes us," he said.

During faith sharing, some of the attendees spoke of their experiences. "I really got a lot out of what Father Terry said, and it certainly gave me a lot to think about for the new year," said Sylvia Williams, attending from Columbia, S.C.

After faith sharing the retreatants had a couple of hours for quiet reflection before Midnight Mass, which also was attended by St. Margaret parishioners who were not making the retreat. Then most of the worshippers gathered for a social in the Augustinian Friary.

"It's a beautiful way to end the year and begin a new year," said Pat Waterson of St. James Church in Concord. She and her husband, Bill, were attending their first New Year's retreat at Living Waters.

"It's a good beginning for the new year, and it's good to welcome the new year with Catholic Christians," Bill said.

A light snow fell during the night, and smooth whiteness greeted those staying overnight at the reflection center. They had more opportunity for conversation over a bacon, sausage and scrambled egg breakfast in the dining room.

June Showfety of Sacred Heart in Salisbury was at Living Waters for the first time.

"It's a very holy place," she said, "and I really like the idea of being in the mountains for [a retreat]. That appealed to me, and the church is just unbelievable. That's the focus I want for the next 12 months, and when we got up this morning and looked out and saw that fresh, white snow. It really was a new beginning."

Thank You!

Samaritan's Purse would like to thank the thousands of volunteers who packed shoeboxes and worked at our Charlotte Processing Center so that needy boys and girls around the world might know the joy of Christmas. With your hard work, our Charlotte center volunteers prepared 885,000 gift-filled shoeboxes which Samaritan's Purse shipped around the world. We delivered some of these to children in the Dominican Republic and Kosovo recently, and with grins from ear to ear, they had one message for you — Thank you! We appreciate your hard work and sacrifices. They enabled us to share the joyful news of God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ. May God richly bless you and your family throughout this new year.

If you would like to participate in Operation Christmas Child, please contact the Carolinas office at (704) 583-1463. For group materials, call 1-800-353-5949 any time or visit our website at www.samaritanspurse.org. Shoeboxes may be sent year-round to Samaritan's Purse, 801 Bamboo Road, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization led by Franklin Graham.

Hospital helps community through sports program

By **MIKE KILLEEN**
Catholic News Service

LITTLE FALLS, Minn. (CNS) — When you think about a hospital, you're not likely to think about youth sports.

But on any given weekday in Little Falls, you're likely to see kids playing volleyball, flag football, soccer or basketball.

They are participants in the Youth Recreation and Self-Esteem Enhancement Initiative for elementary school students, made possible through a grant given to St. Gabriel's Hospital, Little Falls.

Catholic Health Initiatives, St. Gabriel's parent organization, awarded the grant of slightly more than $78,000 to St. Gabriel's three years ago.

That allowed the hospital, in collaboration with the Little Falls School District, Little Falls Community Services and Little Falls parochial schools to start the program in the fall of 1997.

Currently, nearly 2,000 children participate in the program throughout the school year, with 140 parents involved as volunteers.

"It's pretty unusual to see the hospital, I think, involved with youth rec sports. But I think it has gone well," said Steve Larsen, recreation director for Little Falls Community Services. "They are concerned with health. That's everyone's goal, to get those kids involved in stuff."

The grant came as a result of a conversation between Larry Schulz, then hospital president and CEO, and Patrick Rioux, manager of development and communications at St. Gabriel's.

Schulz "indicated that it would be really nice for us to explore a way that we could expand recreational opportunities and provide some self-esteem and values education to kids in kindergarten through eighth grade," Rioux said.

"Then, Catholic Health Initiatives came out with this mission and ministry grant fund, and requested applications," Rioux said.

"I thought there was a good parallel there — they were looking for innovative ways for hospitals to get involved in their communities."

While Little Falls Community Services offered a plethora of programs in the summer, there were few after-school opportunities for younger students.

"There just wasn't a whole lot of funding available to do stuff like that," Larsen said. "St. Gabe's has stepped in and helped do that."

Larsen programs the activities at six sites, including Mary of Lourdes Elementary School and Mary of Lourdes Middle School in Little Falls.

Students receive fliers at their schools about the programs offered and sign up for specific activities, each lasting between five and six weeks. Although a fee is charged per student (generally between $15 to $20), scholarships are offered.

At each practice, students learn the basic skills of the sport. Coaches and volunteers also speak to the students about "Positive Practices," a curriculum that discusses good sportsmanship, respect, responsibility, self-esteem and goal-setting.

"It's a subtle, five or 10 minutes of time, to discuss how their actions on the court translate into a model of citizenship that we want to espouse," Rioux said.

"It's outstanding, in so many ways," said Susy Prosapio of Little Falls, who has coached in the program and had two children involved in it.

"One, it has them doing something physically, which is good. It has them doing something with their time. They're not sitting in front of the TV. And it brings them in contact with adults who care about kids."

There have been other benefits. Rioux said that Morrison County juvenile crime incidents have dropped since the program began.

And parent involvement has "gone through the roof," Rioux said. Last year, parents provided 1,286 hours of volunteer time.

"Believe me, the NBA is not looking for me to do any coaching," said Prosapio, who coached basketball in the program. "They decided they could pass on me.

"But to me, it demonstrates that the hospital understands community health as a much broader thing than just doctors and illness. I don't know if our community understands exactly how wonderful this has been," she said.

> "It's pretty unusual to see the hospital, I think, involved with youth rec sports. But I think it has gone well," said Steve Larsen, recreation director for Little Falls Community Services. "They are concerned with health. That's everyone's goal, to get those kids involved in stuff."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Sending holiday greetings

Diocese of Charlotte seminarians Rico De Silva and Alejandro Alaya address Christmas cards to the Friends of the Seminarians at St. Patrick Cathedral just before the holiday. The Friends offer spiritual and financial support to those in priestly formation.

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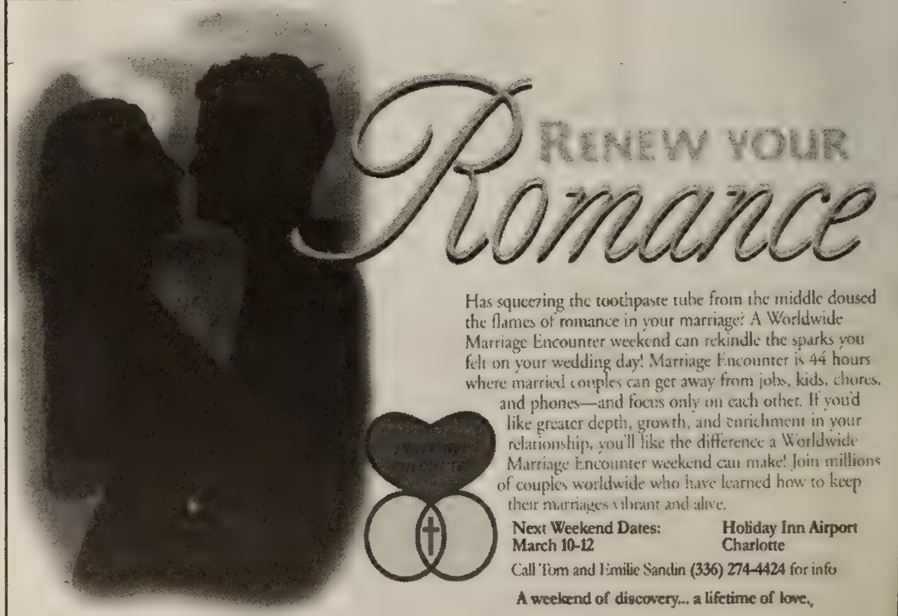

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 12, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 18

Inside

Pope baptizes 18 babies at close of Jubilee

...PAGE 7

CCHD unveils media campaign to raise awareness

...PAGE 8

Background helps do-it-yourself bishop

...PAGE 15

Local News

Father Anselm Biggs, OSB, dies at age 86

...PAGE 3

Diocese welcomes new Justice & Peace director

...PAGE 4

Every Week

Entertainment

...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns

...PAGES 12-13

> I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
>
> *– John 8: 12*

NC Women take mission trip to Vietnam

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Minhthu Ngo Lynagh and her older sister Hien Thi Ngo heard the knocks during the night while staying with extended family in Saigon. They nervously opened the door to 10 policemen who harassed the women about their trip to their homeland of Vietnam and wanted them to provide details of their activities for the past week. They also wanted the women to accompany them to their office late that night, but the sisters refused. Afraid of what might happen with the U.S. Embassy closed for Thanksgiving, they agreed to release their visas to the officials and to come to the office in the morning.

The next morning, for three hours, the women repeated their itinerary to the already-informed police. The Ngo sisters; representing their organization, the Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam (CRFV); had traveled to Vietnam along with an official U.S. delegation, led by President Clinton in mid-November. It was the first trip by an American president to the country in more than 20 years after the Vietnam War ended and the country fell to Communism. While the U.S. representatives worked mostly on the political and economic relationship between the two countries, the Ngo sisters focused on religious issues in the country.

SEE VISIT, PAGE 5

PHOTO BY DORIS ABBANANTO

Finishing touches

Holy Redeemer Church in Andrews recently joined two local crafters in producing three stained glass windows. Here, Alberta Blazina and Bob Boelk put the finishing touches to the baptismal window. The project was completed under the guidance of Father George Mathis, a retired Glenmary priest, who was invited by Glenmary Father Bob Bond, pastor.

Pope closes Holy Door to end Great Jubilee

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II pulled shut the Holy Door and formally ended the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, giving thanks for a year of extraordinary grace and unveiling his vision of the church's path in the third millennium.

The pope said the jubilee's spiritual gifts will have a lasting impact only if they revitalize daily faith in action and spur the church's missionary outreach.

He issued a lengthy new document outlining how the main themes of the Holy Year — charity, penitence and personal encounter with Christ — could be developed in the coming years and decades.

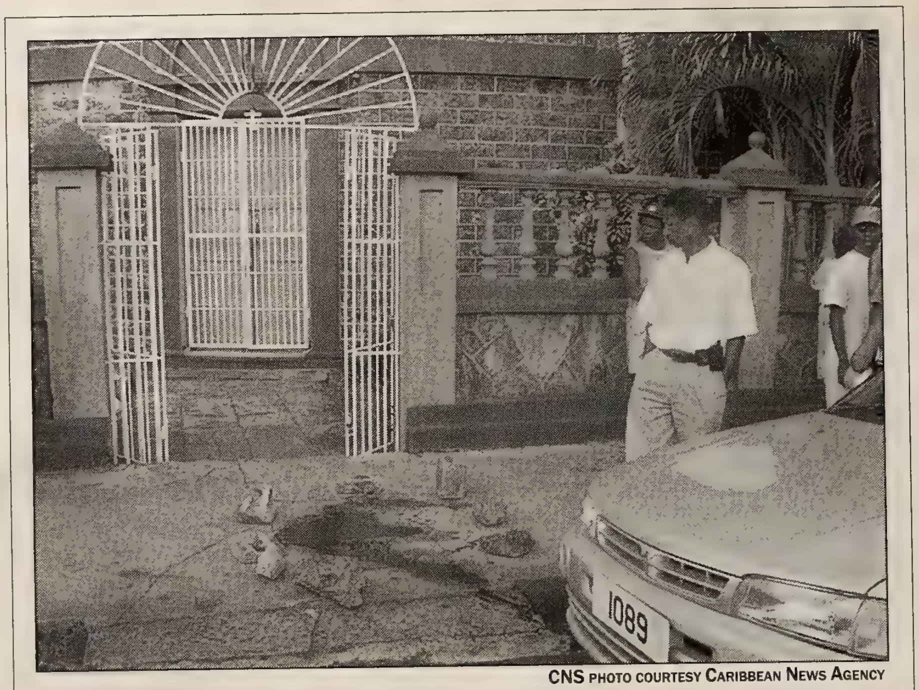
"Today this extraordinary year officially closes, but the spiritual gifts poured out during the year remain," the pope said Jan. 6 after swinging shut the ceremonial bronze door of St. Peter's Basilica.

"While today we close the Holy Door, a symbol of Christ, the heart of Jesus remains more open than ever. He continues to say to a humanity in need of hope and meaning: 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavily laden, and I will give you rest,'" he said.

An estimated 100,000 faithful joined the pope for a closing Mass in St. Peter's Square. The day began with light rain, but by the end of the two-hour liturgy the sun was breaking through and lit up the face of a visibly pleased pontiff.

The pope said the millions who came to Rome during the jubilee and who participated in local Holy Year celebrations around the world eloquently demonstrated the universality of the Gospel. They offered "a vivid image of the journey of the world's peoples toward Christ," he said in a sermon.

SEE JUBILEE, PAGE 7



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY

Attack at St. Lucia

Bystanders look over a pool of blood outside St. Lucia's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where attackers killed a nun and set worshippers and a priest on fire Dec. 31. Police were holding two men in connection with the attack that was carried out during an early morning Mass in the Caribbean island nation.

Thousands welcome new Washington archbishop at Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — During his first Mass as the archbishop of Washington, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick was warmly welcomed by thousands of people who filled the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 4. Those in attendance, including thousands of parishioners from the Washington Archdiocese and local and national dignitaries, applauded the new archbishop as he processed down the shrine's center aisle at both the beginning and the end of the Mass. And the 70-year-old archbishop responded in kind, as he took his time personally greeting about 30 people representing different faiths, ethnic backgrounds and archdiocesan organizations at the beginning of Mass.

Italian church entrance fees for tourists raise controversy

ROME (CNS) — The fine line between churches and museums in Italy is beginning to erode. Some of the country's most famous churches, including Venice's Basilica of San Marco, already charge entrance fees for the hordes of art-hungry tourists. Florence city officials announced in early January that the Basilica of Santa Maria Novella also would begin charging visitors. In Rome, some entrepreneurs also want to begin the practice. But the Rome Diocese filed an appeal with the regional court just before Christmas, asking that a state decision to turn over the management of three churches to private companies be blocked.

Activists continue protest at South Korean cathedral

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — Human rights activists continued their protest at Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul even after church officials asked demonstrators to leave the grounds and police to keep them out. The activists began their protest fast Dec. 28, demanding that President Kim Dae-jung abolish the National Security Law, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Under the law, a person can be arrested and prosecuted for carrying out any activity "praising" or "benefiting" the "enemy," meaning North Korea. They also are calling for an anti-corruption law and for immediate enactment of a law establishing an independent national human rights commission.

Legalization of euthanasia in Netherlands renews debate in Canada

OTTAWA (CNS) — The legalization of euthanasia in the Netherlands has rekindled the debate over "mercy killing" in Canada, with the president of the Catholic Health Association of Canada decrying assisted suicide. "The intent of assisted suicide is to kill the patient afflicted by excruciating pain and suffering," says Dr. Richard Haughian, the health association's president. "It is an admission that continued living no longer has meaning, that living through suffering has no meaning, and that our resources of human compassion and love have become ineffective." In an essay sent to Canadian Catholic News following the publication of an article in Canada's Globe and Mail newspaper Jan. 2 supporting the Dutch law, Haughian called assisted suicide an act of despair and an admission of failure — "failure on the part of the community to provide the necessary support when it is most needed."

Up to 17 U.S. bishops could retire this year for age reasons

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As many as 17 U.S. bishops could retire in 2001 because they are at or beyond the usual retirement age of 75. Most prominent among them are Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, who turned 77 last June, and Cardinal William W. Baum, the Vatican's major penitentiary, who turns 75 next November. Church law says at age 75 a bishop "is requested to present his resignation" to the pope. The pope may refuse it or delay accepting it, and Pope John Paul II often keeps bishops active beyond their 75th birthday.

Parish breathes sigh of relief: no new stadium as a neighbor

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Philadelphia's billion dollar question has been answered and residents of Chinatown — particularly at Holy Redeemer Chapel — are pleased with the answer. Within a few years, Philadelphia will have two new stadiums — one for professional football and the other for professional baseball — and they won't be in the back yard of the area's social hub at Holy Redeemer. Bowing to almost universal community opposition, Mayor John Street moved a proposed site for a new baseball park to the South Philadelphia sports complex. "We are really delighted the stadium won't be in our neighborhood," said Capuchin Father Thomas Betz, who administers Holy Redeemer, the Chinese chapel and school that serves as a hub for the community. "It would have been impossible to have ordinary church and school activity when there was a game," he said.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 20-22
March for Life
Washington, D.C.

January 29 - 10:30 a.m.
Mass
Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School,
Winston-Salem

January 30 - 10 a.m.
Mass
Holy Trinity Middle School,
Charlotte

January 31 - 9:45 a.m.
Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School,
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

January

14 CHARLOTTE — The annual Mass for the unborn is being held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., this afternoon at 2:30 p.m. For further information, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on Jan. 18 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Jan. 28 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

15 WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscan Fraternity of St. Claire will begin formation classes in Feb. 2001. If interested in exploring what it means to be a Secular Franciscan, all are welcome to attend informational meetings from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., tonight or on Jan. 18. For more information, call Suzanne Stevens at (336) 723-8481.

16 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7:30-9 p.m. in the activity center. Father Eric Kowalski is presenting "Confession: The Right Rite for the Soul," a session about the sacraments of reconciliation and anointing of the sick. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

17 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Rooms F and G at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., to discuss and plan a service project at the Servant Center, a

Study: Immigrants account for majority of U.S. population growth

By PATRICIA ZAPOR
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Half of the U.S. population growth in the 1990s was attributable to people who immigrated during that decade and their U.S-born children, according to a new report by the Center for Immigration Studies.

The report, released Jan. 4, said immigration is currently the major factor in U.S. population growth.

Between 1990 and 2000, 11.2 million immigrants arrived, making a total of 28.4 million immigrants now in the country, or about 10.4 percent of the U.S. population. The report, based on the Census Bureau's monthly current population surveys, showed that children born in the United States to immigrants who arrived in the 1990s accounted for another 6.4 million people.

They are a part of the largest total number of immigrants living in this country in history, although immigrants accounted for a higher percentage of the population earlier in the century. From 1900 through the 1930s, immigrants accounted for between 11.6 percent and 14.7 percent of the population. From 1940 through the 1980s, immigrants were between 4.7 percent and 8.8 percent of the population.

Steven Camarota, research director for the center, said the impact of immigration on the nation's schools, social services and poverty rates is often underestimated. The increase in the number of children in schools, sometimes attributed to an "echo" of the Baby Boom, should more appropriately be connected to immigration, he said.

Urban Institute labor and social policy director Robert Lerman disagreed with Camarota's conclusion that immigration has kept the nation's poverty rate up at a time when it otherwise would have decreased more significantly.

Camarota's study showed that 17 percent of all immigrants have income below the poverty level, compared to 11 percent of native-born Americans.

"We take people from very low-income countries, raise their income dramatically and yet their status is still defined as poverty," Lerman explained. He said including immigrants in statistics of nationwide poverty rates without taking into account the impoverished situations from which they came is unreliable. He said the link is tantamount to comparing economic statistics from Germany in 1988 and 1998 without noting that, in the intervening years, a now-unified Germany absorbed the entire low-income population of what used to be East Germany.

Camarota also acknowledged that his calculations of poverty and use of welfare services by immigrants had not been broken down to assess the impact of 1996 law changes. The changes in 1996 set a higher income standard for immigrants' sponsors and cut off legal immigrants from several types of welfare assistance.

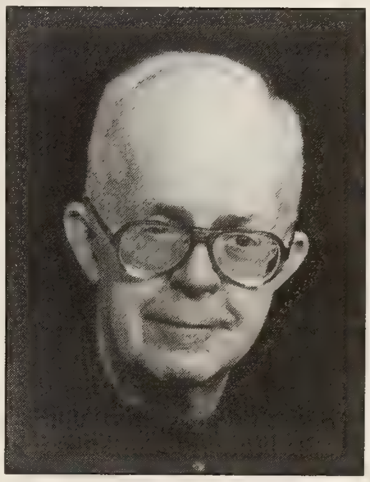
The study showed that 12.5 percent of immigrants who arrived in the 1990s received some sort of tax-funded poverty assistance such as food stamps or Medicaid for their households. Immigrants who arrived in earlier decades were more likely to use those programs, for an aggregate figure of 19.7 percent of all immigrant households.

By comparison, 13.3 percent of households of native-born Americans received some kind of assistance.

Belmont Abbey monk, Father Anselm Biggs, O.S.B., dies at age 86

BELMONT — Retired Belmont Abbey College history professor Father Anselm Biggs, O.S.B., a Benedictine monk of Belmont Abbey, died Jan. 9 at home in the monastery. He was 86.

In 1999, Father Anselm retired from teaching after a record 64 years. Father Anselm began his teaching career in 1934, when the Abbey was still a junior college and preparatory school. He was instrumental in the college's move to senior college status in the early 1950s.



Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., said of his colleague and brother monk: "After a long and productive life, Father Anselm has gone to join our Lord. While we will miss his gentle smile and kind laughter among us, we rejoice for him and know that he is in a better place."

Father Anselm was born James Gordon Biggs on Jan. 11, 1914, in Pocahontas, Va. His scholarly bent was apparent early — he finished high school in only three years. He enrolled at Belmont Abbey College in 1931, then entered the monastery in 1933. He was ordained as a priest in 1940 and earned his master's degree in 1946 and his doctorate in 1949 from the Catholic University of America.

Specializing in medieval history, Father Anselm has translated works on the Church from German. He also has contributed to "Encyclopedia Britannica," "Encyclopedia Americana," the "New Catholic Encyclopedia" and others.

At the College he served as academic dean, director of admissions, dean of students and chairman of the history department.

A scholarship fund for history students was established in Father Anselm's name some years ago. Memorials are welcome at Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd., Belmont NC 28012.

It is interesting to note that Thursday would have been Father Anselm's 87th birthday.

The arrangements for Father Anselm's funeral are as follows: His body was received in the Abbey Basilica Wednesday evening, Jan. 10 at 6:45 p.m. Sung Vespers followed.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11 with interment following in the Abbey Cemetery.

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facility for homeless and disabled men. Also, on Jan. 24, the group is having a potluck luncheon and informational session with entertainment by the High Point Senior Chorus at noon at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Council members are supplying the food and beverages. All members, those interested in joining the Catholic women's group and those who want to simply share fellowship with others are welcome to attend. For more information, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

19 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting a session about the impact and psychological implications of divorce on children tonight from 7-9 p.m. in Room 102 in the parish center. Jeanne Murrone, Ph.D., licensed clinical child psychologist and St. Gabriel Church parishioner, is leading the discussion. All are invited to attend this gathering and potluck, and for further details, call Lisa Kelley at (704) 543-7677, Ext. 44.

22 CHARLOTTE — A "Life in the Spirit" seminar is being offered starting tonight through March 5 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. Each session includes prayer, presentations, small group sharing and refreshments. Advanced registration is requested but not required. Contact Janet Garbison at (704) 341-1194 for more details.

24 ASHEVILLE — The Business Group, Catholic Social Services - Western Regional Office and Marriage Ministry of St. Eugene Church are presenting "Money and Marriage" today from 7-8:30 p.m. at Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern St. The workshop; led by Bonnie Scully, certified financial planner; is designed for couples involved with marriage preparation programs or any couple who wants to improve or work on their personal finances. Proceeds from the sale of Scully's book about managing money will benefit CSS. For more information, call CSS at (828) 255-0146.

CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

27 CHARLOTTE — An information session about volunteering for the 1st National Gathering for African-American Catholic women, being held in Charlotte from July 27-29, is taking place today during the annual Martin Luther King Celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. To volunteer or for further information, call (704) 568-1573 or (704) 370-3354.

Upcoming

BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre's production of the Kander and Ebb musical revue "The World Goes 'Round," originally scheduled to take place from Jan. 11-20, has been postponed until March 15-23. The next production will be Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," taking place Feb. 22-Mar. 3. For more information, call (704) 825-6787.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia on the fourth Monday of the month from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided with advanced notification. For more information about the support group or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

New justice and peace director brings international flavor to position

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE— Joe Purello has journeyed to many countries in his professional life; including Jordan, Mexico and Sierra Leone; and his worldly visits have brought him to North Carolina to the Diocese of Charlotte to begin the next chapter in his travel journal.

"The pieces of puzzle seem to fit together now," said Purello, the new director of the Office of Justice and Peace. "Right from the beginning, I have been interested in community economic development."

Purello began his travels after he received his bachelor's degree in development economics and African studies from Georgetown University. He was a food aid relief worker for disadvantaged families with Los Ninos, a program in Tijuana, Mexico. "It was my first exposure to another nation's culture, and it was enriching. I was overwhelmed by the generosity and warmth of people who had so little."

He also went on his first trip abroad to perform research in Sierra Leone, Africa. He said that the trip was an "eye-opening experience because he saw even more widespread poverty than he witnessed in Mexico, and the living conditions were very simple."

After earning his master's degrees in philosophy and ethics from Fordham University and in agricultural economics and marketing from Rutgers University, he began working as a social justice teacher at Gonzaga High School in Washington, D.C., and also worked with the volunteer program. He co-founded the Appalachian Outreach Program, which sent groups of students to experience living and economic conditions in the small communities nestled in and around the Appalachian Mountains. "My opportunity was not only to teach but to engage kids in social justice efforts in the community."

Purello has completed doctoral-level coursework in agricultural and rural economy and development economics at Michigan State University, and through this work, he has traveled to Amman, Jordan; Cote d'Ivorie and Egypt.

His next position, director of community services and service learning in the Office of Campus Ministry and Community Service at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md., involved program management, student internships and community development work. He aided in the implementation of "service learning," where students' coursework is linked with community service projects.

Indeed, Purello's education and career have led him down the path to working in his new position. The diocesan justice and peace director works with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Operation Rice Bowl, the Office of Economic Opportunity and other areas of ministry.

For now, Purello, his wife Sheila and their children Michael, 5, and Katherine, 3, and a baby on the way, are trying to become acclimated to their new surroundings. He said that the growth in North Carolina, especially in Charlotte, is one of the things that attracted him to this area of the country.

The New Jersey native said that he is looking forward to focusing his efforts in community development. "This position seemed to tie into my work in international development, and it will give me the opportunity to more deeply investigate and analyze social justice issues. The Church teaches us that we should be concerned about the welfare of others, and I strongly hold to the notion that faith and justice are inseparable. I would like to use my experience as an educator to help promote Catholic social teaching and to share those teachings with others."

Another New Face in the Crowd

Linda Franks has also joined the Office of Justice and Peace as the office assistant. The St. Luke Church parishioner saw the advertisement in her church bulletin and thought that it would be a good position for her to take.

Franks, who previously worked as an information systems manager with Andersen Consulting, decided to become a stay-at-home mom until her children, Kelli, 6, and Kyle, 4, became older. She thought that now would be a good time to begin working again.

"What attracted me to the position was that it is part time and that I will be working with the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Operation Rice Bowl and other programs."

Franks has been working in the position for about four months, and she and her husband Gary have been living in Charlotte for nearly three years.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Homeland Visit, from page 1

Courtesy Photos

From left to right, Hien Thi Ngo, Minhthu Ngo Lynagh, Father Peter Giai Nuu Nguyen and Sister Anna Nu Dao are pictured in Luong Xuan, Father Nguyen's parish, in Hue, a city in central Vietnam.

After being questioned about their involvement in the country, which, the officials believed, contradicted what their visas stated, the women were asked to leave that same day, cutting their planned two-week trip short.

"If there is religious freedom in Vietnam, why would they worry about us talking to a few people?" wondered Lynagh.

The reason behind their treatment is at the heart of why the women went to Vietnam in the first place — the conflict between religious freedom and the Socialist regime in Vietnam.

Lynagh, a parishioner at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro, volunteers for the CRFV, of which her sister is the chairperson.

The Washington D.C.-based, non-profit organization conducts research and sends reports about happenings in Vietnam to a government-appointed U.S. commission which also monitors religious practices in countries as part of the International Religious Freedom Act.

This act was established as a part of an effort to monitor religious freedom practices in countries with trade agreements with the United States.

Some of the Congress members asked CRFV representatives to accompany the delegation on the trip, but fearing for their safety, several of the members decided not to go, leaving Lynagh and her sister as the sole representatives.

The trip began as it ended — with questioning from the police about why they were in the country. "They [the police] just wanted to let us know that they knew we were there [in Vietnam]," explained Lynagh. "A list of travelers coming to the country is sent to the government, and our names, of course, stuck out."

The women attended several of the gatherings and heard the president talk about advances in Vietnam and rebuilding a relationship with the country after the effects of the war.

They also visited Hue, a city in central Vietnam, where there is a strong Catholic presence, said Lynagh. "Even though they are persecuted, their faith has grown stronger; that is how God works."

They spoke to two priests in the area, Father Ly Van Nguyen and Father Peter Giai Huu Nguyen, both jailed for their religious activities.

Children take a minute from their math tutorial in Hue in central Vietnam.

Father Ly had spoken out against the government for preventing religious practices, while Father Giai had been one of the leaders of an underground seminary.

The Ngo sisters also spoke to a local Buddhist monk, part of a religion that is also government-regulated, said Lynagh.

The country, mostly Buddhist, is six percent Catholic and one to two percent other religions. The Ngo sisters were raised Catholic by their convert parents.

"It was difficult to get priests and other religious leaders to talk because they are afraid of the government," she said. "We want to work for religious freedom for all religions in Vietnam, not just Catholicism. People should have a choice of religions wherever they live."

According to Lynagh, while there have been many changes in the last 10 years, certain religious freedoms are not being granted to Vietnamese citizens.

"The Catholic Church is more structured and hierarchal, so it is easier for the government to stop the Church from growing," explained Lynagh. "Most of the convents and Catholic schools were taken away and were not returned to the Church. Priests' ordinations are restricted to five a year, and the government has to approve the list.

"After being ordained, those few priests have to ask the government for permission to have meetings and other religious events. The Church can't function.

"The men religious that are ordained in underground seminaries can't be ordained again, so we want to work toward bringing those men here to the U.S. to attend seminary; we can work together — to help with the priest shortage in this country and to allow the many Vietnamese men to become priests."

The CRFV also sends money and supplies through donations to impoverished dioceses in Vietnam and to those priests to help with the many programs. "We are providing supplies to allow them to do pastoral work, the work they are called to do," she said.

Lynagh hopes that more public awareness will help them in their cause. "I ask people to write letters to Congress and the Senate about religious freedoms to put pressure on Vietnam because the trade agreement is important to Vietnam," she explained. "We are trying to speak up for them here so that others will become interested."

For more information about CRFV or to make donations, call Minhthu Ngo Lynagh at (336) 286-6690, e-mail lynaghminhthu@hotmail.com or write to CRFV, P.O. Box 342111, Maryland, 20827.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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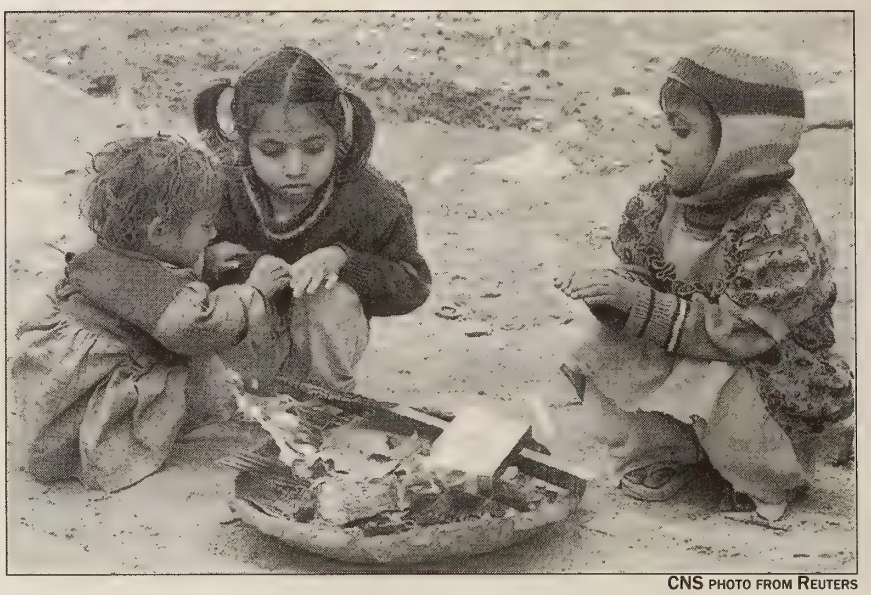
Bipartisan delegation presents pope with Congressional Gold Medal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than a dozen members of the U.S. Congress traveled to the Vatican Jan. 8 to present Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his efforts to defend human dignity and promote peace. In the Clementine Hall, under frescoed figures representing the virtues of religion, justice, charity and mercy, the bipartisan delegation gave the pope a standing ovation as well as the heavy gold medal and a framed copy of the bill. Sen. Sam D. Brownback, R-Kan., told the pope, "In a world that has become darkened in many places by a culture of death, you stand in contradiction, fearlessly proclaiming a culture of life." House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., told the pope the ceremony was an expression of "our gratitude to you on behalf of our nation."

Pope appeals for new efforts to help refugees, displaced people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling refugees "among the poorest members of the human family," Pope John Paul II appealed for fresh efforts to protect displaced people and promote their dignity. In a letter to Sadako Ogata, who until Jan. 1 served as U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the pope said care for refugees would continue to be a priority for the Catholic Church and its aid organizations. The letter, marking the UNHCR's 50th anniversary in mid-December, was signed Nov. 22 and released at the Vatican Jan. 3. The pope noted that he once referred to the plight of refugees in the world as "a shameful wound of our times," and that since then their numbers have increased and "their situation has become more tragic."


CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Children try to keep themselves warm over burning refuse in a New Delhi slum Jan. 9. Cold weather that swept northern India in early January killed at least 68 people.

Vatican says 8.5 million people attended papal events in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 8.5 million people attended papal Masses and audiences in 2000, the Vatican said. The figures released Dec. 30 by the Prefecture of the Papal Household reflect only the number of free tickets the office distributed for papal events. The figures do not include people who showed up in St. Peter's Square without a ticket, nor people who came for the pope's Sunday recitation of the Angelus following a morning papal Mass in the square, the Vatican press office said. The prefecture, headed by U.S. Bishop James M. Harvey, said its figures for the year 2000 refer only to events at which Pope John Paul II was present and not to the number of Holy Year visitors to the Vatican.

Vatican signs accord to adopt euro as official currency

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican signed an agreement with Italy enabling the microstate to adopt the euro, the joint European currency, as its official currency and to mint its own euro coins. Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states, signed the monetary accord with Italy's foreign minister Dec. 29. "This is an act confirming the Vatican's decision to promote, also through monetary union, a Europe of solidarity," Archbishop Tauran said. Under the accord, Italy will mint a limited number of euros on the Vatican's behalf, as it has done in the past for Vatican lira coins.

Bishops' conference to take new name July 1

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As of July 1 the U.S. bishops' two national conferences will be combined, reorganized and given a new name: the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. As with many similar names, the "United States" portion will often be shortened to "U.S.," and the entire name will often be abbreviated as USCCB. The name change comes when new statutes reorganizing the bishops national structures take effect. The bishops have been working at the reorganization for nearly a decade and received word in January that the Vatican has approved the last necessary element of the reorganization, the new statutes.

Fiddler hears of Grammy nomination while playing duet with bishop

OTTAWA, Canada (CNS) — Canadian fiddling sensation Natalie MacMaster learned of her nomination for a Grammy award while playing a duet at her home with another accomplished maritime fiddler, Bishop J. Faber MacDonald of Saint John, New Brunswick. "She was very, very excited," the bishop said in a telephone interview Jan. 5. MacMaster, 28, was nominated in the "Best Traditional Folk Album" category for the album "My Roots Are Showing." Bishop MacDonald, a longtime friend of the entertainer, had stopped by MacMaster's home in Troy, on the southwest coast of Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island, while en route to nearby Port Hood for a healing Mass Jan. 3, the day the Grammy nominations were announced.

Nun who founded Network honored in presidential ceremony

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sister Carol Coston, the Dominican nun who was first director of Network, the Catholic social justice lobbying group, joined Muhammad Ali and Elizabeth Taylor Jan. 8 in receiving the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second highest award the president can bestow on civilians. At a ceremony honoring the 28 medal recipients in a luxurious tent on the White House lawn, President Clinton told how Sister Coston "left the security of her convent to live and work in a public housing project," in answer to Pope John XXIII's call for Catholics to address the needs of the poor. Sister Coston was one of 47 sisters who founded Network in December 1971 to provide a lobbying voice for social and economic justice policies. She was its director until 1982.

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Day after end of jubilee, pope baptizes 18 babies

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Less than 24 hours after closing Holy Year 2000, Pope John Paul II was back at his busy regular ministry, baptizing 18 babies during a lengthy liturgy at the Vatican, greeting pilgrims from his apartment window and paying an annual visit to Rome garbage collectors.

The pope celebrated the baptism Mass in the Sistine Chapel Jan. 7, the day after he formally ended the jubilee and its demanding series of liturgies, meetings and pilgrimages.

Contrary to rumors that the close of the jubilee would bring papal retirement, the pope has given every indication that he intends to carry on despite his frailty and the effects of a neurological disease. He has already scheduled a number of important speeches, audiences and foreign trips for 2001.

During the Mass, which marked the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the pope read a short sermon in a tired voice, pausing once to find his place in the text. He sounded short of breath several times during the liturgy, which was closed to the press but broadcast on Vatican Radio.

As the babies' cries echoed against the frescoed walls of the chapel, the pope encouraged the parents and godparents to carry out the serious responsibility of educating the children in the faith, so they can take their rightful part in the church.

"Christian baptism ... makes all the faithful co-responsible in the great mission of the church, each in a way that is proper to their own specific vocation," he said.

The revitalization of the lay role in the church was a key goal of the jubilee, a year in which "the vitality of the church was demonstrated before the eyes of all," he said.

"What this extraordinary event passes on to each Christian is the task of confirming the faith in the ordinary context of daily life," he said.

The pope poured water over the heads of each of the babies as their parents brought them to the altar. Sixteen were Italian, one from Portugal and one from France.

Speaking at the noon blessing the sae day, the pope thanked several thousand jubilee volunteers, whose distinctive bright blue vests spread out through St. Peter's Square. More than 70,000 volunteers worked throughout the jubilee year, guiding and helping pilgrims in various languages.

"As you return home, keep in your hearts these jubilee moments you have shared and bring your 'volunteer' attitude into your daily lives, recognizing in every person a brother or sister to love and serve," the pope said.

Noting that the United Nations had declared 2001 the International Year of the Volunteer, the pope expressed greetings to all those around the world who, without pay, give of their time and energy in various forms of solidarity with the poor and needy.

"Volunteer work, in all its forms, is above all a question of the heart, a heart that knows how to open itself to the needs of others," he said.

Later in the day, the pope paid an evening visit to a city sanitation office located just outside the Vatican walls, to admire an annual Nativity scene created by garbage collectors and street sweepers.

Addressing the personnel as "ecology workers," the pope said he realized the jubilee year had created an immense amount of work for them. The Vatican said more than 8.5 million pilgrims attended papal events during the Holy Year.

The pope said he appreciated how much effort it took to clean St. Peter's Square before and after these events and said that from his apartment window he'd often watched them sweeping the square in the early hours of the morning. He thanked them for their "attentive diligence."

Jubilee Year, from page 1

In the final days of the Holy Year, the pilgrim flow reached epic proportions around the Vatican, with some visitors waiting three hours to get into the Holy Door before it closed. On the final evening, the basilica's officials kept the door open until 3 a.m. to accommodate late-comers seeking the special jubilee indulgence associated with the door.

The pope ended the jubilee where he began it — in front of the Holy Door. Dressed in gold vestments, the 80-year-old pontiff entered the atrium of St. Peter's at the end of a long procession.

Looking frail but determined, supported by the arm by two aides, he went up three steps to the threshold of the door and knelt in private prayer.

Then, standing just outside the near-empty basilica, he swung the two panels of the doors shut, one by one, and turned the handle to close it. The door was later bricked up and was not expected to be reopened until 2025, when the next Holy Year is scheduled.

During the Mass, the pope repeated what has become a favorite theme in recent weeks: Christ is the real "holy door" and the key to future success of the jubilee.

"We need to set out anew from Christ, with the zeal of Pentecost, with renewed enthusiasm, to set out from him above all in a daily commitment to holiness," he said.

He said the jubilee program over which he presided, including more than 70 major liturgies, offered some spiritual lessons and moments of special grace. He said it became clear that the church does not "shine with her own light, but reflects Christ," lighting the path for all people.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pilgrims pack St. Peter's Square to witness Pope John Paul II closing the Holy Door Jan. 6. Millions of people passed through the portal during the Holy Year that began Christmas Eve 1999.

To non-Christians who may not have understood the intent of the jubilee, the pope said there was "no vain triumphalism" in the church's joyful duty to proclaim Christ.

"How could we possibly succumb to this temptation, precisely at the end of such an intensely penitential year?" he said.

On the contrary, he said, a main jubilee theme was the church's own examination of conscience, which led it to seek "God's forgiveness for the infidelities of the church's children over these 2,000 years."

The pope said now it was time to look to the future — though not in the sense of undertaking complicated new initiatives.

"We return to our normal activities, but this is something quite different from taking a rest," he said.

The pope's 84-page document, "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), put it another way: "If ours has been a genuine pilgrimage, it will have, as it were, stretched our legs for the journey still ahead."

In addition to revisiting jubilee highlights, the document offered a last word in the Holy Year debate over several sensitive and controversial issues, including the tension between mission and dialogue.

Dialogue with other religions must continue, the pope said, but it cannot be "understood as negotiation." Nor should Christians fear that their joyful proclamation of the gift of Christ will "be considered an offense to the identity of others," he said.

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CCHD unveils campaign to raise awareness of U.S. poverty

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has launched a multimedia campaign to raise awareness of what a radio ad calls the "more than 32 million living, dreaming, anxious, hoping, desperate people" who live in poverty in the United States.

The campaign — which includes TV and radio public-service ads in English and Spanish, print ads for Catholic and secular publications and a Web site at www.povertyusa.org — designates January as Poverty in America Awareness Month.

Focusing on "Poverty USA" as America's "second largest state," the ads note that one in 11 families and one in six children currently live below the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold of $17,184 for a family of four.

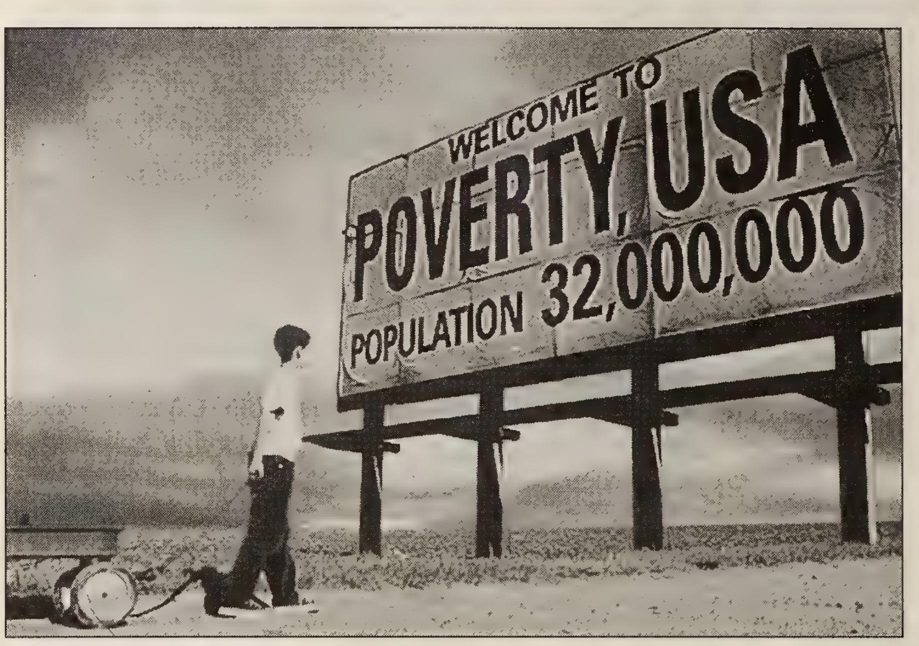
"December brings outpourings of good will and concern for the poor, but in January the nation returns to its routines and the poor are still poor," said Father Robert J. Vitillo, CCHD executive director, at a Jan. 9 press conference at the National Press Club in Washington.

"By focusing on poverty in January, we hope to remind Americans early each year that poverty is still very much a part of American life," he added.

CCHD, the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic bishops, funds self-help projects initiated and led by poor people themselves. The funds come from an annual collection in U.S. Catholic parishes.

Also released at the press conference was a nationwide "Poverty Pulse" survey, which found that poverty ranks low in the nation's consciousness, with only 3 percent naming it among general issues of concern to society.

But when asked specifically if poverty is a concern, 87 percent said they were very concerned or somewhat concerned. In a separate survey of Americans whose incomes fall below the poverty line, 94 percent said they were very or somewhat concerned.



The Catholic Campaign for Human Development's new poverty awareness campaign features a TV spot highlighting the number of people living in poverty in the United States. (CNS photo courtesy CCHD)

However, most of those living below the poverty line did not consider themselves to be poor. Fifty-nine percent of those respondents called themselves "low-income," 13 percent said they were "middle-income" and 24 percent said they were poor.

The survey of all Americans also showed that 33 percent say they have lived in poverty at some point in their lives, 49 percent fear that they could become poor at some point, and 41 percent know someone who is living in poverty. The margin of error for the poll was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

"Low unemployment rates and the creation of new wealth have conspired to make many Americans believe that poverty and homelessness in the U.S. have disappeared," Father Vitillo said. "In fact, the strong economy has simply pushed poverty into the background, which enables otherwise caring people to forget about the poor and ignore the evidence of poverty that they see in their communities.

"It is shameful that a nation that controls 29 percent of the world's wealth has so many people living in poverty," he said.

The survey found that 44 percent of respondents said they had given money in the last year to an organization that helps the poor and 16 percent said they had gotten involved with or encouraged community-based organizations to address poverty and injustice.

Fifty-two percent of Americans said it was everyone's responsibility to help the poor, while 39 percent said it was the government's responsibility and 16 percent said responsibility rested with the poor themselves.

In fighting poverty, Father Vitillo said, "Some results can be expected from individual efforts, but the most effective approach to reducing poverty is through community-based, self-help organizations.

"This pervasive problem in society warrants and deserves a community response," he added.

The campaign materials offered a number of suggestions for how individuals could help to alleviate poverty. They included:

— Make a commitment to work with local self-help projects.

— Let elected officials know that the poor really matter to voters in their districts.

— Donate time, talents, money and other resources to organizations that help poor people become independent, successful members of society.

— Offer business expertise to someone starting his or her own business.

— Pay a living wage to someone working in a traditionally low-paying job.

— Sponsor the education of a poor child.

— Mentor a needy individual.

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Renowned musician to perform at Charlotte parish

CHARLOTTE — Marty Haugen, a renowned liturgical musician, will play a concert and lead a workshop at St. Luke Catholic Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., in Charlotte on Jan. 26 and 27.

Haugen, whose works include "Canticle of the Sun, "Eye Has Not Seen" and "Mass of Creation," is a liturgical composer, workshop presenter, performing and recording artist and author.

He will play a concert on Friday, Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Haugen will lead a workshop for musicians and other interested persons of all denominations.

The day opens at 9:15 a.m. with a gathering and opening prayer. At 10, Haugen will begin the first session, "The Future Ministry of the Church."

A number of lunch options are available, including a simple soup luncheon provided by the parish for a donation to its Outreach Ministry.

Haugen's 1 p.m. session, "Gospel of Luke," will be followed by a musical showcase at 2:30 p.m.

Haugen has contributed to hymnals or supplements for many faith traditions and groups, including Lutherans, United Methodists and Catholics. He has recorded more than 29 works and more than 400 separate printed editions available through CIA Publications.

He has also composed three communion settings for Lutheran Congregations.

He currently serves as composer-in-residence at Mayflower United Methodist Church of Christ in Minneapolis, Minn.

Pre-registration for the concert, workshop or both is available. For details on registration, cost and other information, call Marti Dushak at (704) 545-1224.

St. Luke Church's music department will premiere Haugen's new musical work, "The Feast of Life," to the Charlotte area on Feb. 21 and 23. For details, call Dushak at the above number.

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Diocese of Charlotte parishioners to march for life in Washington

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Later this month, hundreds of parishioners from across the Diocese of Charlotte will lace up their shoes to walk and pray for life.

A delegation from western North Carolina will join tens of thousands in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 22 for the annual March for Life, one of the nation's largest and most visible statements against abortion.

This year's theme is "Motherhood, Fatherhood and Childhood Begin at Fertilization."

"When we define human life in terms of whether or not we are wanted, we have forgotten that each person is wanted and planned for by God, the author of Life," said Maggi Nadol, diocesan Respect Life coordinator. "The March for Life gives voice to so many unable to speak for themselves: the unborn and with partial-birth abortion, the almost born."

The pilgrimage begins at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where on Jan. 21 and early Jan. 22, Masses and prayer services will highlight an all-night vigil preceding the march.

The vigil begins at 8 p.m. on Jan. 21 with a Mass. Cardinal William H. Keeler, archbishop of Baltimore and chair of the U.S. bishops' Pro-Life Committee, will preside.

Recitation of the rosary, night prayer, confession and holy hours will follow through the night.

The vigil ends Jan. 22 at 7:30 a.m., when Cardinal Bernard F. Law of Boston will preside at a Mass, concelebrated by bishops and priests from around the nation.

At 10 a.m. on the day of the march, Bishop William G. Curlin will preside at a Mass for Carolina pilgrims in the basilica's Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

The march begins at noon Jan. 22. Pilgrims will begin with a rally at the Ellipse near the White House and march to Capitol Hill and the Supreme Court.

The diocese's Respect Life Office has chartered bus transportation to take pilgrims to Washington.

The group will leave Charlotte at 7 a.m. Jan. 21 and will pick up others along the route. The diocesan caravan will return to North Carolina in the evening of Jan. 22.

Other parishes and groups in the diocese have made similar travel plans.

In addition to numbers of parishes that will be bringing vanloads of pilgrims to the march, Charlotte Catholic High School has chartered two buses, while Belmont Abbey College has also arranged for bus transport.

Busloads of parishioners from the mountains will depart for the march from Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville. And a bus will depart from the Hickory area as well.

The March for Life was incorporated in 1974 as a grassroots, action-oriented, pro-life organization.

An annual march in the nation's capital draws tens of thousands of people from around the country to protest the Jan. 22, 1973, U.S. Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion in the United States.

At press time, space was still available on the Hickory and the Immaculate Conception-St. Eugene buses.

For information on the Hickory bus, call Dick McDonald at (828) 328-3605. For details on the Immaculate Conception-St. Eugene bus, call Loretta Franz at (828) 697-8194.

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Book Review

Larry McMurtry's latest book deserves an encore

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

Almost alone among the authors who have set their characters adrift on the roisterous western landscape of the late 19th century, Larry McMurtry gives us strong-willed women who are a match, and more, for the heroic figures the period calls forth. So it is again in "Boone's Lick" (Simon & Schuster, $24), where in the first few paragraphs we are told, "It's best to walk small around Mary Margaret."

Mary Margaret is Mary Margaret Cecil (nee Crackenthrope), wife of Dick Cecil, a not-very-sociable wagoner. She is the mother of some of Cecil's children, including four who survived and four who died as babies and are buried on the hill behind their cabin in Boone's Lick, Mo., a Missouri River town.

The assessment of Mary Margaret's temperament is given by Seth Cecil — Dick's brother and partner, known as Uncle Seth in the story, which is being told much later in life by Sherman "Shay" Cecil, the oldest child who is on the verge of manhood as the story begins shortly after the end of the Civil War.

Seth, a former Union sharpshooter and friend of Wild Bill Hickock, once courted Mary Margaret and is something of a character himself as well as the family father figure. In the opening sentence Shay reveals that Uncle Seth is "firmly convinced that bad things mostly happen on cloudy days" because "too much cloudy weather makes people restless and mean, females particularly."

Which is why, in offering his opinion that it's best to walk small around Mary Margaret he adds that you "need to walk a little smaller on cloudy days."

This particular day is a cloudy day; Dick Cecil hasn't been home in 14 months and the family has been subsisting on mush when Seth, Shay and Shay's brother G.T. (for Grant Thaddeus) return home to find that Mary Margaret has shot the sheriff's horse, thinking, she says, that it was an elk. They learn too that Mary Margaret plans to close the place down, take everyone with her, catch up with Dick wherever he may be and tell him if he's not willing to act as husband and father, she's leaving.

So it is that she packs up the family, including her father and two other children, and sets off by wagon and riverboat, eventually finding Dick hundreds of miles away in Wyoming, hauling supplies to Fort Phil Kearny.

On one level, "Boone's Lick" is the story of that journey, the events leading up to it and those along the way, including hook-ups with an itinerant priest hoofing barefoot to Siberia, and Charlie Seven Days, an Indian who owes his name to the scriptural account of creation. It is vintage McMurtry, rich in stories within the main story and in sparse, revealing dialogue as historic figures (Wild Bill and the Indian chief Red Cloud, among others) are woven into the tale.

But on another level, it is the story of Mary Margaret's search for an answer not only to the question that gives rise to the journey — in truth, she knows what the answer will be — but to a deeper family question as well.

Later, reflecting on the trip from his perspective as the leading judge in the Missouri district, Shay muses: "You don't have to be long on the bench to realize that family cases are the hardest to settle. ... It's deuced hard to know where a family story starts, and no cinch to figure out where one stops either. If family cases started with a wedding and ended with a funeral, judges wouldn't dread them so much — but it's rarely that way."

It's certainly not that way in "Boone's Lick," which is as entertaining a story as McMurtry ever told for he flavors it with sardonic observations and the kind of witty dialogue he generally does not put in the mouths of his characters.

Happily, there's more in the offing. Just as "Lonesome Dove" (a Pulitzer Prize-winner) and "The Last Picture Show" are series cornerstones, so too with "Boone's Lick." Although complete and totally satisfactory on its own, it's designed as the opening piece in a projected trilogy.

The likes of Mary Margaret and Uncle Seth deserve an encore.

Word to Life

January 14, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 96:1-3, 7-10
2) 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
3) Gospel: John 2:1-11

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

As signs go, it didn't seem terribly successful. When Jesus transformed water into wine at Cana, the Gospel writer notes it as the first of the signs which revealed his glory.

But the steward noted only the excellence of the wine and the bridegroom's unusual strategy in not serving it first. There is no comment from the undoubtedly puzzled host, no record of general amazement among the guests. Even the servants who drew the water which Jesus transformed, although they knew a miracle had been worked, don't seem to have understood its deeper meaning.

Throughout John's Gospel, as Jesus works more and more "signs" to reveal himself, the story remains more or less the same: Even when they notice that something extraordinary has happened, people don't look beyond that to see what such wonders might mean about Jesus.

Here it is only his disciples — those who watch him with the eyes of faith — who see his mighty deed as more than a spectacular feat of magic. Only they recognize that above and beyond and behind this amazing work is a truth about Jesus which is infinitely more startling and wondrous and good.

God does spectacular things constantly: Worlds spin in the infinity of space, enemies find reconciliation, loneliness is healed in friendship, bread and wine become the body and blood of God, death opens doors to life, but unless we view these things with the eyes of faith they will never yield their full message of God's love and presence.

A life lived on the run, a life without pauses, without silent contemplation of its setting, without attentive stillness in prayer, is the enemy of such vision.

May God enrich our faith and give us the gift of slowing down to recognize his glory beneath the surface of the everyday.

QUESTIONS:

How can I make time in this new year for more pauses to look beneath the surface of my life? What is one place where I might find the glory of God hidden in the ordinary?

"His mother instructed those waiting on table, 'Do whatever he tells you'" — John 2:5.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 14 - 20, 2001

Sunday, Isaiah 62:1-5, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, John 2:1-12; **Monday**, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 2:18-22; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 6:10-20, Mark 2:23-28; **Wednesday (St. Anthony)**, Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17, Mark 3:1-6; **Thursday**, Hebrews 7:25-8:6, Mark 3:7-12; **Friday**, Hebrews 8:6-13, Mark 3:13-19; **Saturday (Sts. Fabian and Sebastian)**, Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14, Mark 3:20-21

Readings for the week of Jan. 21 - 27, 2001

Sunday, Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21; **Monday (St. Vincent)**, Hebrews 9:15, 24-28, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday**, Hebrews 10:1-10, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday (St. Francis de Sales)**, Hebrews 10:11-18, Mark 4:1-10; **Thursday (Conversion of St. Paul)**, Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; **Friday (Sts. Timothy and Titus)**, Titus 1:1-5, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday (St. Angela Merici)**, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Mark 4:35-41

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Cindy Lou Who in "Grinch" is typical second-grader

By BARBARA WATKINS
Catholic News Service

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — In many ways, Taylor Momsen is a typical 7-year-old.

A second-grader at Our Lady of Lourdes School in University City, she likes school, sports, playing in the snow, singing and acting. She really likes acting.

That's evident in her most recent effort, playing Cindy Lou Who in the hit movie, "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

"I really enjoy acting," said Taylor, who lives with her mom and dad, Colette and Michael Momsen, and 4-year-old sister Sloane. "Acting out scenes and getting to be different people is so much fun."

Taylor spent seven months working on the film, which stars actor/comedian Jim Carrey, a celebrity with a pretty frenetic persona.

"He was so funny," said Taylor. "Some people think he's crazy, but he's really not. He's really a nice guy. Sometimes in between the takes we chitchatted. I can't think of one moment that anybody wasn't nice to me. I'm so happy to work with so many nice people."

Learning her lines was not a problem, even when she was in first grade. "I don't have trouble with that. My mom or dad read the lines to me a couple of times and then I keep saying them over and over again until I've learned them."

Taylor said the whole experience "was so much fun I can't call it work." It was work, though, usually about eight hours a day, plus school work done on the set.

CNS Photo

Taylor Momsen stars as Cindy Lou Who in "Dr. Suess' How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The second-grader from Our Lady of Lourdes School in University City, Mo., spent seven months working on the film with comedian Jim Carrey.

"There was a teacher for me and a couple of other kids on the set, but mostly it was my private teacher," she said. "I was in first grade then. When I came back to Lourdes for school, back in St. Louis, my teacher here was really great. And this year I have a really nice teacher too. I think all the teachers are really kind."

Taylor's positive attitude may be a result of her parents' primary objective — "We just want to make sure she is still Taylor," said Colette Momsen. So Taylor does what 7-year-olds do, from school to baseball to playing with her friends.

"My friends here are really happy for me," Taylor said. "I'm so lucky to have such nice friends who are really supportive. It was so nice to come back and have the same friends I had before I made the movie. I hope I always have the same friends," she said.

And she likes animals. After volunteering to collect blankets and towels for the Humane Society of Missouri, Taylor got a hamster, which she named Cheddar. "I would like to volunteer more at the Humane Society," she said. "I've loved animals since I was so little. And I have a lot of stuffed animals, more than I can count."

Taylor got into the movie business at such a young age because her parents, noticing her outgoing personality and gifts, helped her become a child model, later working in several commercials. Taylor tried out for one movie part that she didn't get, but the casting director remembered her and asked her to read for the role of Cindy Lou Who. Eventually she got the part.

"It's really incredible and has been a really positive experience so far," said Colette Momsen. "She loves the whole process. This has brought a lot of joy to the whole family."

Taylor's mother added, "We are making a conscious effort to not let this change Taylor or our family. If it did, it wouldn't be worth it."

There are a couple of other projects being considered for Taylor now, her mother said, but in the meantime, she is busy at home.

What about being an actor when she grows up? "I have a very long time to think about what I would do when I grow up. I probably would like to keep acting, but there are so many other things I like to do too."

Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Exorcist" (1974; expanded 2000 version on video)

Strong screen version of the William Blatty novel about the demonic possession of a young girl (Linda Blair) and the attempts of two priests (Jason Miller and Max von Sydow) to exorcise the devil from her. Directed by William Friedkin, the movie is on shaky ground theologically and its special effects are horrific but the result is an exciting horror fantasy for those with strong stomachs. Its graphic violence, obscene references and foul language make it strictly adult fare. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Warner Home Video)

"Hollow Man" (2000)

Uneven sci-fi thriller about a rogue scientist (Kevin Bacon) at a secret military lab who tests his formula for invisibility on himself and is unable to reverse the procedure. Despite amazing visual effects and an intriguing premise, director Paul Verhoeven's film lurches forward trading suspense for explosions and other obvious gimmicks while only shallowly exploring the psychological ramifications of a man without societal constraints. Much gory violence, a few implied sexual encounters, some nudity and incessant rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar)

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope, at audience, says jubilee efforts must continue

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jubilee efforts to promote justice and reduce the foreign debt of poor countries must continue as a part of Catholics' normal practice of their faith, Pope John Paul II said.

"We must commit ourselves to freeing the oppressed and making justice reign," the pope said Jan. 10 at his weekly general audience. "If this commitment is lacking, our worship of God is not pleasing to him."

Catholics must work to ensure that "the jubilee just ended will continue to produce abundant fruits of justice, freedom and love," he said.

One of the clearest signs that the jubilee had ended four days earlier was an almost empty St. Peter's Square, where in previous weeks 30,000 people and more had gathered for the audience.

The Jan. 10 audience was held in the Paul VI Audience Hall with just over 3,000 people in attendance, giving an almost familial atmosphere to the gathering.

Pope John Paul's talk, however, focused on jubilee values as described in the Old Testament.

The biblical jubilee practices of returning land to its original owners and giving slaves their freedom, he said, are calls to re-establish justice on the earth and move society toward greater expressions of solidarity, generosity and brotherhood.

"In the modern historic circumstances, the return of lost lands could express itself, as I have proposed many times, in the total forgiveness or, at least, the reduction of the international debt of poor countries," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said Christians' commitment to promoting justice is not a matter of philanthropy but of "choices and actions which have a deeply religious spirit and are true sacrifices pleasing to God."

"The prophets, speaking in the name of God, reject worship isolated from life, liturgy separated from justice, prayer detached from daily commitment and faith stripped of works," he said.

"At the end of each person's life and at the end of the history of humanity, the judgment of God will focus precisely on love, on the practice of justice and on welcoming the poor," the pope said.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Resolved: In 2001 I'll ...

Most New Year's resolutions are about self-improvement. If you've ever made one, I wouldn't doubt that at least one of the following was on your list:

—I'm really going to try to study more this year. Plus, I'm going to do what all my teachers tell me: study as we go along and not cram at the last minute.

—This year I'm going to work on my health. I'll eat better and exercise more. I'll try to get more than five hours of sleep a night too.

—Oh yes, this is the year I'm going to stop watching so much television and spending so much time in front of the computer and the game system. I swear.

Yes, those are probably a few of your resolutions, and they're great. I hope you're different from 90 percent of the rest of the population and stick with them past the end of January.

But might there be something else?

Isn't there an element of life that's in need of growth and attention just as much as your body and your schoolwork? Like your relationship with God?

OK, so you go to Mass most Sundays, you do pretty well in religion class and you even run through some prayers a lot of nights before dropping off to sleep.

Again. Is that all there is? Is that the most you can do with the spiritual part of your life?

As you begin a new year, it might be good to remember that no matter how you look, God is with you. When hard times hit, neither your appearance nor your grades will help you understand or cope. A strong relationship with God is the only thing that will do that.

So if you've spent a few seconds examining your spiritual life and find it a bit wanting, it might not be a bad idea to resolve to do something about it in the upcoming year. Start small — it's never a good idea to overextend. That just sets you up for failure. What about these ideas?

—This year I'm going to do more than just sit during Mass and half-listen. I'm actually going to pray.

—This year I'm going to open up that Bible I got for confirmation and read it. Maybe I'll start with one of the Gospels and just read a few verses every night. It couldn't hurt, could it?

—This year I'm going to grow up a little bit in my prayer life. I won't just ask God for stuff all the time. Sometimes I'll sit quietly and listen to God instead.

—This year I'll try to start viewing other people in a different light. I'll move beyond seeing them only as they exist in relationship to me, and try, the best I can, to see them as my brothers and sisters, loved by God just as much as I am. Hard to believe, sometimes, but true.

No, nothing big. We're not suggesting martyrdom here. Just a few simple steps to take so that next January those small resolutions will have become a path to something all those other resolutions can't even touch and something that, if we're honest, we'll admit that we want more than anything else: a heart full of joy.

Principles of Catholic Social Thought

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
CNS Columnist

Part VIII: The Principle of Subsidiarity

The principle of subsidiarity serves to keep government in its place and points to the importance of private voluntary associations.

The great social encyclical "Quadragesimo Anno" (issued by Pope Pius XI in 1931 on the 40th anniversary of the publication of Pope Leo XIII's "Rerum Novarum") refers to subsidiarity as "that most weighty principle, which cannot be set aside or changed, [and which] remains fixed in social philosophy" (No. 79).

It is wrong, this principle would say, for a higher level of organization to perform any function that can be handled effectively and efficiently at a lower level of organization by those who are closer to the problem and closer to the ground. This is a solid democratic principle, a safeguard against both left-wing collectivism and right-wing totalitarianism. Oppressive governments are always in violation of the principle of subsidiarity; overactive governments frequently violate this principle.

This is not to say that no government is the desirable goal. Nor does it suggest that big government is never justified. The Social Security Act of 1935 was a "big government" initiative that showed then and continues to display respect for the principle of subsidiarity.

A major new monument in Washington, D.C., frames the years of the Great Depression in sculpture and inscriptions related to the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The FDR Memorial occupies seven open-air acres of land near the Tidal Basin. The designer created four architectural "rooms" representing each of FDR's four terms as president.

In the section dedicated to the second term, 1937-40, one sculpture depicts a bread line: five bronze figures of men with overcoat collars turned up, eyes and hat brims turned down, shoulders bent as they line up against a soup kitchen's brick wall waiting for the door to open.

Each time I've visited this place, I've seen tour buses unloading platoons of school children. The youngsters invariably move toward that bread line and insert themselves between the bronze figures to pose for their souvenir snapshots. The irony is striking.

The sculptured figures represent the great grandfathers of these children of affluence. These fun-loving children would not have the health, wealth, education, economic security and long life expectancy that they take for granted had not government, in the form of Social Security and other strong executive and legislative initiatives, stepped in to do something during the Great Depression to combat poverty and protect the elderly, people with disabilities and the survivors of breadwinners who lost their lives.

No individual or group, no lower levels of governmental or private organizations could have done what Social Security began to do in 1935.

But here we are in the new millennium. Both government and private-sector initiatives are still necessary. Needed also are private voluntary associations. The principle of subsidiarity is still necessary if higher levels of decision making are to be kept from overreaching and from crushing those below.

Individuals often feel helpless in the face of daunting societal problems: homelessness, hunger, addiction, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment. But individuals also pay taxes. With all due regard for subsidiarity, the governmental entity that collects those taxes can help the conscientious citizen "do something" about those problems by applying government resources, effectively and efficiently, to meet major social problems that otherwise would go unattended.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

The one that got away

The beginning of the year is a time to look ahead. But, people being people often look back as well, at happy memories and, perhaps, some not so happy as well.

Regrets. If you have lived any length of time at all, you have had a few regrets. We all do. But there are some people who have a priceless ability for keeping things in perspective.

A friend told me about one of those folks. He was a man named Hugh Alexander, and he died not long ago. Known as "Uncle Hughie" to generations of baseball players and executives, he was a scout, considered by many the best of all time. He had a real eye for talent, and as he traveled the country, he was responsible for signing dozens of players who made it to the major leagues— athletes like Allie Reynolds, Frank Howard and Hall of Famer Don Sutton.

Hugh Alexander was one of the most knowledgeable baseball men around. And he shared his wisdom: over the years, he taught a number of young scouts their trade. And then there was his storytelling. Alexander was known for his gift, and this is one of his favorite reminiscences.

While on one of his innumerable trips to small-town America searching for players who might have what it takes to be major leaguers, a friend gave him a name of a talented youngster. When Hugh Alexander got to Commerce, Okla., he headed for the high school. He told the principal who he was and whom he wanted to see. The principal let him know that there was a problem: The young athlete had injured himself playing football and had developed arthritis in his legs.

The scout knew it was tough enough for a healthy guy to make it professionally. So when he got back to his car, he just tossed away the piece of paper with the prospect's name. Years later, Hugh Alexander said he could "still see it blowing across the parking lot."

So baseball's best scout failed to sign one of baseball's best players, Mickey Mantle.

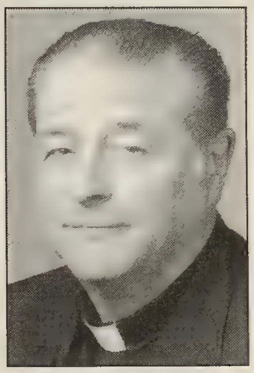
But while he never forgot what he did, or, rather, did not do, Alexander knew better than to dwell on an error in judgment. He just got back to work and got on with life. I suspect he learned something about relying on the opinions and assessments of others without verifying them. And he just might have been reminded that we should not be too quick to judge the ability of people to overcome problems.

And, that, after all, is something his own life taught Hugh Alexander. He, too, had once been a fine young player with a bright future, joining the Cleveland Indians in 1937 when he was only 20. But in the off-season when he was working on an oil rig, a very bad accident resulted in the amputation of his hand. He could have let bitterness fill him with regret for a lifetime. But he was offered a different chance in baseball, and he made the most of his life — and the most of the many lives he touched.

What about those men and women who are never able to let go of an event from the past that colors their entire lives? A bad decision or lost opportunity can gnaw away at hope and everything that makes life worth living. Whether or not you are "guilty" of something done or undone, or some tragedy strikes without your consent, you still have a choice to make. You still get to decide what your attitude will be toward yourself and the world.

You should never let your own life be the one that got away.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Information the Bible was not meant to give

Q. As a child attending catechism many years ago we were told of Adam and Eve as our first parents, of their children Cain and Abel and what happened to their descendants.

From time to time we read reports of bones and artifacts of humans who, according to carbon dating and other tests, lived hundreds of thousands or millions of years ago.

How do these huge time eras relate to the Bible stories of Adam and Eve? In what year B.C. did God create our first parents?

A. We have no idea when or how God created the first human beings. To see why this is true, we need to keep in mind a few facts about our Catholic understanding of the Bible.

First, we believe that the Scriptures teach "solidly, faithfully and without error that truth which God wanted put into the sacred writings for the sake of our salvation" (Vatican II, Constitution on Divine Revelation, No. 11).

This means we do not read the Bible as if it were, for example, a book of scientific history or anthropology.

The truths of faith God reveals to us in the Genesis stories of creation are many: God created the world, including humans, as a free act of his love and desire to diffuse his existence and life; as it came from his hands, creation was so good God was very proud of it; disharmony and suffering came, not from the Creator, but somehow from sinful human pride; a plan for restoring the harmony was already in God's mind; and many others.

In other words, we need to approach the creation stories, as all Scripture, very carefully to separate what is "for the sake of our salvation" from the vehicles of language and culture — the images, allegories, fables, parables and other literary devices — God uses to convey those truths to us.

The most recent exhaustive and nuanced Catholic document on the "Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" is the 1993 publication of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, with that title.

While inspiring the authors of the Bible, it states, God made use of all the possibilities of human language, all the ways language can be used to express ideas. At the same time, he recognized the constraints caused by the limitations of human language.

"Proper respect for inspired scripture," it continues, "requires undertaking all the labors necessary to gain a thorough grasp of its meaning" (Conclusion).

With that in mind, the (Catholic) New American Bible notes in its introduction to the first chapters of Genesis that the truths contained in these chapters must be clearly distinguished from their literary garb.

Forgetting those cautions can lead to some awesomely eccentric beliefs. During the 17th century, for example, Archbishop James Ussher of Ireland, carefully adding up figures from the book of Genesis, determined that the world was created in 4004 B.C. (That's the creation of the world, not of the first humans.)

Later, a Dr. John Lightfoot of Cambridge University "proved" that the exact moment of creation was "Oct. 23, 4004 B.C., at 9 o'clock in the morning."

That's the kind of weirdness that can happen when we try to squeeze the Bible for information it was not meant to give.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
GUEST COLUMNISTS

Love is patient, love is kind

It is often said that love is blind. It seems that people in love, especially new love, often have blinders on. It not only affects their vision but their judgment, as well. Perhaps it isn't love that makes us stupid but our humanness feebly grasping for love.

Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians, "Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude." (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) Nowhere does Paul tell us that love is blind or stupid. Yet, there are many people walking around blindly grasping for love. And often what they take hold of is obsession, controlling, addiction and abusiveness. For many these negative human weaknesses are factory- equipped in their love relationships.

Believing that love is blind paves the way for love-seekers to fall into the trap of toxic relationships. On the other hand, if we follow Paul's definition of love, we open our eyes to goodness in people without denying their darker sides.

Even at the height of infatuation and we see only through rose-colored glasses, love shines through family and friends whose counsel helps us to soberly seek love.

A recently married woman, distraught over her husband's verbal abuse and controlling behavior, reports that there were indications long before their wedding that he would be this way. Her family and friends even warned her. Yet, in her desperation for love, she blindly proceeded into an abusive marriage.

If our love is packaged with fear—fear of loneliness, fear of rejection, fear of emptiness—we may fall into blindness and seek love in the wrong places. Yet, fear, selfishness, arrogance and rudeness are part of the human condition. The only perfect love comes from God.

As much as a couple in love may feel as though they are the only people that matter, they will need others to love each other well. Their love must grow beyond their particularity to reach others. And they need to keep their love for each other open to the scrutiny of their family and friends. So, even with blinders on, they will see their way to love.

If we may be so bold to add to Paul's definition: Love is courageous. Love is sometimes very difficult. Love is more than what we feel; it is sometimes acting opposite to what we feel. Love isn't blind to our human weaknesses; it endures them and outlasts them.

No, love isn't blind at all. "It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." (1 Corinthians 13:7-8)

Pope encourages Legionaries to keep promoting church doctrine

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked members of the Legionaries of Christ religious order for their faithfulness to him and encouraged them to continue promoting church teaching and doctrine.

Meeting in St. Peter's Square Jan. 4 with an estimated 12,000 Legionary priests, seminarians and members of the order's lay movement, Regnum Christi, the pope said the world urgently needed Christians who confidently proclaim the Gospel.

The religious order, founded and headed by Mexican Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, celebrated its 60th anniversary Jan. 3.

At the audience, the pope said what he most appreciated about a brief greeting from Father Maciel was "the confirmation of faithfulness to the successor of Peter, which characterizes" the order and movement.

"Your full insertion into the mystery of church unity is attested by communion with the pope," he said.

The pope approvingly noted the order's Christ-centered spirituality, which he said led to "passionately loving the church."

He asked them to continue "with renewed zeal" to promote "the magisterium and doctrine of the church."

The order had contributed to furthering a spirit of fraternal charity by its policy of "passing over in silence the errors of others and bringing up only those deeds of theirs which are positive and helpful," he said.

The pontiff asked the Legionaries and lay members to maintain their "apostolic fervor" in education, evangelization, social communications, the spreading of the church's social teaching, the cultural and human promotion of the disadvantaged, and the training of diocesan priests.

"In a secularized world such as our own, built in large part on neglect of transcendent truths and values, the faith of many of our brothers and sisters is sorely tried," he said.

"Because of this, there is a need today more than ever for a confident proclamation of the Gospel which, casting aside all crippling fears, announces with intellectual depth and with courage the truth about God, about man, about the world," he said.

On Jan. 2, Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, ordained 37 new Legionary priests at the order's Regina Apostolorum university campus in Rome.

The Legionaries of Christ number about 500 priests and 2,500 seminarians. The order is active in Europe, the United States and Latin America.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Catholic Social Services in Atlanta is seeking an executive director for a multiservice agency with $4.3 million budget. Requirements: MSW or MA in related field; 5+ years in social services management; knowledge of Catholic social teaching; proven skills in administration, leadership, development and team-building in multicultural environment. Salary commensurate with training / experience. Send resume/cover letter/salary history by January 31 to:

Search Committee, Catholic Social Services
680 West Peachtree Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30308
or Fax to: (404) 888-7816

CAREER OPPORTUNITY!

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The position offers: Salary - Commission - Paid Expenses - Medical and Dental - 401K - Paid Vacation

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For further information and to schedule an interview, call Mr. Young at 800-432-3240.

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided, Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Caregiver: Seeking dependable caregiver to assist elderly with non-medical care in their homes. Part-time and full-time. Top hourly fees. VISITING ANGELS. (704)442-8881

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Librarian: Our Lady of Grace School has an opening for a certified librarian, beginning immediately. Experience preferred. Send resume and request for application to: Principal, Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market St., Greensboro, NC 27403 or Fax: (336)274-7326.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 700 families near Raleigh, North Carolina is building new church and desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have a BA in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time salary of 35K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by February 28 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

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Rates: $.50/word per issue ($10 minimum per issue)
Deadline: 12 noon Wednesday, 9 days before publication date
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Cindi Feerick, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.
Payment: Ads may be pre-paid or billed. For information, call **(704) 370-3332**.

Pastoral Associate: St. Bridget's, an active parish community of 2800 households in Richmond, VA, is seeking applicants for the position of Pastoral Associate. Areas of ministry include welcoming members in to the community, deepening involvement of existing members and extending the presence of the parish into the larger community. A master's degree in religious studies and pastoral experience are required. For details contact the Search Committee, 6006 Three Chopt Road, Richmond, VA 23226.

Principal, Elementary: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Raleigh, NC announces its opening for Principal, effective July 1, 2001. We are a parish-based K-8 coeducational school serving 538 students. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have an advanced degree and administrative experience. Prospective candidates interviewed immediately. Direct inquiries to: Principal Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 2710 Overbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27608. (919)782-1670 ext.123; Fax (919)420-2188.

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia (south of Atlanta), is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2001-2002 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment as well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume to John Cobis, Principal, OLMCHS, 861 Highway 270, Fairburn, GA 30213.

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Home Companion Care: NOW YOUR PARENTS CAN LIVE AT HOME! If a nursing home seems like a poor choice, call us! You'll love our caring home companions. Personal care, meals, housework, up to 24-hour care. VISITING ANGELS (704)442-8881.

REAL ESTATE

For Rent: Catholic family has 2/2 log cabin alongside creek on 2 acres, fireplace, etc., outside Banner Elk, as location for undirected, individual silent retreat. Seek God in silence, solitude, and in his beautiful outdoors. Church nearby. Vegetarian meals available, just bring toothbrush. (828)898-5328.

Background makes Bishop Vasa a do-it-yourselfer at chancery

By ED LANGLOIS
Catholic News Service

BEND, Ore. (CNS) — Bishop Robert F. Vasa has headed the Baker Diocese for almost a year now, but he still has the hands and temperament of a farm boy.

Having grown up in rural Nebraska, the 49-year-old bishop is showing that he would just as soon do the chores himself as call a handyman or a technician.

For example, he is finishing up an after-hours project that entails stringing computer cable through the diocesan chancery in Bend, setting up a network hub, placing network cards in computers and installing network software.

His goal: Internet access for each computer. "I also want to look into in-office messaging, fax access, and a possible network scanner," Bishop Vasa says casually.

As vicar general in Lincoln, Neb., he gained a reputation for a gung-ho, do-it-yourself attitude. There, after hours, he single-handedly converted a large room into a Lincoln Diocese museum, installing items like cabinets, ceilings and wiring.

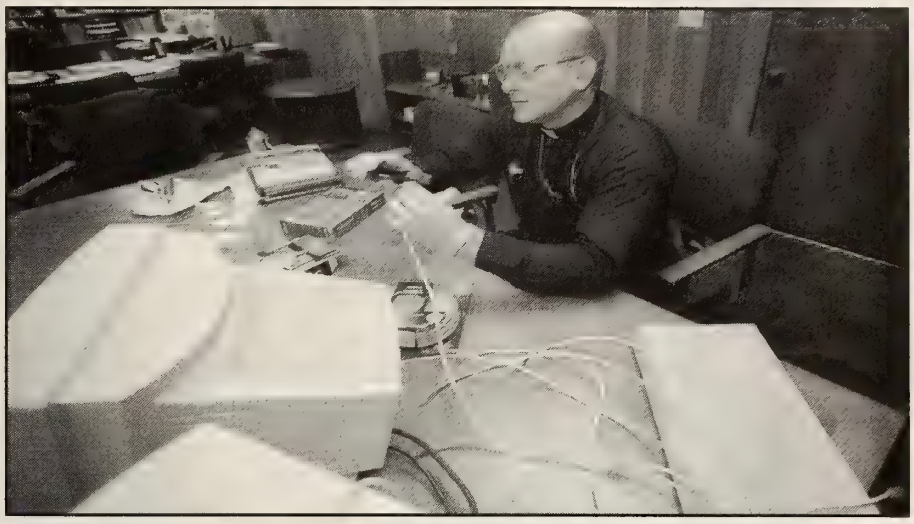
"It is very enjoyable for me, a great hobby and diversion," the bishop said of his nighttime and weekend projects. "I grew up in an environment where we did most repair work around our home ourselves. I have simply continued to exercise, prudently, those repair and construction skills which I acquired growing up."

There is thrift in the man. He could have purchased computer cable with connectors for about $8 apiece. But he could put the connectors on plain cable himself for a cost of about $2. So he builds them. It just seems logical and natural to him.

Does a bishop, like many home handymen, swear when he hammers a thumb or nicks a knuckle? "Skinned knuckles are a part of it but these have never been a source of expletives for me," Bishop Vasa said in an interview with the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese and the Baker Diocese.

"It's usually a shake of the head, a quick look to see if there is blood and hence the need of a bandage and then back to the project," he added.

This is just the hands-on work that balances the spiritual and administrative tasks that take up most days. In his first year, Bishop Vasa has launched plans to emphasize evangelization and priestly vocations, among other things.



CNS photo by Dean Guernsey, Catholic Sentinel

Bishop Robert F. Vasa assembles computer cables at the chancery building in Bend, Ore. The 49-year-old bishop of Baker, who grew up in a Nebraska farming community, has the temperament and skills of a do-it-yourselfer.

Readers of the Catholic Sentinel have lauded his weekly column. His staff tends to marvel at his energy and versatility.

Mondays come with great anticipation, as workers come to see what the bishop has done next, whether it be retiling a floor, repairing a light fixture, moving massive bookshelves or drilling dozens of access holes for cables.

"It is amazing the kind of stuff he can do," said Father Jim Logan, chancellor of the diocese. "He has a broad range of talents, everything from being able to preach well, exuding a lot of enthusiasm for the faith, to all of his hands-on projects."

Dominican Sister Mary Catherine Perkins, director of adult education in the diocese, said she can tell Bishop Vasa grew up on a farm because "he can figure out how to do everything."

Longtime secretary and receptionist Virginia Mohr described the bishop as someone who is able to look at anything and see the potential for adding on to it, changing it, or improving it. She also explained that he always does things right away and added that his tinkering does indeed improve matters.

"There is no way to stump him," said Peggy Buselli, a chancery secretary. "No matter what needs to be done, he can figure it out. Nothing is too heavy for him. If something really heavy needs to be taken out, it disappears over the weekend, and everyone knows Bishop Vasa is the only one who has been here over the weekend."

The new bishop, and his handiness, remind local folks of his predecessor as the spiritual head of Catholics in eastern Oregon.

Bishop Thomas J. Connolly, who retired last year after almost 30 years, was a fix-it man and country boy in his own right.

"The only other high church prelate with the kind of ability that Bishop Vasa has is Bishop Connolly," said Father Thomas Faucher, vicar of canonical affairs. "That the Holy Spirit would bless this diocese with two eminently practical do-it-yourselfers is a sign that God truly does live in eastern Oregon."

Workers here may be in awe, but they are not afraid to tell Bishop Vasa when he needs to finish up his projects.

"The staff reminds me often of my need to keep moving forward," Bishop Vasa said. "Actually it's more like, 'When will you be done already!'" The bishop said he will continue to putter, repair and build as long as he is able.

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SACRAMENT
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Charlotte Engaged Encounter
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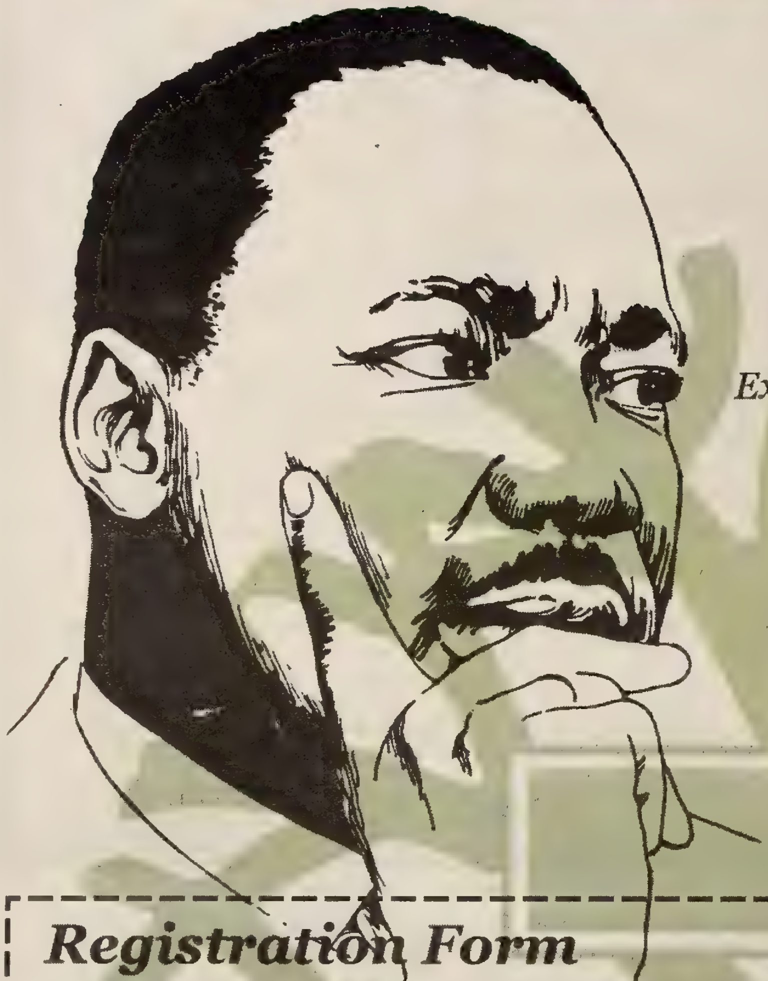
Bishop William G. Curlin
invites you to join him on a
Lenten Pilgrimage to
The Vatican and Shrines of Italy
March 13-22, 2001

Your trip to Italy will be more than just a tour. It is a pilgrimage. Celebrate Mass daily as we see Rome, the Eternal City, have an audience with Pope John Paul II, visit Assisi, Florence, Pisa, Siena and other Holy sites that are rich with Church history. Come with us for an unforgettable experience into the history, culture, religion, art and cuisine of Italy.

Registration limited. Contact Joann Keane, 704.370.3336, jskeane@aol.com

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY
invites you to the

Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month Celebration



Saturday, January 27th

The Call to Evangelization: A Vision for African American Catholic Leadership

with featured speaker Dr. Hilbert Stanley -
Executive Director of National Black Catholic Congress
and Mass - with the Very Reverend Mauricio West,
Vicar General and Chancellor

Our Lady of Consolation Church,
2301 Statesville Ave., Charlotte

Schedule of Events:

10-12pm	Workshop
12-1 pm	Lunch (included)
1-4:45 pm	Workshop
5 pm	Mass celebrated by The Very Reverend Mauricio West, with music of the OLC Gospel Choir with Kabaka dancers & drummers

Costs:

$10	Single
$15	Couple
$20	Family (4 or fewer)
$25	Family (5 or more)

Costs include all materials and meals.

Registration:

Send form and check by Jan. 24 to:
Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd
1123 South Church St.
Charlotte, NC 28203
or call (704) 370-3339

Registration Form

Deadline to pre-register: Wednesday, January 24

Name:

Address:

City:

State / zip:

Phone:

No. of people attending:

Amount enclosed:

$

Return registration form WITH PAYMENT to:

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 19, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 19

Inside

Lutheran-Episcopalian communion
Ecumenical officer comments on significance of declaration
...PAGE 3

Black clergy mark slavery anniversary
...PAGE 7

World prays in disaster's wake
...PAGE 9

Local News

Asheville calls for death penalty moratorium
...PAGE 5

Hikers encounter God's Spirit in mountains
...PAGE 14

Room at the Inn resident looks to brighter future
...PAGE 16

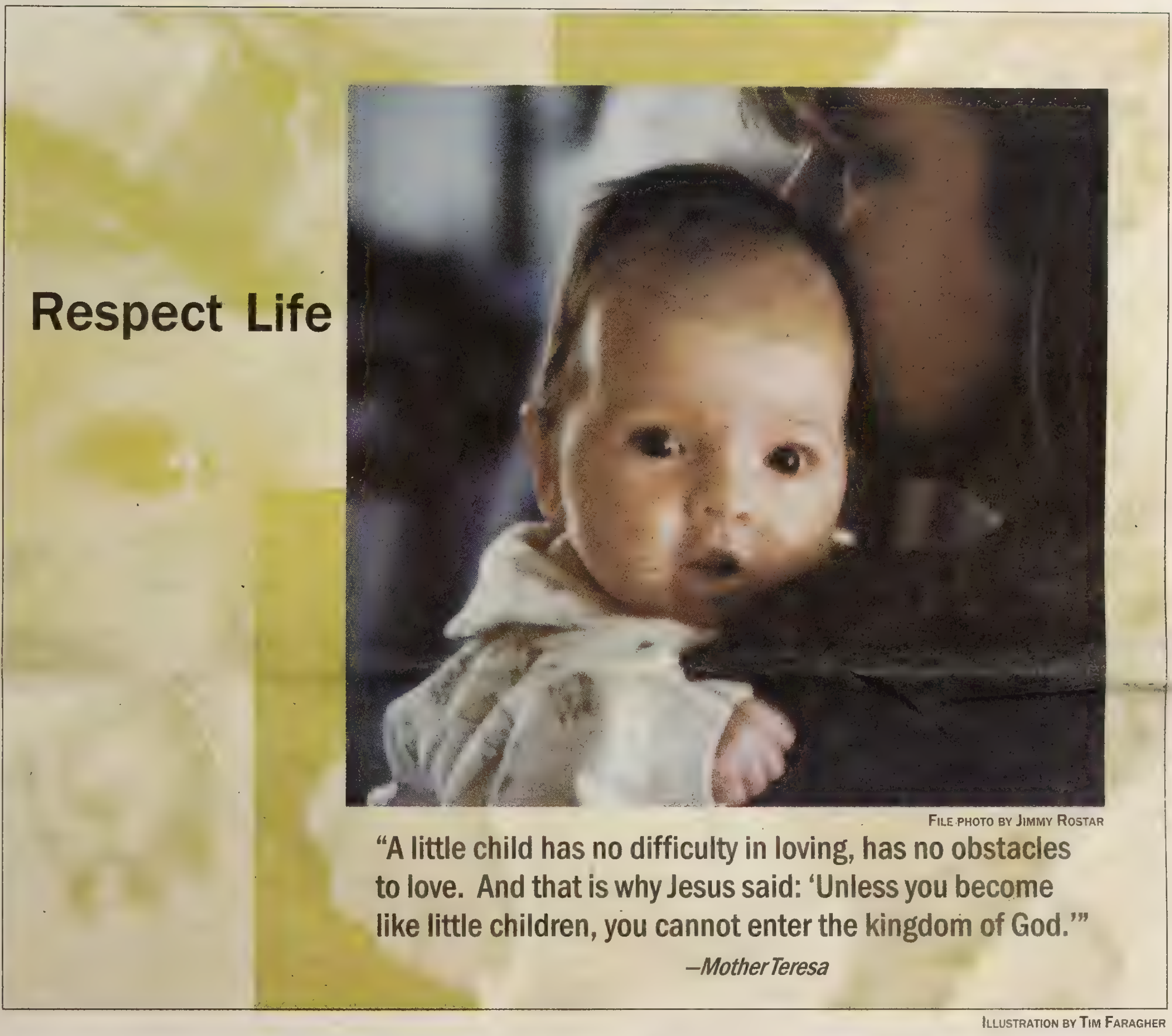
Every Week

Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 12-13

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted."

— Matthew 5: 3-4



FILE PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

"A little child has no difficulty in loving, has no obstacles to love. And that is why Jesus said: 'Unless you become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God.'"

—Mother Teresa

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM FARAGHER

Church community celebrates life during annual Mass

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "...We live in a world that tells us that we have a right to end life...," said Father Richard Bellow, celebrant and homilist at the yearly Mass for the unborn. During a month dedicated to the prayerful protest of abortion with the March for Life in Washington D.C. and a similar one in Raleigh, over 100 people gathered to remember parents and the unborn at the Mass held at St. Gabriel Church on Jan. 14.

The Mass, sponsored by the Respect Life ministry team at St. Gabriel, involved readings, Gospel, and prayers of the faithful all dedicated to the respect life theme. Father Bellow weaved the creation story throughout his homily and told the congregation that all life comes from God and repeated the mantra "God said all life is good."

"We gather as a people of faith in the new millennium, just having completed the jubilee year. We have witnessed many scientific advances..., yet we live in a world where we take our future and put them to death," said Father Bellow. "It is God who gives us life.

"As we advance in our society, we are convinced that we have the right to decide who should live, and we have taken on the arrogant attitude that we are God...We, in our families and communities, must stand up for our brothers and sisters who cannot speak for themselves, and we must reach out to the women who have to make this difficult choice."

With the approaching anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision on Jan. 22, 1973, to legalize abortion in the United States, people came together to show their support for all life.

"Most of the people who come to the Mass believe strongly in the cause. The issue of respecting life in all its forms from birth to death needs to be continually put in front of everyone's minds because there doesn't seem to be enough emphasis in today's world and in the media," said Jim Lashua, one of the St. Gabriel Respect Life committee members. "We want to place enough emphasis on this so that everyone is aware that this is a main cause of concern for the church."

Mary Ann McCintock, a St. Gabriel Church parishioner, agreed, "It is important for us to show our support for the church and its teachings on abortion,

SEE CELEBRATE LIFE, PAGE 5

HUD nominee came to U.S. from Cuba under Catholic program

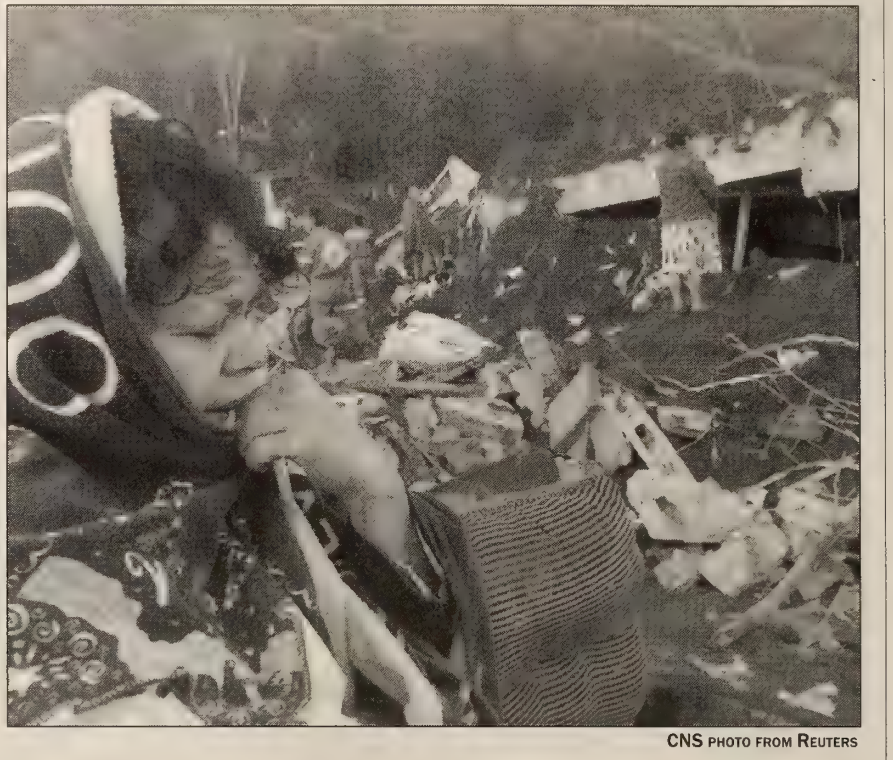
ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — For Tom Aglio, Mel Martinez's recent success brings about the same pride a father gains when his own son succeeds. Martinez, a 55-year-old Cuban immigrant who came to the United States with Operation Pedro Pan, a 1960s project of the Miami Archdiocese's Catholic Charities, is President-elect George W. Bush's choice as secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Aglio met Martinez, along with 90 other teenage boys, in a camp south of Jacksonville when Aglio first started to work for Catholic Charities in 1962. The children were sent from Cuba with one suitcase of belongings. Aglio recalled how the young people clung to each other for security. Martinez, who did not see his family for more than five years, said his Catholic faith filled the void.

Court fines attorney suing pro-life activists

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — A New York appeals court has fined a Brooklyn abortion clinic's attorney $10,000 for misrepresenting 11 affidavits in a lawsuit against Helpers of God's Precious Infants, an organization of pro-life activists. In a unanimous decision, a four-judge panel of the state appellate division's Second Judicial Department ordered Edward Land, attorney for the Ambulatory Surgery Center of Brooklyn, to pay the fine to the Lawyers Fund for Client Protection as a sanction for misconduct in the case. The court found that Land had himself signed the 11 affidavits on behalf of the individuals named in them, then notarized them, representing them as signed by the individuals in his presence. The decision, dated Dec. 21, was published in the New York Law Journal Jan 9.

Food for the Poor retains council membership after investigation

DEERFIELD BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — After an investigation of Food for the Poor's financial practices, the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability has praised the agency's "commitment to employ corrective measures that will build an environment conducive to accountability and excellence." The council, based in Winchester, Va., released its findings Jan. 12 from an investigation of the Deerfield Beach-based charity, which works to improve the health, education and economic, social and spiritual conditions of people in Central America and the Caribbean. Last September, Food for the Poor founder Ferdinand Mahfood gave up his position as CEO after admitting he had diverted charitable donations—now estimated at more than $400,000—to two female members of his staff with whom he was sexually involved and to members of their families.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Woman weeps near remains of home in San Salvador

A woman weeps while inspecting the remains of her home in the neighborhood of Santa Tecla in San Salvador Jan. 14. A strong earthquake near the coast of Central America the day before left hundreds dead or missing in El Salvador and Guatemala.

Trappist monastery opens door to group retreats of discerning men

TRAPPIST, Ky. (CNS) — For the first time in its more than 150-year history, the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani is opening its cloistered halls with a weeklong participatory retreat for groups of young men interested in possible vocations. The monastery—home of the late renowned mystic and priest, Trappist Father Thomas Merton, and hundreds of other holy men—long has attracted men interested in the austere lifestyle of worship and work suggested by monastic rules of St. Benedict. It is the strictest lifestyle of the Benedictine order, calling for formal worshipping seven times a day, self-sufficiency through food production or other means of labor and a limited diet.

Brazilian bishops' commission nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (CNS) — Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso announced that his office has nominated the Child Pastoral Commission of the Brazilian bishops' conference for the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. The Child Pastoral Commission achieved such a level of efficiency that even the Ministry of Health, which is frequently at odds with the bishops' conference, has decided to channel a significant part of its budget for the commission's programs. "The commission has shown to all Brazilians how much common people can do for the Brazilian children if they get together around an initiative capable of transmitting inspiration and hope," Cardoso said in announcing the nomination. The commission has become the country's main provider of nutritious food and preventative medical care for children in need.

Church welcomes campaign to declare responsibility for apartheid

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Church officials welcomed a campaign for all white South Africans to acknowledge their responsibility for apartheid. The "Declaration of Commitment by White South Africans" is a "wake-up call" for the white community, said Father Sean O'Leary, acting director of the catechetics institute Lumko in Johannesburg. In the declaration, white South Africans state: "We acknowledge our debt to fellow black South Africans since all whites benefited from systematic racial discrimination." In a Jan. 8 telephone interview, Father O'Leary, who drew up the Catholic Church's submission to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1998 while he headed the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference justice and peace department, warned that racism is a major problem in the country.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 20-22
March for Life
Washington D.C.

January 29 - 10:30 a.m.
Mass
Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School,
Winston-Salem

January 30 - 10 a.m.
Mass
Holy Trinity Middle School,
Charlotte

January 31 - 9:45 a.m.
Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School,
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

January

24 ASHEVILLE — The Business Group, Catholic Social Services - Western Regional Office and Marriage Ministry of St. Eugene Church are presenting "Money and Marriage" today from 7-8:30 p.m. at Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern St. The workshop; led by Bonnie Scully, certified financial planner; is designed for couples involved with marriage preparation programs or any couple who wants to work on their personal finances. Proceeds from the sale of Scully's book about managing money will benefit CSS. For more information, call CSS at (828) 255-0146.

CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

26 BELMONT — Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., is having its First Annual Fish/Chicken Fry today to benefit the Warm Hearts/Warm Homes program to fund heating costs for disadvantaged families. Lunch; consisting of fish, chicken or a combination of both with French fries, hush puppies and Cole slaw; is being served from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and from 4-7:30 p.m. Delivery is available for orders of 10 or more. For more information, call Jennifer Church at (704) 651-9605 or the church office at (704) 825-5277.

CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., is hosting Marty Haugen, composer, artist and clinician, tonight at 7:30 p.m. and at a workshop on the "Future Ministry of the Church" and the "Gospel of Luke" on Jan. 27 from

Lutherans, Episcopalians celebrate full communion

Diocesan ecumenical officer calls declaration significant

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Episcopal Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America inaugurated a new life together Jan. 6 with a national celebration of full communion.

Some 3,500 members of the two churches filled the Washington National Cathedral, renewing their baptismal vows and sharing the Eucharist in a two-hour worship service that blended both liturgical traditions.

ELCA Presiding Bishop H. George Anderson presided at the liturgy and Episcopal Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold preached the sermon.

"Our formal declaration of full communion is just the beginning of the journey," Bishop Griswold said. "Where we will be led God alone knows."

Full communion allows the 7.7 million U.S. Episcopalians and Evangelical Lutherans to share clergy and churches and engage in common mission. It is not a merger, however, and each church will retain its own structures and worship style.

Father George Kloster, ecumenical officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, called the communion significant.

"An ecumenical convergence of this importance is the result of deep prayer, profound patience and good theological process," said Father Kloster, who pastors St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate of Mary Church in Hayesville.

The dialogue that led to full communion began in 1969. In 1982 it led to an interim agreement for eucharistic sharing, allowing members of each church to share in the other's Eucharist as they worked on remaining issues that needed to be resolved in order to enter into full communion.

"In moving toward full communion, the Episcopalians and Lutherans faced many obstacles and objections which certainly tried their collective patience," Father Kloster said, "but they always kept in view the ultimate goal, and they were willing to acknowledge that not all questions were answered and some gray areas still exist.

"But the sharing of Eucharist is more important than total theological agreement. In their willingness to take this approach, they have moved the entire Christian family closer to the great prayer of Jesus, 'ut unam sin'— 'that they may all be one.' For this we should be grateful.'"

The presiding bishops and ecumenical officers of their churches spoke about the impact of the full communion agreement at a press conference Jan. 5 at the College of Preachers next to the cathedral.

Bishop Griswold described it as enabling the two churches to "speak with one voice to a broken world."

"If the churches are going to preach a Gospel of reconciliation, they have to be better able to be reconciled among themselves," he said.

Bishop Anderson said that besides deepening the relationship and collaboration of Lutherans and Episcopalians, the full communion agreement "can be an encouragement to other church bodies who are in one way or another working toward some fuller relationship. It says it can be done."

The church officials declined to predict specific future directions of full communion or how concerns of some members about the new relationship will be resolved.

"God is a God of surprises," he added. "Our tidy little plans may get stretched beyond imagining."

He said that "communion is an organic relationship, not a document," and he hopes that "any fears or anxieties will be resolved over time" as members of the churches grow in that relationship.

In the final years before the adoption of "Called to Common Mission," their formal full communion agreement, the critical issue was how to achieve a full mutual recognition of ministries.

The world Anglican Communion, to which the U.S. Episcopal Church belongs, requires the ordination of all priests and bishops by other bishops already ordained in historic succession.

While some Lutheran churches have continued having their pastors ordained by bishops in the historic episcopate, others have not, and Lutherans do not see the historic episcopate as an essential mark of the church. They regard the difference between pastors and bishops as one of jurisdiction, not ordination.

Under "Called to Common Mission," the Episcopal Church has temporarily suspended the application to the ELCA of the Anglican Ordinal's prohibition against exercise of ordained ministry by anyone not ordained by a bishop in the historic episcopate. That allows "full interchangeability and reciprocity" of all ordained ministers without requiring current ELCA ministers to undergo some form of reordination.

The ELCA, in turn, has pledged that at future installations of its bishops, Lutheran bishops in the historic episcopate will participate in the laying on of hands and invocation of the Spirit, and all future clergy ordinations will be presided over by a bishop.

The Rev. Daniel F. Martensen, the ELCA's chief ecumenical officer, told Catholic News Service after the press conference that for ELCA, it was "a very delicate question" to come up with a way to affirm the historic episcopate as "a sign of our connection to the apostolic period" and at the same time not deny the Lutheran tradition that this is not a necessary mark of the church.

In recent years the ELCA has entered into full communion agreements with the Moravian Church and three churches in the Reformed tradition— the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Martensen said the agreement with the Episcopal Church, however, was the first entry of the ELCA into communion with a church which regards the historic episcopate as a necessary part of its structure.

He said the ELCA has also been invited by the nine-church Consultation on Church Union "to become partners in mission and dialogue" and may do so.

Three of the ELCA's full communion partners—the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ—are part of COCU, which plans to enter a major new phase in its relationship next year with a mutual recognition of ministries by all member churches.

"I hope the theological process that was used can be a model for future ecumenical actions," said Father Kloster of the communion. "One approach is that before the Eucharist can be shared, there must be 'perfect unity' between the churches. That is a goal that is usually beyond reach. Sometimes it is difficult to achieve 'perfect unity' within one's own denomination."

9:15 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, call Marti Dushak at (704) 545-1224.

27 CHARLOTTE — An information session about volunteering for the first National Gathering for African-American Catholic women, being held in Charlotte from July 27-29, is taking place today during the annual Martin Luther King Celebration at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. To volunteer or for further information, call (704) 568-1573 or (704) 370-3354.

28 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the recently added office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

29 CHARLOTTE — The Light Weigh is a 12-week Catholic spiritual growth weight loss program designed to help deepen your relationship with Jesus while learning to eat the foods you enjoy in moderation. An orientation is being offered at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Faith Formation wing. The classes will begin every Monday at 7:30 p.m. For details, call Karen Acken at (704) 556-9404.

30 ASHEVILLE — The faculty, staff and parents of Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern St., invite everyone to their Open House this morning from 9-11 a.m. Parent volunteers are giving tours of the school, answering questions and assisting with registration. This is the first day of open registration for the 2001-2002 school year for students enrolling in Pre-kindergarten-8th grade. For further details, call Dr. Veronica Berreen, principal, at (828) 252-7826.

February

1 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7-8 p.m. in the activity center. Tom Mammoser, publisher of the magazine "Becoming Family," is presenting "Families and the Media." This session concerns the effects of media on families, especially children, and the availability of possible solutions or alternative, family-oriented sources of entertainment. Also, on Feb. 6, Father Mark Lamprich is presenting "Marriage: Made in Heaven, Celebrated in Church," a session about the role of the church in the sacrament of marriage. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, is meeting tonight and Feb. 15 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church at (336) 724-0561 for details.

2 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts Eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and Eucharistic Holy Hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

HIGH POINT — There is a Latin Mass at Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., tonight at 7 p.m. followed by adoration and benediction. For details, call the church office at (336) 884-0244 or (336) 884-5858.

3 SYLVA — Oratorian Father David Valtierra from the Oratory at Rock Hill is presenting the Gospel of Luke today at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with 9 a.m. Mass. The Gospel is being presented using the informal Oratory style of sharing the Word of God. The schedule includes prayer, Eucharist and an introduction to the outline and central themes of Luke's Gospel. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Peruvian artist is guest with Carolina Pro Musica at Belmont Abbey College

BELMONT — Alejandra Lopera, recorder player from Charlotte's Sister City, Arequipa, Peru, will be guest artist with Carolina Pro Musica at a concert at 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, 2001 in the Belmont Abbey Basilica. The concert is free and open to the public.

The program features music from Italy, Spain and Germany by familiar 18th century performers Corelli, Scariatti, Bach and Telemann. Additionally, the program will include several vocal and instrumental works from 17th and 18th century Peru — a rare treat for North American audiences.

Carolina Pro Musica performs music written before 1800 with instruments of the time and in the performance styles of the period. The concert will feature recorders, traversi (18th century flutes), viola da gamba, harpsichord and voice. Karen Hite Jacob, artistic director of Carolina Pro Musica, is also organist for Belmont Abbey Basilica and College. She has performed in Peru several times, most recently in August 2000 with Lopera.

Lopera has a certificate in recorder performance from the Cherubini Conservatory in Florence, Italy, where she studied with world famous teacher David Bellugi. She studied for two years at the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. She currently teaches at the Prescott (American Speaking) School in Arequipa and also the School of Arts of National University of St. Augustine.

She is a frequent performer of recorder solos with ensembles and orchestras in Arequipa, Lima and elsewhere in South America.

Carolina Pro Musica members are Karen Hite Jacob, director; Edward Ferrell, Holly Wright Maurer, and Gastonia native soprano Rebecca Miller Saunders. Carolina Pro Musica is now in its 23rd season.

The concert at Belmont Abbey is made possible by support from the Stowe Family Foundation of Belmont, N.C. For more information call (704) 334-3468 or surf to www.carolinapromusica.org.

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Home catechesis workshops scheduled to address policy and guidelines

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — In an effort to discuss with pastors and parish catechetical leaders a new diocesan policy on home catechesis, diocesan faith formation officials will conduct a series of workshops on the policy and its guidelines.

The policy, approved and issued by Bishop William G. Curlin in November 2000, was designed to foster a link between the parish and home that involves the pastor, catechetical leader and parents in cases where the parents themselves choose to provide faith formation in their home instead of in parish programs.

The document that resulted from a yearlong review is both pastoral and sensitive to the law of the church, said Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education.

"The home catechesis policy assists in a collaborative stance between pastors and parents of children who are catechized at home," said Father Hawker. "There is no question that parents have the primary responsibility regarding the education of their children.

"At the same time, the pastor is responsible to ensure that those within his parish family, including children, are properly prepared in their understanding and appreciation of the teachings of the faith."

Key elements of the policy include:

— Parental notification of intent to pastors that they wish to catechize their children in the home.

— Ongoing dialog between parents and pastors/parish catechetical leaders.

— The providing of diocesan and parish expectations and resources for catechesis and sacramental preparation — including registration, recommendation of texts and other guidance — to parents by pastors/parish catechetical leaders.

The upcoming workshops will provide an opportunity to address the policy and the responsibilities of the pastor and parish catechetical leader in implementing it.

"The format of the workshops will be conversational," said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs, who will direct the gatherings. "I will be explaining the rationale and background of the document, and zoom in on the key elements of the policy — where the boundaries are, where they have a lot of freedom and, most importantly, we will share ideas as to how to construct a covenant between the pastor and the home catechizing community."

The workshop schedule is a follows:

— Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., Clemmons, Jan. 22 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.;

— St. Aloysius Church, 921 Second St. NE, Hickory, Jan. 23 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.;

— St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., Charlotte, Jan. 25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.;

— St. John the Evangelist Church, 234 Church St., Waynesville, Jan. 26 at 12:45 p.m. (lunch will be provided at noon);

— Basilica of St. Lawrence, 97 Haywood St., Jan. 27 from 1-3 p.m.

For further information on the home catechesis policy and the workshops, call Dr. Cris Villapando at (704) 370-3246.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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College students invited to enter annual Christopher Video contest

NEW YORK — Attention all college students! The Christophers has announced its Fourteenth Annual Video Contest for College Students. The contest includes cash awards of $3,000, $2,000, and $1,000 for the top three entries. Winners will also have their work featured on the syndicated television program Christopher Closeup. The program reaches millions of people throughout the United States and over 150 foreign countries via the Armed Forces Network.

To enter, students must interpret the theme, "One Person Can Make a Difference." Past winners have used a variety of styles and genres that have included drama, comedy, documentary, news format, music video and animation.

Entries may be created using film or video, but must be submitted on standard, full-sized VHS tape only, and must be five minutes or less in length. The contest is open to all currently enrolled college students, on both the undergraduate and graduate level. Students may enter more than once, but an official entry form must accompany each video.

The deadline for entries is June 15, 2001. Winners will be announced September 7, 2001.

Official contest entry forms are available by writing to-. College Video Contest, The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017, by calling 212-759-4050, or by visiting www.christophers.org/contests.htmi on the Web.

The Christophers, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1945. Based on the JudeoChristian concept of service to God and humanity, it uses print and electronic media to encourage all individuals to recognize their unique abilities and use them to raise the standards of public life. The Christopher motto is: "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

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Asheville calls for death penalty moratorium

ASHEVILLE — The city of Asheville on Jan. 9 became the 11th local government in North Carolina to call for a moratorium on executions.

More than 100 supporters attended the city council vote wearing "moratorium now" stickers, with three dozen having to stand outside the chambers and listen to the proceedings through a speaker.

"It was a fantastic show of support for the resolution," said Scott

Barber, vice-chair of the Western NC Chapter of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty.

The vote was four to three, a split, Barber says, that does not reflect opposition to a moratorium on executions.

"No comments from council expressed any reservations about the idea of a moratorium," Barber said. "The only problems expressed by the 'no' voters was that it wasn't the city council's business to be doing this."

The Western NC People of Faith Against the Death Penalty chapter had been organizing for the vote for more than one year, writing letters, contacting council members and getting others involved.

Assistant District Attorney for Buncombe County Kate Dreher and one other person spoke against the moratorium resolution.

Other local governments that have passed resolutions include: Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Cofield, Davidson, Durham, Greensboro, Hillsborough, Orange County and Winston-Salem.

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is an interfaith program of the N.C. Council of Churches. The mission of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty is to educate and mobilize faith communities to act to abolish the death penalty in North Carolina. People of Faith Against the Death Penalty receives no funding from NCCC.

For information on the Western NC Chapter of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, call Noel Nickle at (828)252-9912.

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PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Cris Seidel, involved in Respect Life Ministry at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, discusses the Respect Life display with her children and nephews at the Mass for the Unborn on Jan. 14. Jason Goodman, 11, Nolan Seidel, 4, Chelsey Seidel, 10, Clay Goodman, 8, and Kelly Seidel, 9, are pictured from left to right.

Celebrate Life, from page 1

which are part of the basis for building a better society. We need to give our strength to the parents of children who face the opportunity of having abortions, which are aiding in weakening family life."

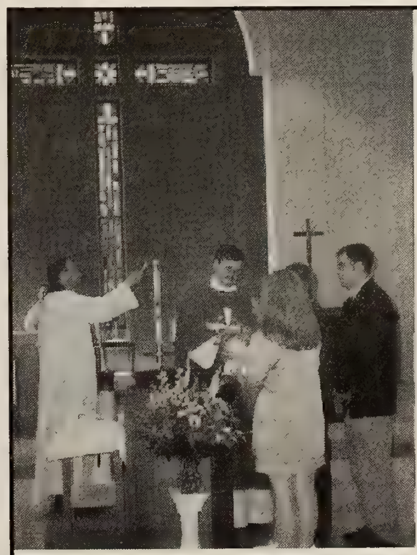
After the Mass, as in recent years, a guest speaker addressed the congregation about a related topic. Dr. Daniel Holland, a parishioner at St. James Church in Concord and a recent convert to the faith, talked about his decision to promote only natural family planning in his full-scale family practice clinic and also informed the crowd about the medical and spiritual reasons why he speaks out against the use of contraception.

"In many clinics and even in medical school, we don't hear about the abortifactive nature of contraceptives, whereas, they make the environment hostile for conception to take place," explained Dr. Holland. "Over 50 percent of women walking into abortion clinics are doing so secondary to failed contraception. I don't believe that it is possible to be truly pro-life and pro-contraception.

"If you truly believe that life begins at conception, then the Catholic Church's teachings have not changed. I believe that you don't have to sacrifice faith to practice medicine, and I want people to be aware of their options."

Cris Seidel, also involved with her parish's Respect Life committee, said that she wanted to make sure that people are always reminded of issues of life and family. "The most important thing is to pray, and we must also be a witness to people. This isn't just a single issue; this is not just about abortion. It is about protecting life in general."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.



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Pope thanks Italian police for extra effort during jubilee year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked Italian police for their extra efforts to patrol the Vatican during the jubilee year and said he hoped they gained spiritually from the experience. "I realize how many difficulties you had to face," he said Jan. 15 at an annual meeting with about 110 Italian security personnel assigned to the Vatican. "Thanks be to God," he added, "that the intense jubilee days passed without serious episodes of disorder or danger." Roberto Scigliano, chief of Italian police at the Vatican, told the pope it was a "miracle" that no serious security problems arose during the jubilee, which drew an estimated 25 million people to Rome and included some 130 scheduled celebrations and special events.

Actresses among pro-life women honored by Feminists for Life

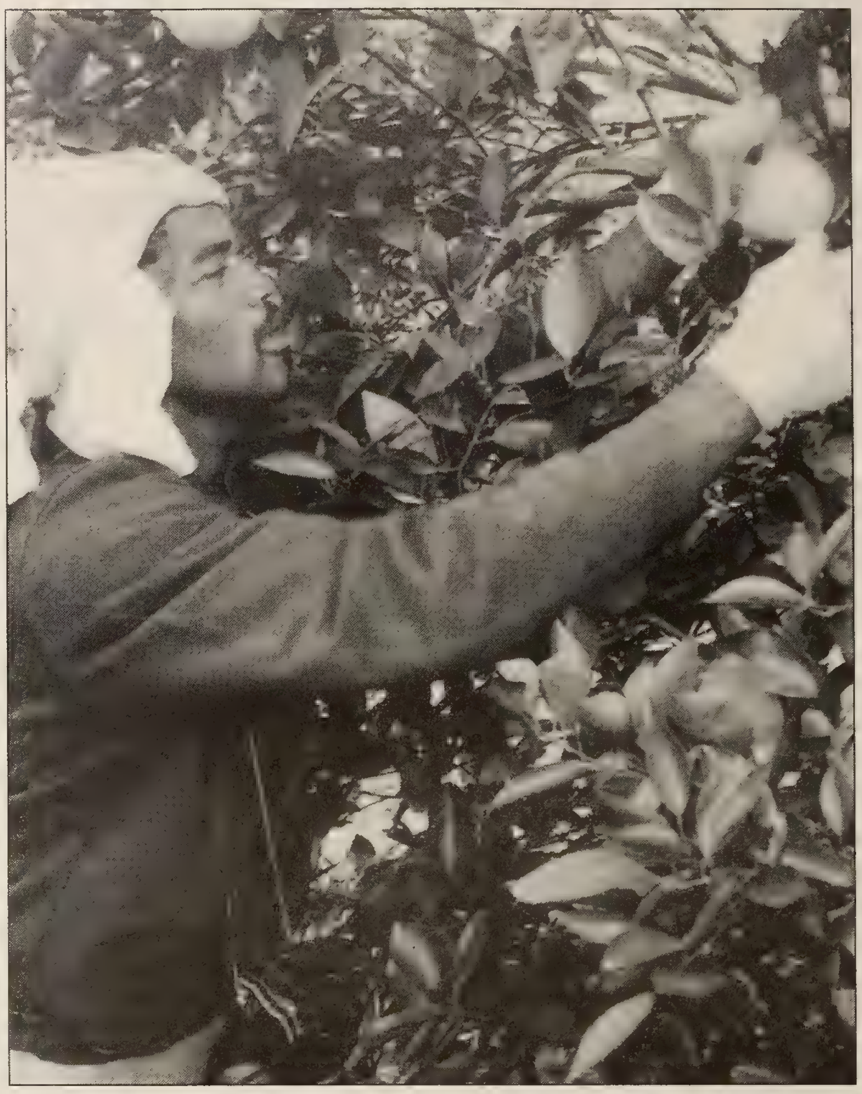
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The winter 2000-2001 issue of The American Feminist, published by Feminists for Life of America, honors 14 "remarkable pro-life women," including actresses Kate Mulgrew, Patricia Heaton, Margaret Colin and the late Loretta Young. The issue also pays tribute to former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, state legislators Patricia A. Lockwood of Michigan and Mary Ellen Otremba of Minnesota, columnists Michelle Malkin and Norah Vincent, Irish singer Dana, disabled rights activist Mary Jane Owen, theologian Sidney Callahan, family law attorney Rebecca Wasser Kiessling and activist Marion Syversen.

St. Lucian AIDS foundation sees strong ally in Catholic Church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — St. Lucia's new AIDS Action Foundation, which includes church groups, wants to promote AIDS prevention and treatment throughout the island nation, said its Catholic executive director. The umbrella group was launched in November and includes several organizations in St. Lucia involved in HIV/AIDS prevention work, director Joan Didier said during a January visit to Washington. Since the AIDS Action Foundation was established, encouraging the Catholic Church's involvement in its AIDS prevention work has been a priority, she said. "The Roman Catholic Church in St. Lucia has played a very focal point in our development as a nation, and a high percentage of St. Lucians are Roman Catholic," she said.

Priest realizes dream of providing free education for poor kids

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — As Jesuit Father Harry Tompson walked down the street in the shadow of New Orleans' Immaculate Conception Church one chilly morning, he spotted a disheveled man leaning against a newspaper vending machine. Father Tompson witnesses that kind of poverty daily in a city of stark extremes between rich and poor, but he dreams that education is the key to ending such poverty. In September, the priest will open a free-tuition Catholic school to serve some of the city's poorest children. An old furniture store, purchased for Father Tompson by an anonymous donor for $600,000, is undergoing a $1.25 million conversion into the Good Shepherd School, which will greet 30 students on opening day, 15 each in kindergarten and first grade. One grade will be added each year until the school comprises grades K-8.



CNS PHOTO BY STEPHEN STEELE, FLORIDA CATHOLIC

ORANGE PICKER BRAVES COLD IN FLORIDA GROVE

Curtis Anderson braves the cold to pick oranges at a grove in Apopka, Fla., in early January. The 40-year-old Orlando resident makes about $50 a day for 12 hours labor.

Last Chinese bishop publicly appointed by Vatican dies

HONG KONG (CNS) — The last mainland Chinese bishop publicly appointed by the Vatican and recognized by the Chinese government died at age 92. Bishop Matthias Duan Yinming of Wanxian died Jan. 10 after being hospitalized since last August, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Several priests who had been with the bishop when he died said his last instructions to them were to maintain their commitment to pastoral work and to rebuilding the structures of normal church life. Fides, news agency of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said the Chinese government issued a statement saying the bishop "made a great contribution to the country and the church."

Papal visit not discussed as Russian foreign minister meets pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said the possibility of a papal visit to Moscow was not a topic when he met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. "This aspect was not discussed today," Ivanov told reporters at a Jan. 15 press conference. The Russian Orthodox Church has opposed such a visit. Two days earlier, at a ceremony within view of the dome of St. Peter's Basilica and attended by Vatican officials, Ivanov laid the first stone for a new Russian Orthodox church in Rome. In an interview Jan. 14 with a major Italian daily, Ivanov said the question of a papal visit to Moscow hinged on improved relations between the Vatican and the Russian Orthodox Church.

Archbishop protests government policies that don't protect unborn

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CNS) — Archbishop Edward M. Egan of New York in a homily protested government policies that fail to protect the unborn child in the womb but protect the child from being killed after birth. "Our nation is too good to allow this to go on," he said. Reading a personal letter he received about a London doctor proposing to do an abortion in his office, the archbishop also said an outlook had spread across the world that a child could be casually killed by abortion. "Those of us who are horrified by this" are labeled by the media as "unprogressive and even fanatics," he said. Archbishop Egan was celebrant and homilist Jan. 13 at the annual Pro Vita Mass sponsored by the Diocese of Brooklyn at St. James Cathedral.

Death penalty, abortion opponents call for shift in 'way of life'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two of the most prominent Catholic voices on the subjects of capital punishment and abortion described both efforts as needing a "way of life" conversion in the world. A Jan. 11 "conversation" at the Columbus Law School at The Catholic University of America brought together Sister Helen Prejean, author of "Dead Man Walking," and Helen Alvare, formerly the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman and now a law professor at Catholic University. Before a packed auditorium, the two women, who have been at the forefront of efforts against capital punishment and abortion, for the first time sat down to talk about how the two issues are connected and, particularly, who they affect.

Vatican says pope to visit Ukraine June 23-27

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the request of the Ukrainian government, the dates of Pope John Paul II's June visit to the country have changed slightly, the Vatican announced. "The definitive date of the visit of the Holy Father" will be June 23-27, the Vatican's Jan. 16 announcement said. The pope is expected to visit Kiev, the capital, and Lviv, the principal city of Western Ukraine, where the country's Catholic population is concentrated. The trip was pushed back by two days to avoid conflict with Ukraine's June 22 commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Nazi bombing of Kiev, marking the former Soviet Republic's entrance into World War II, said Nina K. Kowalska, Ukrainian ambassador to the Vatican.

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Black clergy mark 500th anniversary of slavery in America

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus marked the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the first slave in the Americas with a call for "Sankofa" — historical remembrance and response.

In a statement issued Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the caucus said America's continuing racism, rooted in its history of slavery and genocide, challenges Americans to reflect on "the trauma of racial dysfunction" in their society.

"The hemisphere is called to repentance," it said.

The statement said the word "Sankofa," taken from the West African tribe of the Akan, means reflective thought that "calls a person or a people to look back to their past for wisdom to discern their future."

The caucus statement is available on the Internet at www.bcimall.org/nbccc.

The caucus, founded in 1968, represents more than 500 black Catholic priests in the United States. Its president is New York Franciscan Father James E. Goode.

Father Goode led an old-fashioned tent revival weekend of preaching, singing and fellowship; sponsored by the African American Affairs Ministry of Charlotte, N.C., and Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte; for the Diocese of Charlotte in June of 2000.

Precious Blood Father Clarence Williams, director of the Institute for Recovery from Racisms in Detroit and coordinator of the Sankofa Statement Committee, said the statement is the first by the caucus to highlight the role of Native American genocide as an element in black history in the Americas.

He said the document's central focus is the model of restoring unity in the human family.

The statement notes that the Spanish began to impose forced labor on the indigenous people almost immediately upon their arrival in the Americas.

It dates the start of importing African slaves to Sept. 16, 1501, when "the governor of the Indies, Nicolas de Ovando, received permission from the crown to introduce his (African) slave from Spain into Hispaniola." Ovando's fleet arrived with the first trans-Atlantic slaves the following spring.

"It was the beginning of a long travail, the inauguration of a brutal commerce that brought social disintegration and economic dislocation to Africa," the statement says. "It also inaugurated a social curse comprised of racial castes, racial hatred and racial injustices upon four continents — Europe, Africa, North and South America."

"Most people think of slavery beginning in America only a few hundred years ago and not 500 years ago. It is a sad comment on our society that we are still talking about reconciliation, still fighting the Civil War and still trying to achieve equality in society and in the Church," said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for the African American Affairs Ministry for the Diocese of Charlotte. "It is incumbent upon all of us as Catholics and professed followers of Jesus to live as He lived which means as true brothers and sisters to Him and each other."

Rev. Mr. Todd is also the secretary of the National Black Clergy Caucus.

The statement adds that "there are four areas of global racism to reflect upon in our Sankofa observance" — redemption, repentance, reconciliation and restoration.

It cites the biblical story of Joseph sold into slavery by his brothers,— but ultimately bringing them redemption when they repent their sin — as "a remarkable parable" for the possibility of redemption and restoration through repentance and reconciliation.

> **"It is incumbent upon all of us as Catholics and professed followers of Jesus to live as He lived which means as true brothers and sisters to Him and each other."** *–Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd*

"The hemisphere is called to repentance because of its grievous and heinous genocide in the human family," it says.

It cites the "forced migration, deliberate infection with deadly diseases and forced starvation and war campaigns" waged against the indigenous peoples of the Americas.

Some indigenous tribes were completely eliminated and most were "savagely abused, systematically marginalized and rendered powerless ... for the support of white supremacy in the republics of the hemisphere," it says. "Does this not cry out for repentance?"

It calls the tragedy of slavery "a living legacy in the present" that has stamped a continuing stigma "of inferiority upon the sons and daughters of Africa."

"This assumption of inferiority, living in the collective unconsciousness of white Americans and shared even by some people of color, has poisoned our public life, fragmented our communities and compromised the common good," it says.

It says reconciliation demands "recognition of the depth of harm done" and "acts of restitution which repair the damage caused."

"Therefore," it says, "genuine reconciliation calls for all social institutions entrusted with the common good — civic organizations, hospitals, schools, labor and financial institutions and government agencies — to undertake proactive efforts to overcome the racially based disadvantages that burden the sons and daughters of Africa."

The statement says that "authentic racial healing" also requires "forming personal friendships and relationships with people of other races."

It says that "the millions of lives lost in genocidal actions" cannot be restored, but "restoration begins with telling their story."

"Restoration calls for building bridges of conversation" about the "underdevelopment of African and native populations" that formed the dark side of America's development, the statement says.

It urges the Christian community to facilitate an ongoing conversion from racism "by creating annual liturgical rites and rituals which recall our racial brokenness, confess our need for redemption and proclaim our belief in the power of God who frees us from our racial bondage."

"Perhaps the Jewish community's annual observance of Yom Kippur might serve as a model for an annual communal commemoration of racial reconciliation among Christian believers," it says.

Staff Writer Alesha M. Price contributed to this story.

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Sisters of Mercy Foundation announces grants

CHARLOTTE — Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation announced grant awards totaling $805,786 to 28 nonprofit organizations located in 14 North Carolina and two South Carolina counties.

The grant funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include affordable housing, crisis assistance, education, food distribution, health care, immigration and legal assistance, literacy programs, services to the elderly and social services.

Grants were awarded to:

AA Community Pregnancy Center, Mooresville, $9,516; Asheville City Schools Foundation, Asheville, $10,000; Belmont Community Organization, Belmont, $27,000; The Boys' Home of Rock Hill, Rock Hill, S.C., $19,000; Caring for Children, Inc., Asheville, $40,000; Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, Charlotte, $105,820; Charity League, Inc., Charlotte, $15,000; Children's Center of Transylvania, Brevard, $18,010; Computer Empowerment, Harrisburg, $36,300; Council for Children, Charlotte, $25,000; Crossnore School, Inc., Crossnore, $21,916; Foothills Mediation Center, Rutherfordton, $9,000; Givens Estate, Asheville, $30,000; Helpmate of Madison, Inc., Marshall, $12,487; High Point CHILDWATCH, Inc., High Point, $30,000; The Literacy Council of Buncombe County, Asheville, $15,090; Love, Inc., Charlotte, $15,000; Macon Citizens for the Handicapped, Franklin, $32,000; Madison County Public Library, Marshall, $50,000; Mainstay, Inc., Hendersonville, $31,940; North Carolina 26th Judicial District-Family Court, Charlotte, $18,600; Southwestern Child Development Commission, Inc., Webster, $17,840; Turning Point of Union County, Inc., Monroe, $55,000; United Family Services, Charlotte, $24,025; The Walker Foundation, Spartanburg, S.C., $38,000; Western Carolina Community Action, Inc., Brevard, $29,242; Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice, Asheville, $60,000; Western North Carolina Housing, Asheville, $10,000.

For details on the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina grants, call (704) 366-0087.

NC CATHOLIC PHOTO BY JOHN STRANGE

Two men pray the rosary at the LifeTree, a 23-foot structure built with 4,000 pairs of baby booties, during the Rally for Life in downtown Raleigh, Jan. 13.

Pope says world needs ecological conversion to help environment

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world's people need to undergo an "ecological conversion" to protect the environment and make the earth a place where all life is valued and can grow in harmony, Pope John Paul II said.

"The human creature receives a mission of governance over creation to make all of its potential shine," the pope said Jan. 17 during his weekly general audience.

From Genesis all the way through the Bible to the Book of Revelation, God's plan for creation is described as favoring harmony among people, between people and the rest of creation and between people and God, Pope John Paul told several thousand people in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

"This plan was and continually is upset by human sin, which inspires an alternative plan" marked by the "progressive tension of conflict with God, with one's fellow human beings and even with nature," he said.

The domination human beings were given over creation is not one of exploitation, but of service and ministry aimed at "continuing the work of the Creator, a work of life and of peace," the pope said.

"Unfortunately, if one casts a gaze over the regions of our planet, one notices immediately that humanity has not fulfilled the divine expectation," he said.

"Especially in our times, man has devastated without hesitation plains and wooded valleys, polluted the waters, deformed the earth's habitats, made the air unbreathable, disturbed the hydro-geological and atmospheric systems (and) turned green spaces into deserts," he said.

"One must, therefore, promote and support the ecological conversion, which in the last few decades has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophes we are moving toward," Pope John Paul said.

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Pope sends prayers, agencies pledge help after earthquake

By BENEDICTA CIPOLLA
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Following a major earthquake in El Salvador and surrounding countries, Pope John Paul II offered prayers for victims, and the Catholic charity Caritas pledged to help relief efforts.

In a Jan. 15 telegram and at his Jan. 14 weekly Angelus prayer, the pope said he was deeply saddened by the tragedy, and he urged the international community to mobilize quickly.

Sending "heartfelt condolences" to families of victims, he said in a telegram addressed to Archbishop Fernando Saenz Lacalle of San Salvador that he hoped the disaster would "inspire feelings of solidarity that help to assuage grief and overcome adversity."

Speaking Jan. 14 to people gathered below his apartment window in St. Peter's Square, the pope expressed "my spiritual closeness to the people hit by the earthquake in that region which is so dear to me."

While praying for the hundreds of dead, the pope also encouraged survivors not to lose hope and called on other countries to send aid to the region.

"May help that can mitigate the tragedy's consequences result from solidarity," he said.

The Jan. 13 quake, which measured 7.6 on the open-ended Richter scale, was centered off El Salvador's coast and was felt from Nicaragua to as far north as Mexico City. Most of the damage occurred in and around El Salvador's capital, San Salvador.

The death toll topped 600 and was expected to rise further as rescue workers continued to pull bodies from the rubble. More than 500 were missing and presumed dead, and more than 2,300 were injured. Landslides and mudslides triggered by the earthquake and its aftershocks worsened the disaster's effects, burying people inside their homes.

Foreign aid, including medical supplies, food and blankets, began to arrive Jan. 14, just after President Francisco Flores declared a state of emergency.

–But Caritas Internationalis, the Rome-based Catholic charity, stressed the need for financial aid above all else.

In a Jan. 15 appeal, Caritas said Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador told the agency to encourage monetary donations because all relief material could be purchased locally.

CNS photo from Reuters

Jorge Ramirez holds up a crucifix he found in a house that collapsed in the village of Comazagua near San Salvador Jan. 15. More than 600 people lost their lives in a major earthquake that struck El Salvador Jan. 13.

Caritas set its initial goal for the El Salvador drive at $1 million.

In Baltimore, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, pledged $250,000 in plastic sheeting, potable water, blankets and basic food supplies to assist victims. CRS staffers from Guatemala joined CRS workers in El Salvador to try to channel aid to those most affected.

"The destruction is devastating" said Gino Lofredo, CRS country representative to El Salvador.

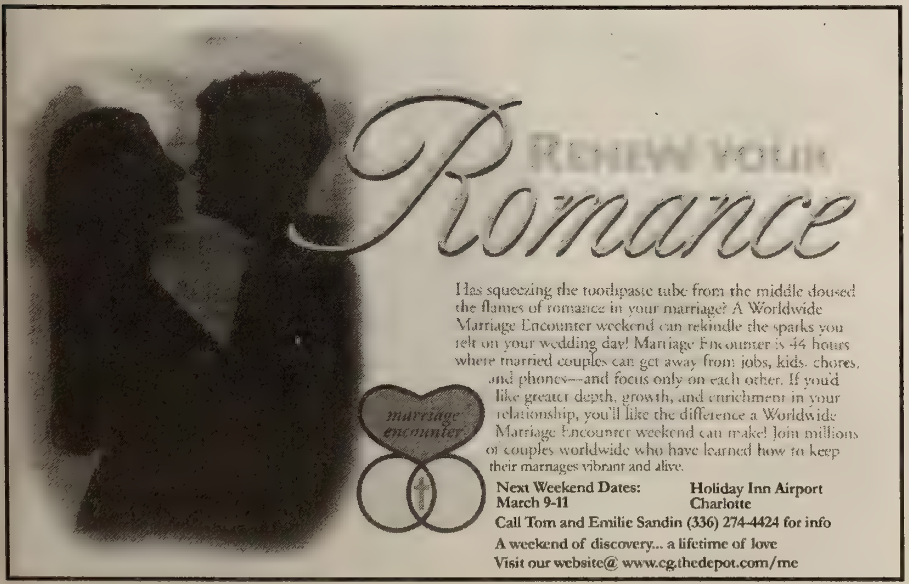
In the Archdiocese of Washington, where about one-third of the 510,000 Catholics are of Hispanic descent, Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick said he would ask all Catholic parishes to help raise funds for the earthquake victims.

In Canada, the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the bishops' development arm, said it would channel relief funds directly through its partners in the region and that it had already sent $30,000 as an initial response.

The last major quake to hit El Salvador, in 1986, killed more than 1,000 people.

The Jan. 13 quake came just two years after Hurricane Mitch killed nearly 10,000 people, left 2 million homeless and caused $10 billion in damage, mostly in Honduras and Nicaragua.

Contributions to the earthquake assistance fund can be made by mailing a check marked "Central America Earthquake Fund" to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090, or by calling (800) 736-3467.



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Book Review

Book offer fascinating tales of Christians' journeys

REVIEWED BY CHRISTIAN BROTHER JEFFREY GROS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The fascinating tales in "Surprised by Truth" and its sequel, "Surprised by Truth 2," recount the journeys of Christians into the Catholic Church from a variety of spiritual paths.

The attraction of Catholicism varies for all of these pilgrims. Some read works of the fathers of the church, while others appreciated Catholicism's authority, consistency and infallibility or the church's stands on abortion or contraception. Still others liked the depth of the church's sacramental life.

Indeed, each story is inspiring and challenging, even to the Catholic reader. One can be grateful to the authors for bearing their souls to us in such a personable and readable way.

The stories in the first volume are primarily from people who have come to Catholicism from anti-Catholic, evangelical or fundamentalist backgrounds. Even when people were born Jewish or Catholic or journeyed through the New Age movements or the dislocations of the 1960s, the conversions recounted here move from stereotypes about the Catholic Church, through an honest reading of history, to a conviction about the truth of the claims of the Catholic faith and its biblical grounding.

The Protestantism spoken of here is not that of the ecumenical churches to whom the Catholic Church has been committed in dialogue for 35 years, but rather anti-ecumenical, anti-Catholic versions of the Christian faith. Indeed, some of the authors' views of Protestantism were just as distorted as were their views of the Catholic Church. This volume is as important for getting an insight into the evangelical worldview from which these Catholics came as it is for understanding what might draw these Christians to the church.

The second volume includes more of these stories and others by Catholics — including the editor — and Protestants who have come to the Catholic Church from more ecumenical communities, like Methodist, Anglican and Lutheran.

The journeys here, like those in the first volume, are characterized by a serious intellectual quest, and seldom rely on emotional or relational dimensions of faith alone. Indeed, it is not unusual to find the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" as a primary instrument in the development of the faith life of these new Catholics.

The Catholic Church is committed to dialogue with the Orthodox and Protestant churches with the goal of restoring full communion. There are some Pentecostal and evangelical churches that are not interested in the visible unity of the church, and therefore are not open to dialogue. Until the goal of full communion is achieved, individuals will be led, in conscience, to make their own journeys in faith toward the truth as they see it. These stories highlight particular Christian journeys along the path to Catholicism.

Some readers may miss Catholic social teaching or its ecumenical priorities in these stories. However, the stories need to be read as pilgrimages in progress, open to yet deeper truths that lie at the center of Catholic identity, along with those that mark the journeys to this point.

The reader will be inspired by these tales, and hopefully challenged to deepen his or her understanding of Catholicism and gain insight into the thinking of fellow Catholics who may see the world from a different perspective, having followed a different journey in Christ.

Brother Gros is associate director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington.

SURPRISED BY TRUTH,
edited by Patrick Madrid. Basilica Press (San Diego, 1994). 272 pp., $13.95;

SURPRISED BY TRUTH 2,
edited by Patrick Madrid, Sophia Institute Press (Manchester, N.H., 2000). 298 pp., $14.95.

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Word to Life

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

January 21, Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19:8-10, 15
2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
3) Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

On a crystal clear morning last October, two of my dearest friends and I huddled on a chilly hillside in Colorado to have our picture snapped by a friendly traveler. Behind us towered a brilliantly white snow-covered peak, bathed in the sunlight of a perfect day.

In contrast to the austere frozen majesty of the mountain, hundreds of trees lined the valley floor like giant spools of spun gold. Enveloped in the glory of fall and bound in a circle of friendship, I knew the camera was capturing a never-to-be-forgotten moment. Our companionship and the splendor of the Rocky Mountains each testify to the importance of friendship and the goodness of God. The Colorado trip becomes another chapter in our story — a story of three women — which has chapters filled with hilarity, illness, joy and despair; yet nearly a quarter century has not been able to diminish it.

In the prologue of this week's Gospel, Luke addresses his narrative to Theophilus — a name that means "friend of God." Scholars tell us that Luke's style of addressing Theophilus directly may be a literary device commonly used in the ancient Greek writing style. On the other hand, Theophilus could be the name of the writer's patron or it might actually be the name of a friend.

Literary device or real person — we stand in place of Theophilus today. We are the friends of God, waiting to listen to the greatest story of friendship ever told. The beginning verses of Luke's Gospel are like a time capsule filled with a wealth of information and, like a time capsule, are often overlooked. We learn that our author carefully has analyzed existing testimony, including that of eyewitnesses, and investigated "everything accurately anew."

In these few verses we sense Luke's need for logic and his painstaking search to substantiate the stories that he will share with us about Jesus. His attention to detail and fine writing give us some of our most beloved glimpses of Jesus.

Luke's Gospel is like an ancient camera that captures the never-to-be-forgotten glory of moments that illustrate God's love for us through the life of Christ, our brother and friend.

QUESTION:

Do you seek to see Christ in your friends, to sense his presence when you gather?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 21 - 27, 2001

Sunday, Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21; **Monday, (St. Vincent),** Hebrews 9:15, 24-28, Mark 3:22-30; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 10:1-10, Mark 3:31-35; **Wednesday, (St. Francis de Sales),** Hebrews 10:11-18, Mark 4:1-10; **Thursday, (Conversion of St. Paul),** Acts 22:3-16, Mark 16:15-18; **Friday, (Sts. Timothy and Titus),** Titus 1:1-5, Mark 4:26-34; **Saturday, (St. Angela Merici),** Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Mark 4:35-41

Readings for the week of Jan. 28 - Feb. 3, 2001

Sunday, Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 4:21-30, **Monday,** Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday, (St. John Bosco),** Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday,** Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday, (Presentation of the Lord),** Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Saturday, (Sts. Blasé and Ansgar),** Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34

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"From Swastika to Jim Crow," To Air On PBS February 1

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — "From Swastika to Jim Crow" is an absorbing one-hour documentary about the many German Jewish professors who, expelled from their homeland by the Nazis, found new lives and careers at all-black Southern colleges and universities in the United States. The program airs Thursday, Feb. 1, 10-11 p.m. EST on PBS (check local listings).

In 1933, Jewish intellectuals who had held prestigious positions in Germany's renowned universities were targeted for expulsion. With little choice left but to flee, many came to America seeking academic positions, but were met with resistance from a nation reeling from the effects of the Depression and ripe with anti-Semitic and anti-German sentiment. They found refuge in an unlikely place: historically all-black colleges and universities in the South that most American professors had ignored.

Many of the surviving professors as well as their former students are interviewed for the program, and their stories of mutual respect and understanding are indeed moving. One interviewee explains that the two groups were able to successfully come together because both Jewish refugees and blacks understood racial terror and oppression, albeit from very different historical perspectives.

However, the documentary also points out that despite this understanding, it was still a difficult position for Jewish professors to be in. Though they worked in an all-black environment, they lived in all-white southern neighborhoods, where the white citizenry of the time was suspicious of their foreign accents and threatened by their high education levels.

Yet what a difference these professors made in the lives of their students, tapping hidden talent and potential in them that changed the students' lives. One such student recalls fondly how a professor persistently encouraged him to apply for a Fulbright scholarship, which he only grudgingly did to stop the professor from needling him. But when the student won the scholarship, he was overwhelmed with humility and heartfelt gratitude.

The program juxtaposes images of the struggle for civil rights with Jewish refugees being deported, and of Ku Klux Klan rallies and large Nazi parades, underscoring the similarities in the plight of both groups. And while the Jewish professors added their voices to demand freedom for the African-Americans, black students defended their professors when anti-Communist sentiment during the 1950s made the Jewish scholars targets.

By sharing their stories, both poignant and humorous, those interviewed provide a profoundly moving tale of two seemingly different groups — the formal, heavily accented European scholars and their young, African-American students — who enriched each other's lives in ways still being felt today.

Although a few images of German death camps are disturbing, "From Swastika to Jim Crow" is appropriate for both adults and adolescents.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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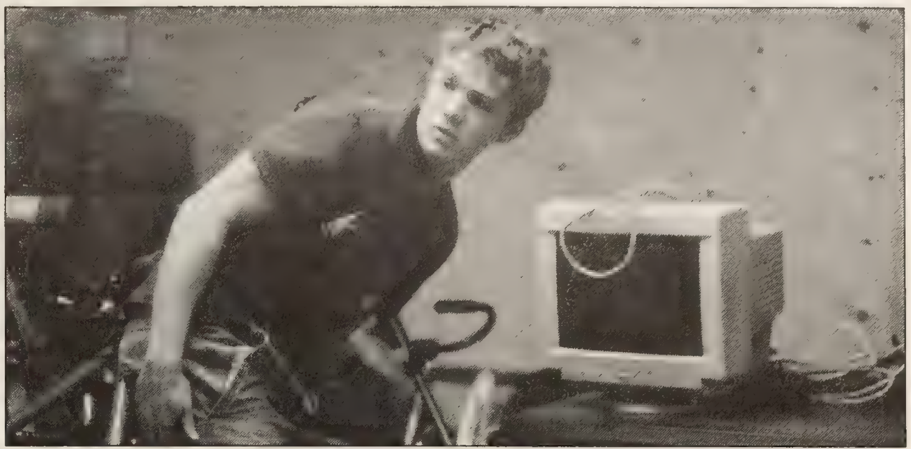
New thriller is farfetched, tedious



CNS photo from Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Ryan Phillippe stars in the movie thriller "Antitrust." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Farfetched yet entertaining is one thing. Farfetched and tedious is quite another. The lame thriller "Antitrust" (MGM) falls into the latter category.

Tim Robbins stars as Gary Winston, a multibillionaire computer software mogul who is in trouble with the Department of Justice because of his anti-competitive practices. (Sound familiar?) Gary is just steps away from completing a software program that would link all forms of communications, such as telephones, televisions and computers, from one superpowerful feed.

To make this cutting-edge technology a reality and to hit his fast-approaching launch date, Gary recruits Milo Hoffman (Ryan Phillippe), a young programming whiz, to join his powerful Silicon Valley company of super-achievers.

Bowled over by the incredible opportunity to be a part of history as well as the personal attention he gets from Gary, Milo becomes intensely caught up in achieving Gary's vision. However, Milo's suspicions are aroused when, each time he hits a blank wall, Gary provides an answer with astonishing speed and accuracy. And when he questions Gary about the origin of these ideas, Gary flippantly dismisses his queries.

But when Milo's close friend and fellow computer genius, Teddy (Yee Jee Tso), is viciously killed and Gary begins spouting concepts that could only have come from Teddy, Milo's suspicion turns to terror.

The theme of a talented young man being recruited by an organization that has nefarious implications isn't new (for example, 1993's "The Firm"), but it is the sort of plot that can be successfully duplicated in a variety of settings. Here, it has no such success.

The unconvincing story line has so many double- and triple-crosses that one begins to lose count. (Can everyone be conspiring against poor Milo?) Very quickly, the film becomes a boring pastiche of scenes where characters try to outsmart each other, and the awkward plot twists do little to build suspense.

The film also throws in a dash of George Orwell's "Big Brother" by having Gary's company spy on all the young start-up digerati in the nation. Once he's secretly stolen their ideas, they mysteriously turn up dead.

The unsympathetic characters and stilted performances, especially on the part of Phillippe, give the viewer little to care about. Phillippe has basically one pose in this film: pouty young man. Even when he discovers the horrible things Gary has been doing to dominate the global economy, his look remains distant and dopey.

The similarities between Robbins' character and Bill Gates are undeniable, but the script cleverly and quickly handles this by having Robbins offhandedly remark, "Bill who?" thereby focusing the viewer on the story. However, Robbins does bear an uncanny resemblance to the real-life mogul, with shaggy hair parted on the side, wire-rimmed spectacles and a somewhat slouching gait.

Alternating between being a motivational guru and a scary megalomaniac, Robbins is the one bright spot in the film. But the writing is poor and he is saddled with such corny lines as, "Surprise me" or "Be creative — there are no limits."

The film also annoys with a laughable montage in which the whole picture of what is really going on becomes suddenly clear to Milo. This is done not once, but twice.

With a very flimsy narrative that is poorly assembled, "Antitrust" is more like irritating junk e-mails than entertaining film fare.

Due to some violence and an instance of rough language and sporadic crass words, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope tells diplomats world problems are rooted in selfishness

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his annual "state of the world" address to diplomats, Pope John Paul II said the wars, social injustices and ecological imbalances that continue to plague many countries are rooted in human selfishness.

The pope said the solution lies in an approach that may seem "too simple" to the world's powerful: treating all people as brothers and sisters. He noted some hopeful signs in recent peace agreements and international steps to reduce poverty and illiteracy.

The pope made the remarks Jan. 13 in an audience with ambassadors representing the 172 countries that maintain full diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

While praising the ambassadors' work, the pontiff said the world scene at the beginning of 2001 "could cause one to doubt the capacity of diplomacy to bring about the rule of order, equity and peace among peoples."

"Egoism and the will to power are humanity's worst enemies. In some way, they are at the root of every conflict," he said.

He said this was especially evident in parts of South America, where socio-economic differences, guerrilla warfare and the turning back of democratic gains have damaged the social fabric and caused entire populations to lose confidence.

The pope said the world would be radically different if people applied the principle of "every man is my brother." Unfortunately, he said, history will judge the 20th century as the time when "human life was despised in the cruelest ways."

He said he was thinking of the many wars, the legalization of abortion and euthanasia, and of cultural models based on consumption and "pleasure at any price." He warned against upsetting the balance of creation and the environment, because "a world determined by our designs alone could well become unlivable."

While science has produced notable advances for the human community, he said, it has also led some to believe that they can become the "masters of nature and of history," regarding the human being as an object to be manipulated or bought and sold.

All believers, the pope said, have a responsibility to state publicly that "no authority, no political program and no ideology is entitled to reduce human beings to what they can do or produce."

On the issue of religious freedom, Pope John Paul said the church would continue to defend religious experience as a vital element in shaping the individual and society. He made it clear that the Vatican was closely monitoring religious freedom around the world, particularly in some Muslim countries.

"The tragic experience of the Christian community in Indonesia or the blatant discrimination suffered by believing communities, both Christian and non-Christian, in some countries under Marxist or Islamic control summon us to vigilance and unfailing solidarity," he said.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Benedictine nuns sing again of Christ's love

On Jan. 25, 1999, bluesman and music producer Thomas J. Pomposello died of a heart attack at age 50. His work, he would say, was motivated by the desire to "bridge the gap between secular and sacred music."

One of Pomposello's last productions was the international best seller "Women in Chant," a compact disc featuring the choir of nuns at the Benedictine Abbey of Regina Laudis (Bethlehem, Conn. 06751), who were coached by Theodore Marier, a professor of liturgical music at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

As the nuns, my friends, prepared to remember him on this second anniversary of his death, they honored him by giving the world in his name another music gem. The nuns have released a new compact disc called "Women in Chant 'Recordare' — Remembering the Mysteries in the Life of Jesus, Son of Mary."

The idea behind completing this recording came from Pomposello's son, Travis, a vice-president at the Discovery Channel. He approached the nuns, asking if he could continue the work his father had begun at Regina Laudis.

"Travis' appearance on the scene reminded us, once more, that the life of resurrection is experienced in the continuity of those who love beyond the terrifying mystery of death," said Mother Lucia Kuppens, one of the 38 nuns at the abbey. A former Yale scholar, Mother Lucia wrote the beautifully informative booklet that accompanies the new CD.

I received an invitation from Mother Dolores Hart, the actress who left Hollywood in 1963 to devote her life to God in this Benedictine community, to attend a special afternoon presentation introducing the CD to some of their friends.

Mother David Serna, the administrator, explained that they chose the theme of "recordare" to join in the call for forgiveness and reconciliation raised by Pope John Paul II. "Recordare" is Latin for "to remember," and the community believes that before one can forgive the past, one has to remember it and "admit the part we have played in one another's sufferings." Nowhere is this truth better expressed than in the life of Jesus and his mother Mary.

And that brought the nuns to a very creative path. They joined two radically different spiritual expressions, classical Gregorian chant celebrating the cycles of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Eastertide, and the devotional prayer of the rosary, following the progression of the 15 mysteries. Special meditations, spoken by Mother Dolores, reflect on the events in Christ's life from his mother's point of view.

Listening to the chant and the words was truly prayer, and I felt I and the others there had been shown a new way to be linked to the divine.

At the final blessing, sung by the abbey's founder, Mother Benedict Duss, now 90, I think we all felt elevated and renewed.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Winston's wise counsel

It could have been either Mahatma Starbucks or Juan Valdez who said, "If wisdom does not taste like good coffee smells, it should."

The profundity of this observation formed the subtext of the story of a recent — and probably the best — cup of coffee I ever had. The cup was served by a wise man and brewed in wonderful style in his tidy home.

His home doubles as his meditation and counseling center which is also his front room and kitchen. It also serves as his mode of transportation. His address is a license plate number. His home is a Volkswagen Vanagan.

Winston has been a friend for a long time, the friendship being born in the underwater diving and harvesting industry in the San Juan Islands and the fjord-like inlets of Homer, Alaska.

Years ago Winston began "decluttering" his life. At first it was economic necessity. Today it is a conscious choice. He is the only person I know who actually knows in an intimate way the truth of the statement, "Less is more."

I sat sideways in the Vanagan's passenger seat as Winston performed his coffee making ritual and we talked. I surveyed his condensed kingdom: a tiny library of challenging books, an eclectic assortment of cassette tapes and music, a well-worn Bible on the dash, a rolled sleeping bag at the end of his plywood "sofa."

He can make only one cup at a time, but since he decided to give up coffee in recent times he said he looked forward to making one for me, "just for the smell of it."

Current personal concerns of mine occupied much of our conversation as Winston worked slowly and methodically from his crouched position — worked, that is, on the coffee and on my self-absorbed meanderings. He pulled a tiny red funnel from somewhere and used it to fill his tiny single-burner hiking "stove" with fuel from a small container he had pulled from somewhere else. He pumped pressure into the device and lit it as he allowed me to seek self-healing through his listening.

From under his breadbox-size library he produced his sole metal cup, a small bag of fine coffee, a plastic carton of water, a filter.

As he performed his rite of sharing, my heart lightened. When after some time he handed me a steaming cup of perfect coffee, I realized I was being served by a uniquely spiritual person. Winston has no checking or savings account, no IRAs or 401K, no house payment, no car payment, no desire to hit it big in the stock market or the lottery.

He had stopped by to spend a couple of days with me because "it just seemed like I should." He helped me repair water lines and a septic system. And my heart.

He left this morning to help a mutual friend with problems the latter is having with his vessel on the Oregon coast "because it just seems like I should."

I know this unselfconscious mobile "monk" will help breathe new life into more than our friend's empty sails.

"Thanks for the coffee," I waved at him.

"Pleasure's all mine, buddy," he smiled back. And he meant it. He has built a life purposely that enables him to be available and fully present to others, no strings attached. Christlike.

The concept smells awfully wise.

Comments are welcome.
E-mail at: cnsuncle@yahoo.com.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
Guest Columnist

In His Hands

Kim Dae Jung has been tested all his life. A citizen of South Korea, he came early in life to see the value of freedom, and committed himself to the principles which underlie democracy. That might not be a difficult vocation were he born in a democratic country. But he wasn't. He was raised in a nation which had a continuous lineup of military dictatorships. And the people who led his nation decided early on that he should be silenced. Over the years, he endured prison, house arrest, exile and constant surveillance.

Kim Dae Jung never let these intimidations keep him quiet. Instead, he spoke out however and wherever he could. So vexing was this free-thinking and free-speaking individual that the government decided he needed to be taught a final lesson. Writes Jung: "In August of 1973, while exiled in Japan, I was kidnapped from my hotel room in Tokyo by intelligence agents of the then military government of South Korea. The agents took me to their boat at anchor along the seashore. They tied me up, blinded me and stuffed my mouth." These agents were about to kill this troublesome dissident and bring his cry for freedom to a permanent end.

Jung, a Catholic Christian, decided that his only choice was surrender. No, not to the pressures of his captors. But surrender to the will of God. He recalled the valuable lessons from holy men and women of faith who put aside their fears and their anxieties. They let go. They let God be the master of their lives. Jung describes what happened next: "Just when they were about to throw me overboard, Jesus Christ appeared before me with such clarity. I clung to Him, and begged Him to save me. At that very moment, rescuers appeared and won my release."

Kim Dae Jung is no ordinary freedom fighter, but one of many tireless voices who refused to be silent. After years of dictatorships, the popular will for freedom finally prevailed and South Korea embraced democracy. Several years ago, Kim Dae Jung was elected President of South Korea.

Seeking to be a reconciler for all the people of the Korean peninsula, he boldly proposed to visit the forbidden nation of North Korea. He went with no expectations beyond a desire for dialogue and an end to the hostilities which have separated North and South for a half century. It was daring. And it bore fruit. The relationship between the Koreas has softened. Families kept apart for decades by the demilitarized zone are able to see each other at last.

Kim Dae Jung's devotion to the cause of justice and belief that one life can make a difference has been rewarded. He received the Nobel Peace Prize. In his remarks at Oslo, Jung summed up his philosophy of hope: "In 1980, I was sentenced to death by the military regime. For six months, in prison, I awaited my execution day. Often I shuddered with fear of death. But I would find calm in the fact of history that justice ultimately prevails. I knew that in all ages, in all places, he who lives a righteous life dedicated to his people and humanity may not be victorious, may meet a gruesome end in his lifetime, but will be triumphant and honored in history. He who wins by injustice may dominate the present day, but history will always judge him to be a shameful loser. There can be no exception."

Kim Dae Jung did not, thank God, need to wait for history to vindicate him. In his lifetime, he has seen the result of persistence, dedication, courage and conviction. Just one person with a dream, but a dream with the fire of justice is, in the end, unstoppable.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

New Catholics previously baptized

Q. Please discuss in your column if or when baptism in another church is recognized by the Catholic Church. If it is recognized, has it always been?

We are concerned because a relative wishing to enter our faith is reluctant to be baptized again. He feels he has already received this sacrament. We are receiving various answers from different priests.

A. Since as long ago as 1949, the Catholic Church has explicitly assumed the validity of baptism in most Protestant denominations. Several of these churches were listed by name, but the ruling applied to any others if basically necessary rituals and intentions were present. (Reply from the Holy Office Dec. 28, 1949)

This position resulted partially from a better awareness by the Catholic Church of baptism in these other congregations, but also, at least to some degree, from a more developed theology and practice concerning baptism on the Protestant side.

Since then, of course, the understanding of the meaning and significance of baptism has developed significantly, making conditional baptism (or, as it is sometimes erroneously called, "rebaptism") of converts to our faith quite rare.

Most times today, if a convert has belonged to and been baptized in a major Protestant denomination, conditional baptism may be ministered only if the fact of the previous baptism is uncertain or if the individual has serious and specific doubts about the validity of the former baptism.

You should not be receiving varying responses about this. Present Catholic regulations explicitly forbid automatic or routine baptism of people already baptized in another Christian denomination.

The Rite for Receiving Baptized Christians Into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church (n. 480) says repetition of the sacrament of baptism "is not permitted unless there is a prudent doubt about the fact or validity of the baptism already received." If after "serious investigation" it seems necessary to confer baptism again conditionally, "the minister should explain beforehand the reasons" for this action.

These same regulations are repeated in the Code of Canon Law (845) and the 1993 Vatican Directory on Ecumenism (Nos. 94-95).

Fulfilling Mass obligation

Q. Do we fulfill our Sunday or holy day Mass obligation by attending Mass in the home of a retired priest? We had a discussion about this, but I think those who say no have no law to back them up.

A. Canon law (1248) states, "A person who assists at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the feast day itself or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass."

Church law formerly required that Sunday and holy day obligations be fulfilled in a church or certain oratories (chapels). However, that need no longer exists.

Some people also seem unaware that the Mass attended need not be the Sunday Mass with its proper readings and prayers. Those participating in a Saturday evening wedding Mass, for example, are not obliged to attend another Mass the following day.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Terri's parents lost a longtime friend very recently. In these later years of their life together, they find themselves regularly going to funeral services to say goodbye to old friends. In them are at once a sense of sadness and a sense of acceptance, as if to say, "When will it be my turn to die?" though without any sense of morbidity. With diminishing health and dying friends, they experience their mortality more profoundly than ever. Perhaps this is characteristic of the later season of life.

There are times when it seems that our life is filled new life-events with our friends and siblings-events such as baby-showers, weddings and baptisms. Currently we are in a season of life that is filled with graduations and events involving the next generation. Though we know that death is waiting for everyone, newness in life is so abound that death seems very remote. And when death is around us, it feels like an intruder.

Throughout life we experience the cycle of dying and rising through the perennial tragedies and joys of life. Our faith helps us make sense of this as each experience draws us into a deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery.

Yet, it seems that the seasons of life tend to prefer one or the other facet of this mysterious lifelong dance. In our youth we rise daily to new experiences, newfound knowledge, new associations, new life, new love and new dreams. The infrequent tragedies of youth would have us negating God's full presence and participation in the darker experiences of death and loss.

As we grow in wisdom, age and grace, the experience of death become less remote. We develop an intimacy with God who has carried us through difficult times. As we mature we experience more of the tragic side of life. Our faith deepens over time and we begin to see more clearly God's compassion and mercy.

When parents age and die and leave the world's cares in our hands, we experience life in new ways. We also experience God in new ways. With faith we find ourselves grasping less for future life and clinging to the present moment. Whether in the rising or the dying, God still is.

Though the Paschal Mystery of dying and rising is ever-present throughout life, perhaps the seasonal emphases of one or the other are appropriate. Just as there is beauty and purpose in each season of the year, there is beauty and purpose in the seasons of life in which we learn more about God.

We are walking closely with our parents during this season of their lives. They need our care and compassion now more than ever before. Also, there is much for us to learn from them as they grow in wisdom, age and grace-lessons that will aid us in our next season of life.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of Marriage Ministry for the Archdiocese Of Chicago

The Spirit of the Lord is alive in hiking groups

By WENDY E. MURRAY
CORRESPONDENT

Rock faces, open balds, cascading waterfalls — a few of the sights and sounds that greet a newly formed ministry at St. Eugene Church in the Asheville Vicariate. Aptly named the Hiking Program, it is the brain child of Sheila O'Connor, parish director of faith formation.

O'Connor envisioned a ministry that would blend spirituality with a mutual appreciation of God's creations.

"The goal is to build community, incorporate prayer and expose people to hiking," she said. She invited parishioners who are like-minded in spirit and the hiking program was off and running.

Well, not exactly.

The only skills needed were a love for the outdoors and a willingness to try something new. As luck would have it, two experienced hikers came forward to lead the hikers. One of the groups, led by Chris Cicotello, set off for John Rock in the Pisgah National Forest for their first adventure.

"I think that we see an entirely different face of God in nature than we would staring at buildings," said Cicotello. "His hand is within these mountains. They lead me to God, so I hike all the time."

The trailhead starts at the Fish Hatchery just off US Route 475 and is rated as a moderate to strenuous hike. These wilderness seekers realized that it was more than a walk in the woods. It was an uphill trek to an elevation of 1200 feet.

In addition to her mountaineering skills, Cicotello made up her own "hiker's prayer" which the group prayed before their ascent up the mountain.

Reaching the summit, Cicotello shared a Scripture reading with her friends. In Matthew's Gospel — chapter 4, verse 8-11 — the devil tries to tempt Jesus again with the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence.

Cicotello said, "Here we are on top of this mountain with a spectacular view of Looking Glass Rock and I felt this was the perfect place to read and reflect on its meaning."

Another group hiking on Fridays is led by Doris Thibodeau, an experienced outdoorswoman. For Thibodeau, this group gave her renewed joy.

A retired history of medicine and rare book librarian from Johns Hopkins Hospital, Doris had been away from the Catholic Church for many years.

Having been raised and educated in Catholic schools, she left the church shortly after Vatican II. With her move from New Mexico to North Carolina in 1996, Doris found herself "shopping around" for a faith community to grow in.

Doris' renewal came. "After a long search I found the parish of St. Eugene, where I felt I belonged," she said.

Having hiked trails all over the country including volcanoes, hiking is a way of life for Doris. "I see the most amazing miracles out there all the time. I have a real appreciation of God's beauty and the peacefulness that it brings."

Juanita Emmett started hiking with Doris as part of the St. Barnabas parish group. "I'm always talking to God when I'm hiking," she said. "It takes all my physical strength to go up the mountain yet I find myself isolated in prayer with the Lord."

In an outing to the Haw Creek Overlook following the Mountain to Sea Trail, a moderate five-mile workout, both women attested to the excitement of winter hiking.

The weather may be cold and harsh but they felt rewarded by the stillness of the forest, fewer people, and a glimpse of nature being stripped bare.

"When the foliage is gone, you can see forever," said Juanita.

For inspiration before a hike, Chris' prayer follows:

"Heavenly Father, Holy Mother, Divine Creator of all that is, We gather today to seek your presence in the beauty that surrounds us. Bless us as we travel the path ahead. May we experience your grace in the smells and textures of nature, in the sight of these magnificent mountains, and the fellowship of these friends. Grant us sureness of foot, hardiness of heart and lung and eyes to see Your Face on the journey we begin today. For this we pray in Christ's name, Amen."

Rain or shine — the thrill of the trail beckons these hardy hikers.

Anyone interested in joining either hiking group may call Sheila O'Connor at (828) 254-5193.

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Hispanic leaders to refocus apostolate

By AGOSTINO BONO
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Hispanic ministry is refocusing its apostolate within a growing multicultural and multilingual U.S. church, said Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Hispanic Affairs Secretariat.

A main aim is to increase cooperation with the entire U.S. church by a Hispanic minority which is primarily responsible for the recent growth in U.S. church membership, he said in a January interview.

To spur re-evaluation, the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs is sponsoring a Feb. 14-17 symposium for about 60 national and regional Hispanic ministry leaders. The meeting will be in Colorado Springs, Colo., on the theme, "Refocusing Hispanic Ministry for the New Century."

The gathering will assess the new realities of the 21st century, Cruz said.

He listed some of these as:

— A growing number of Hispanics are no longer born in the United States because of increased immigration flows during past decades.

— Many traditionally Latino parishes have been transformed into multiethnic ones with the arrival of immigrants from Asia and Eastern Europe.

— Hispanics have been mainly responsible for the numerical growth in the U.S. church since 1960 and form a major bloc of U.S. Catholics.

These demographic changes mean new methods and processes have to be developed, said Cruz.

"In 1980, 80 percent of all Hispanics were born in the United States. In 1990, about 64 percent were U.S.-born. Today, about half were born in the United States," he said.

"This means the work we did in the past is not known to many of this generation," he added.

"Past programs were mostly for U.S.-born Hispanics," said Cruz.

"Doing things as we did then is not looking toward the future," he said. "Yet many U.S.-born Hispanics feel they are not getting the attention they need, especially youth."

So refocusing also means "don't throw out the baby with the bath water," he added.

Cruz said the growth in foreign-born Hispanics should level off within the next 10 years as these immigrants give birth here to a new generation. But it is hard to predict when political or economic conditions abroad will produce another heavy influx of Latin Americans, he said.

In 1980, 80 percent of all Hispanics were born in the United States. In 1990, about 64 percent were U.S.-born. Today, about half were born in the United States.

This means the work we did in the past is not known to many of this generation.

"About 71 percent of Catholic growth in the United States since 1960 is due to the Hispanic presence," said Cruz. He added that currently there are about 24 million Hispanic Catholics in the United States.

The Official Catholic Directory in 2000 listed the overall number of Catholics as 62.4 million. This would make Hispanics about 38 percent of the Catholic population and the largest ethnic group in the U.S. church.

Yet Hispanics are a minority within "a more and more multicultural and multilingual context," he said, citing "Encuentro 2000."

"Encuentro 2000," the only jubilee year event sponsored by the U.S. bishops, was held last July in Los Angeles to celebrate and promote the cultural and ethnic diversity of Catholicism in the United States. The subtitle of the gathering was "Many Faces in God's House." Its program incorporated contributions to church life by Catholics from African-American, Hispanic, Native American, European, Asian, Caribbean and Pacific island ethnic groups.

At the February meeting Hispanic ministry leaders "will look at our history and see what is taking place now," Cruz said.

The meeting aims to help Hispanic leaders face new challenges within the framework of "cooperation with the full body of Christ," he said.

The overall goals of Hispanic ministry remain the same, said Cruz. He listed them as evangelization, collaboration with the whole church, promoting family life and a preferential option for the poor with special attention to women and children as the most vulnerable.

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And baby makes two

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

Editor's note: DeAna [her name has been changed to protect her identity], a resident of Room at the Inn in Charlotte, agreed to an interview with The Catholic News & Herald and was brutally honest with her story. Her openness underscores our belief that every life is precious.

CHARLOTTE — DeAna has the face of a child with the glow of an expectant mother.

At 17, her life has transformed from that of a carefree high school girl to one of diapers and bottles. DeAna's expecting a baby in a few weeks.

It's been a rough road for this teen-ager. DeAna fell headfirst into a quagmire — caught up in an unsavory lifestyle, complete with drugs and alcohol. At 16, she dropped out of school, left home and took up residence with an abusive boyfriend. They paid the bills selling illegal drugs.

"I loved him so much," she says. "All I wanted was love." But her boyfriend "had no respect for life or anything." Even less was any concern for her well-being. Hospitalized last winter, she begged him to visit her bedside. He was too busy on a drug run.

She knows she should have moved out, but love is blind. DeAna returned to the underbelly of life. This past June, she found herself pregnant. "He said I did it on purpose and tried to say it wasn't his baby."

A month before her 17th birthday, estranged from the one she thought she loved, she returned to her parents' home. "Get an abortion" was her welcome home greeting. "My father told me that if I didn't have an abortion, I couldn't live there anymore," says DeAna, turning her eyes away as she recalls the dark days.

Hers was a blue-collar, hellish childhood. Her father an immigrant laborer, her mother an alcoholic. "She [her mother] had a stroke, lives in her own little world and hasn't had an influence on anybody," says DeAna.

It wasn't always like that. DeAna was an accomplished horsewoman, enrolled in advanced level school courses. Somewhere between her dysfunctional household and the wrong crowd of friends, DeAna changed: She was caught in the unrelenting pull of downward spiral.

It was love and concern of a girlfriend's mother that brought her to Room at the Inn. And the otherwise dismal life of DeAna took an upward turn. Make no mistake, it hasn't been without challenge and strife, but DeAna found the discipline, structure and love missing from her formative years.

She lives in safety now. And is learning life skills necessary for her — and her baby's — survival. DeAna made a decision early on to keep her baby. It's a girl; ultrasound confirmed that little mystery.

By all accounts, DeAna knows that without Room at the Inn, she would be living in a shelter or on the streets. But she's learning to harness and redirect anger, and to take responsibility for her — and their — lives. Room at the Inn helped DeAna arrange to take her high school equivalency test. She passed with flying colors. And now, DeAna — boosted by the success of her GED, plans to enroll at the community college.

And she wants her daughter to grow up in an environment of love and respect. Her parental dream is light years from her own brief childhood. "I want her to be proud of her mom and not have to go through or suffer what I have," says DeAna, who wants nothing more than to be there for her child. "I hope to teach from my mistakes."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Room At The Inn serves women facing crisis pregnancies through an integrated, rehabilitative program. Room At The Inn insures residents receive proper prenatal and postnatal care. The licensed maternity home provides care for up to six females, both minor and adult. The residence is the only maternity home in North Carolina that admits women with previous children. Room At The Inn operates in a Christ-centered environment, supporting resident mothers in discovering the faith and hope needed to make positive life changes for themselves and their child[ren].

For more information, contact Room At The Inn, [704] 521-2774.

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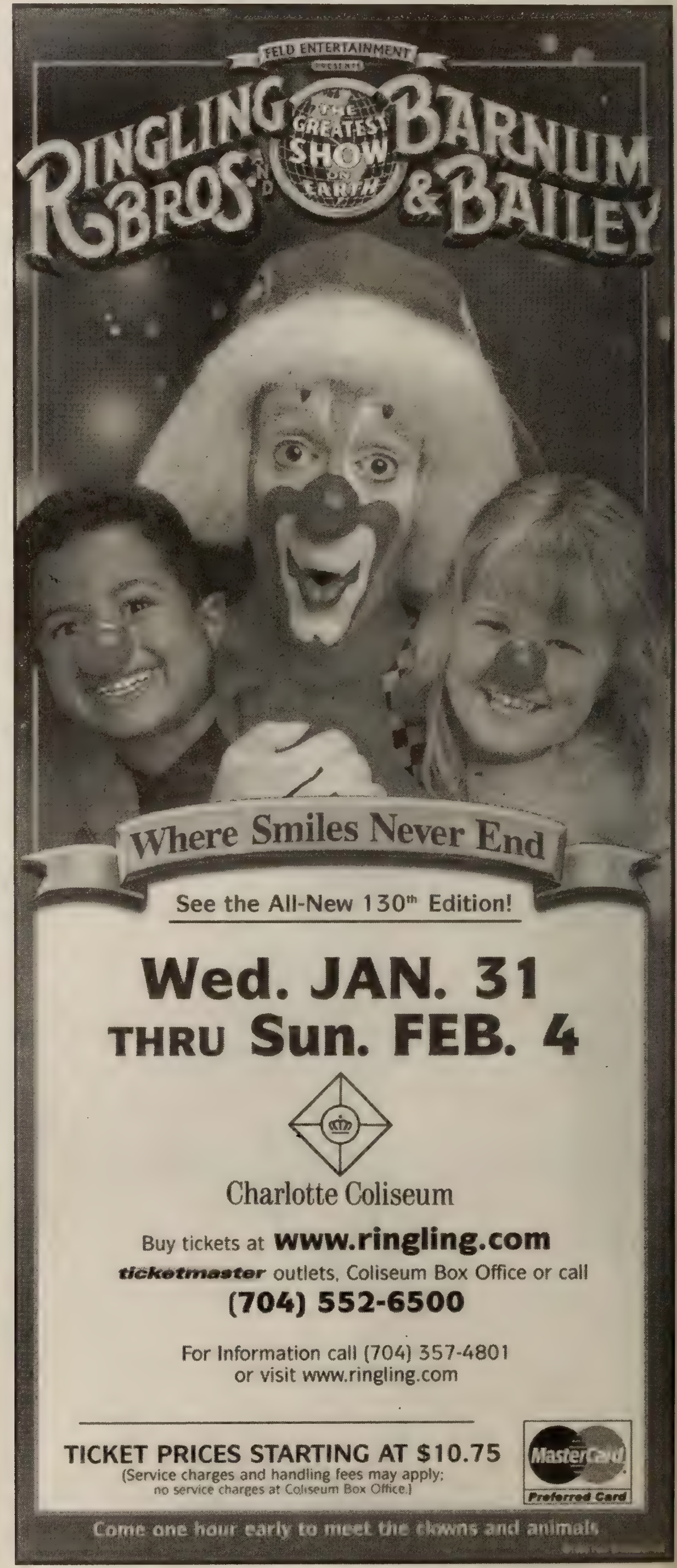
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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

January 26, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 20

Inside

Diocese responds to quake disaster
Diocese of Charlotte assists Catholic Relief Services' work in El Salvador
...PAGE 3

GENERATION
X
FOR LIFE!

March for Life 2001
Thousands descend on nation's capitol for annual event
...PAGES 8-9

Local News

Catholic shares view of 'real world'
...PAGE 7

BMHS looks ahead to new school in 2001-02
...PAGE 16

Every Week

Readings ...PAGE 10
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

> **"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his kindness and his wondrous deeds to the children of men,
> Because he satisfied the longing soul and filled the hungry soul with good things."**
>
> ***— Psalm 107: 8-9***

Parish, school share in students' education

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SALISBURY - Whenever work seems to pile up or the day has been unusually trying, Father John T. Putnam simply walks across the parking lot for a pick-me-up. He is greeted by 255 young faces, most oblivious to adult problems, and ready to say hello and offer a smile. The pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, who is also a diocesan tribunal judge, has the unique opportunity to be pastor of a parish with a school.

"What we have at Sacred Heart is the traditional model of a Catholic education - one parish, one school," said Father Putnam. "We share space and resources; we have a symbiotic relationship in that our education commission not only deals with the school but also with faith formation which involves the whole parish."

Father Putnam is able to hear confessions and can serve as an additional "listening ear" for the students, if necessary. He celebrates weekly Mass at the school with Father Joseph Dinh, parochial vicar, who also teaches religion classes. Father Putnam also asks the students questions about their faith, sometimes at random, and walks

SEE EDUCATION, PAGE 11

PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Celebrating Catholic Schools

The Diocese of Charlotte joins Catholic schools around the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3. A variety of celebrations are scheduled, including Masses and a host of other events. Above, students at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury tend to a busy day. See stories throughout this issue on Catholic schools in the diocese.

Two new Washingtonians exchange sign of peace at prayer service

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The new archbishop of Washington exchanged the sign of peace with the new resident of the White House Jan. 21 at the Inaugural Prayer Service at the National Cathedral in Washington.

Cardinal-designate Theodore E. McCarrick, who took over as head of the Catholic Church in Washington on Jan. 5, greeted President George W. Bush at the prayer service the day after Bush's inauguration as the 43rd U.S. president.

The prayer service at the Episcopal cathedral took place the same day as Pope John Paul II's announcement in Vatican City that the Washington archbishop had been named to the College of Cardinals. He will be formally installed in late February.

Cardinal-designate McCarrick gave the Gospel reading at the hourlong prayer service and helped to lead the subsequent responsorial prayer, to which the congregation replied by asking God to "keep this nation under your care."

The Catholic leader's prayer asked that all governmental leaders show "wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties." Others prayed for all those who work for peace and gave thanks for the "wonderful diversity of God's children."

Among those attending the 8:30 a.m. prayer service were Bush and first lady Laura Bush; Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne; Bush's twin daughters Barbara and Jenna; former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara; Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and his wife, Columba, who are Catholics; and several members of the Bush Cabinet, including the new secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell.

SEE SIGN OF PEACE, PAGE 4

The World in Brief

'1,000 Years of Peace': 660,000 hours and counting

CINCINNATI (CNS) — A commuter pledges to "spend a few minutes in prayer for world peace" every day on he way to work. A soldier says he will help whoever needs it at work "regardless of the rank of the person. ... A little kindness can go a long way." A child promises to share crayons with classmates. They are among the thousands of men, women and children who have joined the "1,000 Years of Peace" project. Each participant pledges in a personal way to make the world a more peaceful place. Launched on the Internet in December 1999, the project's goal is to generate commitments that will add up to an entire millennium worth of action for peace — 8,765,808 hours. As of Jan. 22, 2001, the pledges, which are automatically tallied on the project's Web site — www.pledgepeace.org — added up to 662,755 hours.

In Slovakia, Catholic-Orthodox property accord signed

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox leaders from Slovakia signed an agreement to end a decades-long property dispute between their churches. A spokesman said the accord could offer a model for neighboring countries, but cautioned that government cooperation was needed in solving legal and financial issues. "Both sides were interested in ending the discord, which has dragged on since the end of communism," said Father Andrej Rusnak, secretary of the Eastern Catholic Church's Presov Diocese. "Thanks to this accord, there will no longer be any reason for disagreements between local parishes. We hope this will provide an example for others to follow," he said.

Pope John XXIII's body to be transferred from grotto to basilica

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

NEW PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT WAVES TO WELL-WISHERS
New Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo waves to well-wishers outside the cathedral in Manila following a Mass of thanksgiving Jan. 22. Arroyo was sworn in the day before as president after the Supreme Court stripped Joseph Estrada of the office.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II, recognizing the extent of popular devotion to Blessed John XXIII, has decided his tomb should be in St. Peter's Basilica rather than in the grotto under the church. The Vatican press office confirmed Jan. 22 that the body of Pope John, who convoked the Second Vatican Council, had been removed from the grotto Jan. 16 after a solemn and formal opening of the tomb and recognition of the body. The body will be placed in the basilica to make it easier for people to visit his tomb, the press office said. A recognition ceremony usually takes place before a person is beatified, but Vatican officials did not want to disturb the tomb during the Holy Year, when so many visitors wanted to pray there, said an official at the basilica.

Pope: Everyone has right to hear Gospel, experience Christ's love

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every person, regardless of race or culture, has a right to hear the Gospel message and experience the love of Christ, Pope John Paul II said. If everyone has a right to know the Gospel, then every Christian has an obligation to share its message through direct proclamation or through the example of their lives and service to others, the pope said. "From the beginning of my pontificate I have invited every person and every people to open the doors to Christ," he said Jan. 20, ending a two-day international symposium marking the 10th anniversary of his encyclical on missionary activity, "Redemptoris Missio."

New partnership links teachers, understaffed Catholic schools

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (CNS) — A partnership between Providence College and the Diocese of Providence, aimed at providing inner-city Catholic schools with a supply of teachers, was unveiled Jan. 16 at Holy Name School. The new Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers, or PACT, is the result of Providence College's Alliance for Catholic Education program, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. "This is money in the bank, insurance," said Bishop Robert E. Mulvee of Providence. "This is an attempt to really fire up young people. The best is out there and it needs development." Holy Cross Brother William Dygert, diocesan superintendent of schools, said the joint effort "serves to unite the mission of Catholic elementary and secondary education in the diocese with the mission of Catholic higher education at Providence College, a situation that can only benefit all whom we serve."

Angry Filipinos take to streets, call for Estrada's ouster

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Angry Filipinos who took to the streets for the ouster of President Joseph Estrada numbered 150,000 at the height of a Manila rally as thousands protested in other dioceses. Students, workers, farmers, artists and families joined church, political and civic leaders Jan. 17 beneath the giant statue of Mary Queen of Peace in Quezon City, northeast of Manila. Others hung from poles and trees and covered a bridge across the street from the church, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Some said they dressed in black to mourn the death of justice and democracy. People sang, "Father, heal (our) land ... forgive our sin and heal our broken land," at the 5 p.m. outdoor Mass led by Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

January 29 - 10:30 a.m.
Mass
Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School,
Winston-Salem

January 30 - 10 a.m.
Mass
Holy Trinity Middle School,
Charlotte

January 31 - 9:45 a.m.
Mass
Charlotte Catholic High School,
Charlotte

Diocesan planner

January

30 ASHEVILLE — The faculty, staff and parents of Asheville Catholic School, 12 Culvern St., invite everyone to their Open House this morning from 9-11 a.m. Parent volunteers are giving tours of the school, answering questions and assisting with registration. This is the first day of open registration for the 2001-2002 school year for students enrolling in pre-kindergarten-8th grade. For further details, call Dr. Veronica Berreen, principal, at (828) 252-7826.

February

1 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight from 7-8 p.m. in the activity center. Tom Mammoser, publisher of the magazine "Becoming Family," is presenting "Families and the Media." This session concerns the effects of media on families, especially children, and the availability of possible solutions or alternative, family-oriented sources of entertainment. Also, on Feb. 6, Father Mark Lamprich is presenting "Marriage: Made in Heaven, Celebrated in Church," a session about the role of the church in the sacrament of marriage. For further details, call (336) 274-0415.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, is meeting tonight and Feb. 15 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church at (336) 724-0561 for details.

2 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas, 1400 Suther Rd., hosts Eucharistic adoration every first Friday from 1:15 p.m.-midnight, and Eucharistic Holy Hour takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Aquinas Hall is open everyday from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

Diocese of Charlotte joins CRS in disaster relief

CHARLOTTE — The people of El Salvador are attempting to recover from a devastating earthquake that struck the country on Saturday, Jan. 13. Over 700 people are known to have died and many more are still missing. Thousands of people have been injured and tens of thousands have had to be evacuated from their communities. The earthquake also affected the neighboring countries of Nicaragua and Guatemala as well, though the greatest damage and loss of life has occurred in El Salvador.

The Diocese of Charlotte, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is responding to the immediate human needs of the people of El Salvador for food, water, health care, and shelter. CRS is the U.S. Catholic Church's international development and relief organization and is committed to helping the people of El Salvador recover from this tragedy and rebuild their communities.

If you wish to donate funds to support the earthquake relief efforts of CRS in El Salvador please send a contribution to your parish office. Make your checks out to your parish marked clearly for CRS El Salvador Relief. Alternatively, you may mail your donation to the Diocese of Charlotte, El Salvador Relief, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203. Contributions will be forwarded to CRS. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Salavadorans left homeless by the Jan. 13 earthquake are fed a meal by an aid group in the neighborhood of Santa Tecla in San Salvador Jan. 22. International groups, including Catholic Relief Services and Caritas International, are providing money and materials to help rebuild from the earthquake that left at least 700 dead.

CCHD program to debut in diocese

CHARLOTTE — "Education for Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life," a program of the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty Catholic Campaign for Human Development, will be presented in workshop-style format March 3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway in Charlotte.

This initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development connects Catholic social teaching to economic life and forces in society.

Presenters include Glenmary Father John Rausch, who writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia and is a syndicated newspaper columnist.

This event is for parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, business people and all interested persons. It is sponsored by the CCHD office of the Diocese of Chalrotte.

For registration and other information, call Dr. Barney Offerman at (704) 370-3234 by Feb. 15.

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Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of February:

Rev. Edward Beatty *1990*
Rev. Lawrence Hill *1985*

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HAMLET — St. James Church, off of Hwy. 74 on 1018 West Hamlet Ave., is having their Annual Pit Barbecue today from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Those interested may dine in or take out plates of chicken or pork cooked on site with Cole slaw, baked beans and rolls. Proceeds will benefit the building fund. For more information, call the church office at (910) 582-0207.

HIGH POINT — The Poor Servant of God Sisters invite everyone to a Mass in honor of the 5th annual celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life. The Mass is being held at 7 p.m. in the chapel at Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd., with Father Anthony Marcaccio as celebrant. A reception follows after the Mass. Call Poor Servant Sister Lucy Hennessy at (336) 886-2444 for more information.

3 CHARLOTTE — St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., is having an attic and bake sale today from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the activity center. Attendants may take advantage of the furniture, toys, dishes, books and clothes for sale, along with hot dogs and chips and doughnuts and coffee. For further details, call the church office at (704) 523-4641.

SYLVA — Oratorian Father David Valtierra from the Oratory at Rock Hill is presenting the Gospel of Luke today at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with 9 a.m. Mass. The Gospel is being presented using the informal Oratory style of sharing the Word of God. The schedule includes prayer, Eucharist and an introduction to the outline and central themes of Luke's Gospel. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

5 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse meets from 6-7 p.m. tonight and Feb. 19 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Mark Lawlor. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., is planning their sesquicentennial celebration which lasts from Mar. 18 until Jan. 29, 2002. The church history committee is interested in hearing from former parishioners who would like to share stories or facts about the church's history. This information will be used for the celebration and possibly for a published church history. Contact the parish office at (704) 332-2901, Ext. 12, with your name, phone number and time to call.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Endowment gives students more opportunities

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GASTONIA — A school's needs vary at different times during the year, and sometimes, one need may take precedence over another. To ensure that many of those extra needs are met, through their generosity and support, parents, former students, St. Michael Church parishioners and the community-at-large have invested in the education and academic vision of the students at St. Michael School in Gastonia.

According to Peter Harakas, chairperson of the board of directors of the St. Michael School Endowment Fund, Steven Cherry began a fund-raising effort, along with Liz Elkin, in 1988. By simply contacting their former St. Michael's graduating eighth-grade classmates, they were able to start a fund that would be used for school projects.

"We wanted to develop a fund that would enable the school to accrue money at sometime in the future for school-related costs, activities or enhancements that typically would not be covered in the school budget, like continuing education programs for faculty, computers and other needs," explained Cherry.

Through annual campaign letters sent to school parents, parishioners and non-parishioners who have sent their children to St. Michael School and continue to support the school and others, approximately $95,000 has been raised since 1988 and will be placed into the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte in the form of an endowment in early February, said Cherry, who also serves on the board along with Jamie Nelli, Patti Maier and Becky Arbaje.

An endowment is a permanent fund placed in the diocesan foundation, which earns interest over time. The original amount is not spent but the income can be used in the manner stipulated in the endowment agreement, said Jim Kelley, diocesan director of development. The foundation is a non-profit organization established to provide endowments for the Diocese of Charlotte and its parishes, schools, agencies and organizations. "This demonstrates a group that has taken some steps to providing for the future of the school. The endowment provides a steady source of income over a course of time," continued Kelley.

"We are terribly excited that so many people are committed to supporting the long-range needs of the school through this endowment," said Father John Allen, pastor. "We certainly have many needs with our expanded church and school; moreover, this endowment represents a significant investment in the future."

The committee is important because those members decide how the money will be dispersed within the guidelines they have set up, said Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving. "The endowment will be used for curriculum and other unrestricted school uses to improve the quality of education that the students need."

For more information on how to set up an endowment, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the St. Michael School Endowment Fund Board of Directors present their initial check to Father John Allen, pastor of St. Michael Church in Gastonia. Pictured left to right are Jamie Nelli, Patti Meier, Father Allen and Steven Cherry. Not pictured are Peter Harakas and Becky Arbaje.

Sign of Peace, from page 1

In his sermon, the Rev. Franklin Graham of Samaritan Ministries in Boone, N.C., urged Bush and Cheney always to look for guidance from the Lord before taking action.

"Those who have the greatest power always need the greatest guidance," he said. "Prayer should be a daily habit for everyone, whether elected official or private citizen."

Rev. Graham said that in his travels around the country and the world he had found "a sense of hopelessness, a restlessness within the soul of America" and a number of "social, political and spiritual problems."

"A nation that loses its moral compass and its spiritual courage will grow old before its time," he said, urging Bush to "ignite the soul of America" with strong moral leadership.

The congregation sang hymns ranging from "How Great Thou Art" to "America the Beautiful." Other musical offerings came from Christian singer Michael W. Smith, country singers Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, pop singer Tiffany Ameen, classical pianist Christopher Ballard and the cathedral choirs.

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Students have new tool at their fingertips

By KERRA BOLTON FISHER
Hendersonville Times-News Staff Writer

HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculata Catholic School students will now have the world in the palms of their hands thanks to a new technology grant.

The Hendersonville parochial school was one of 15 schools in the nation to receive Palm handheld computers for use in their classrooms. Immaculata received 15 of the devices.

Third-graders and fifth-graders at Immaculata will use the Palm computers for writing research reports, taking notes and making schedules.

"One of our first projects is doing an acid rain study at Mount Mitchell," said Robin Chandler, a fifth-grade teacher. "We will use probes to measure different climatic phenomena. We will start in the spring and make two to three trips per school year."

A representative from Palm Inc., manufacturer of the handheld computers, will track the use of the company's signature product in the classroom as part of a nationwide effort, called the Palm Education Pioneer program, to evaluate its educational value.

"Palm believes that an investment in educational research and professional development programs will yield long-term benefits for teachers and students," said Mike Lorion, vice president for education at Palm Inc. "The research results of the PEP will add to the body of knowledge of best practices for the entire education community."

Teachers will learn to instruct their peers on how to integrate the use of the handheld computers in curricula through the Palm Education Training Coordinator program. This program includes a three-day trainer certification course, a starter kit of hardware and software, ready-to-use curricula and online support and updates for teachers.

After graduating from the program, educators can work with school districts and other educational organizations to create in-house staff development programs for basic handheld computer skills.

"Professional development has been identified as the single most important component of quality teaching and learning," Palm officials said in a press release announcing the program. "The program provides leadership, resources and curriculum to unlock a whole new set of tools for administrators, faculty and students."

Palm Inc. has developed mobile and wireless Internet products and is a leading provider of handheld computers. It was founded in 1992 and acquired by U.S. Robotics Corp. in 1995. Palm became a subsidiary of 3Com Corp. in June 1997, when 3Com acquired U.S. Robotics.

This article is reprinted with permission of the Hendersonville Times-News.

Where the Schools Are

Of the 250 Catholic schools built during the past decade, 55% of the elementary and 42% of the secondary are in suburbia.

Source: The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), 2000.

What's the Road Like Up Ahead?

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New ordinary named for Bridgeport, auxiliary for Denver

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Auxiliary Bishop William E. Lori of Washington to be the new bishop of Bridgeport, Conn. He also named Father Jose H. Gomez, vicar delegate of Opus Dei for the state of Texas, to be auxiliary bishop of Denver. He is the first Opus Dei priest to be appointed a bishop in the United States. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointments Jan. 23 in Washington. In Bridgeport, Bishop Lori succeeds Cardinal-designate Edward M. Egan, who was named archbishop of New York last May.

In India, one nun murdered, others injured in robberies

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — A Catholic nun was murdered in southern Indian Tamil Nadu state while another was hospitalized with serious head injuries in northern Uttar Pradesh state. Servite Sister Theonis Mary, 61, was strangled to death Jan. 21 in the Mettur Dam area of Salem district, some 1,400 miles south of New Delhi. Police say the murder was part of a robbery, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In another apparent robbery, early the morning of Jan. 23, St. Anne Sister Anatolia, in her late 60s, was beaten on the head in Rampur district's Isa Nagar, a Christian center of Meerut Diocese, some 90 miles north of New Delhi. Bishop Patrick Nair of Meerut told UCA News that the nun's condition is "serious."

Catholic astronaut to head for space station aboard shuttle

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Thomas Jones was a 9- or 10-year-old student at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Baltimore suburb of Middle River when the idea of becoming an astronaut first crossed his mind. He still remembers the day when the school's Franciscan sisters rolled out a flickering black-and-white television so their students could watch one of the early manned Gemini missions. "It became an intriguing possibility to me," Jones recalled. "I started doodling space ships on paper and seriously thinking about the space program." Some 30 years later, Jones is now a veteran NASA astronaut who has been in space three times. He was scheduled to blast off from Cape Canaveral Jan. 19 aboard the space shuttle Atlantis but the launch has been postponed to no earlier than Feb. 6.

CNS photo by Michael Wojcik, The Beacon

Officer teaches forgiveness

Detective Steven McDonald, who was shot and paralyzed by a theft suspect in 1986, talks to students from St. Anthony of Padua School in Paterson, N.J., about forgiveness. With him are the school's principal, Salesian Sister Isabel Garza, and several students.

Colin Powell has fans at a Catholic school

RIDGELY, Md. (CNS) — There's rejoicing at the Benedictine School for Exceptional Children in Ridgely over the nomination of Gen. Colin Powell as secretary of state. But there's also a tinge of regret that Powell won't have the top job. "He would make a wonderful president, and I hope I live to see that day," said Benedictine Sister Jeannette Murray, director of the school, which is in the Diocese of Wilmington, Del. Sister Jeannette and the staff at the school, which serves children with developmental disabilities, have great admiration for Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They met him when he came to the school in the mid-1990s to visit his Jamaican nephew, and he now serves on the school's advisory board.

Pope gives Vatican employees bonus for work in jubilee year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II gave Vatican employees a bonus of about $500 to mark the end of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. The Vatican press office confirmed Jan. 17 that "as a sign of appreciation" to Vatican employees for their extra jubilee workload, each would receive an additional 1 million lire — roughly $500 at the current exchange rate — in their Jan. 27 paychecks. "We are very pleased," said Alessandro Candi, secretary of the Association of Vatican Lay Employees, "both for the recognition and for what the news means from the economic point of view."

Pope names 37 cardinals from 22 countries, including U.S.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II named a record-high 37 new cardinals from 22 countries Jan. 21, including three from the United States: Cardinals-designate Edward M. Egan of New York, Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington and Avery Dulles, an 82-year-old Jesuit theologian. The new cardinals, who will formally accept their position at a consistory at the Vatican Feb. 21, include 12 Vatican administrators and nine residential archbishops from Latin America — by far the largest such group from any region. The biggest surprise was the size of the pope's list. Once again, the pope waived the church's technical limit of 120 cardinals who are under age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a papal conclave. He named 33 new voting-age cardinals, which means that, barring any deaths, the total will be 128 by the time of the Feb. 21 consistory.

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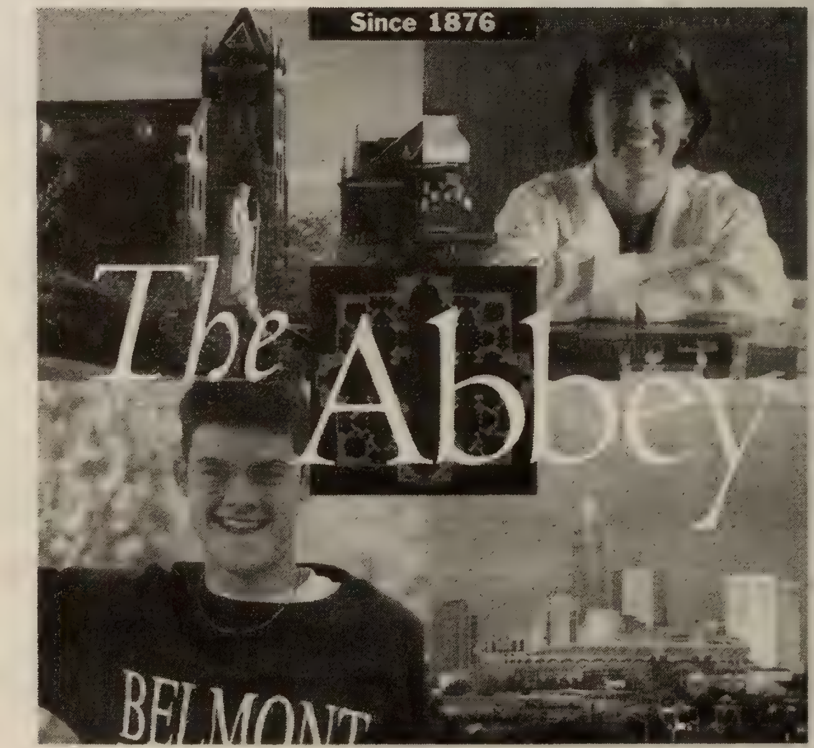

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College student gives youth a taste of the “real world”

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HUNTERSVILLE - Matt Smith is not a household name, yet when he goes to the mall or walks down the street or on campus at Georgia Tech University, people literally run to greet him or to catch a glimpse of him in person. He is not a musical artist or an actor, but teens and young and older adults grow nervous and excited when they see him. How did this 22-year-old college senior gain overnight fame? He was one of the cast members on MTV’s “The Real World.”

Through laughter and amid camera flashes, Smith, dressed in thrift-store vintage clothing seen as chic these days with teens and young adults, shared his story of faith with diocesan youth at St. Mark Church in Huntersville on the evening of Jan. 20.

“The Real World,” mostly popular among those under age 40, began nearly 10 years ago in New York with the first set of seven young adults, under the age of 25, chosen by MTV producers and directors. Those chosen have to live together for a predetermined time and have their days and nights and comings and goings taped to be aired on MTV in a weekly program.

Since its first airing, the show’s popularity has spread, and people from across the country and all over the world have frantically sent in audition videotapes of themselves and have gone to designated areas to audition in person. The show has been taped in Los Angeles, Boston, London, and, this year, New Orleans was the host city.

Smith auditioned, and much to his surprise, was picked to be one of the lucky seven. He and his roommates lived in a mansion in the uptown area of New Orleans and had to work on a cable-access show with his cast members for five months. The object of the show is to place people of varying backgrounds together to create an interesting weekly, half-hour show.

Smith is a cradle Catholic from Hiawassee, Ga., near the southern North Carolina border, who has ties to the Diocese of Charlotte through his confirmation by Bishop William G. Curlin at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hayesville in 1995. Smith was teamed up with a young Mormon woman, a gay male housemate and others from all parts of the country on the show and was placed in a city with a reputation for providing visitors with much recreation, so much so, it is nicknamed, “The Big Easy.” Was the lure of Bourbon Street and the other nightlife enough to sway him? In fact, it was quite the opposite.

His attending daily Mass during the show inspired his roommates to attend church with him, and they all attended Mass as a group on Easter Sunday. He was able to share his faith with others, which is what he believes was his purpose for being chosen for the show.

“It [daily Mass] gave me a reminder of who I was, and I thought it would keep me solid,” said Smith. “Every time I go, I am reminded of who I am because when you go to Mass, no one cares who you are. I opened my roommates’ eyes to a different kind of faith. Wanting to share my faith was a huge reason for going on the show.”

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Matt Smith of MTV’s “The Real World” and Kathleen Lewis, coordinator of youth ministry at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, share a hug before Smith’s talk with diocesan youth at the parish on Jan. 20.

Worldwide popularity was also a motivating factor for Smith’s decision to audition for the show. “I have to admit that I figured it would be fun to be famous. I have always had a real taste for adventure, and I am really excited about life — getting into college, getting out of my small town and seeing things happen, really finding my context...”

Throughout the show, viewers watched the roommates’ relationships unfold, sometimes turbulently, as they simply co-existed through day-to-day experiences. However, Smith said that many hours of tape ended up on the editing room floor and not on screen.

“What you see is manipulated; they have that power. Everyone wanted something to air on the show that didn’t. I was, and continue to be, a little disappointed that the result of each of our own characters is so shallow and that they avoided some exciting plots.”

He mentioned that the roommates’ visits to young cancer patients at a children’s hospital was never shown and that their attending church was also eliminated from the final cut. “You never see the spiritual renewal and shifting that we had in the house. You don’t hear Danny [one of the roommates] saying ‘I went to Catholic Mass for the first time, and I’ve never felt so welcomed and felt so good about myself in a church in my whole life.’”

Smith also talked about his virginity and his commitment to chastity until marriage on the show and to the youth group. He said that he has had positive reactions to his openness about his lifestyle and that he hopes people will live by his example. It is his willingness to share so much of himself that led him to being named the national spokesperson for Life Teen, a national organization dedicated to reaching teens through prayer, worship and praise music all de-

See REAL WORLD, page 14

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Charlotte Diocese joins sea of humanity at Vigil and March for Life in D.C.

Bishop William G. Curlin was one of more than 300 bishops, priests and deacons who celebrated the vigil Mass on Jan. 21.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WASHINGTON — Approaching the Washington Monument on a chilly, sun-filled day, Diocese of Charlotte seminarian Patrick Toole looked ahead at the sea of humanity and smiled.

"This is awesome," he breathed.

Toole, a seminarian at Theological College studying at the Catholic University of America, was among the tens of thousands who descended on Constitution Avenue in the nation's capitol for the 28th annual March for Life on Jan. 21. The massive pro-life event coincides with the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision that legalized abortion in the United States.

"Awesome" was a common description by many joining the multitudes for the March for Life and the vigil preceding it at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Sprinkled among the throngs: hundreds of parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte, linked by geography and a common cause, who came by the busloads to pray for defense of life.

"It's important for us to show our presence and let our representatives, senators and lawmakers know that there are still people who are not happy with Roe vs. Wade, that it is against the natural law, and it violates all the principles of sanctity of life," said Joe Nelli, Respect Life coordinator for St. Michael Church in Gastonia.

An all-night prayer vigil on Jan. 20 began with a Mass presided by Cardinal William Keeler of Baltimore and concelebrated by more than 300 bishops, priests and deacons. Pilgrims filled every imaginable space for the two-and-a-half-hour liturgy: Every pew, side chapel and aisle overflowed. Thousands stayed at the basilica overnight, going to confession, praying through holy hours and trying to get a few hours' sleep.

Youth comprised much of the pilgrimage, a detail applauded by church leaders and March officials.

"It is important for us to be here because so many unborn children are being killed, and that's something our country needs to take notice of," said Brittany Wakefield, a senior at Charlotte Catholic High School. "By us marching, it'll show how many people are for life."

At a Mass just before the March, Charlotte Diocese pilgrims were urged by their shepherd to live the church's teaching of respect for all life.

"Ask yourself, what is defense of life," the bishop said. "Is it for the unborn? Certainly it is. But it also means you consider all of life sacred in the way that we see, in the way that we act, in the relationships we have with people.

"The visits to the sick, the feeding of the poor, giving to the homeless: These are all ways of celebrating the sanctity of life."

Bishop Curlin, who concelebrated the vigil Mass the night before, said the church holds that life must be embraced from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death. Respect for life comes when people see God in one another, he added.

"Jesus said at the Last Supper, 'I will come again. I will live in you,'" the bishop said. "When you look at one another's faces, you are looking into the face of God."

Bishop Curlin said global respect for all life can be realized only through fundamental and personal conversion. "When we give our lives to Jesus, we will have sanctity of life throughout the world," he said. "But it starts within our own hearts and our own souls."

Fifteen-year-old Jennifer Sherrill, a pilgrim from St. Joseph Church in Newton, agreed that life is universally precious. "We're praying to stop unborn babies from getting killed — because everybody has the right to live," she said.

Lori Woody, a freshman at Belmont Abbey College, spoke of her involvement in the vigil and March as a prayerful two days. "I think it's good to stand up for what you believe in and to show others how many people there are who agree that pro-life is right," she said.

As the diocesan pilgrims prepared to take to Constitution Avenue with thousands of other marchers, praying silently, holding placards, and occasionally chanting and singing their pro-life sentiments, Terri Silecchia reflected on her reasons for traveling to Washington.

"Respect for life is such an important issue," said the parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte. "It's part of our Constitution, and I think it's what God wants us to do.

"This is the way I think Jesus would do things — in a very loving, prayerful spirit. By doing it this way, it sends more of a message. We're visible, but we're silent; sometimes, that makes a louder statement."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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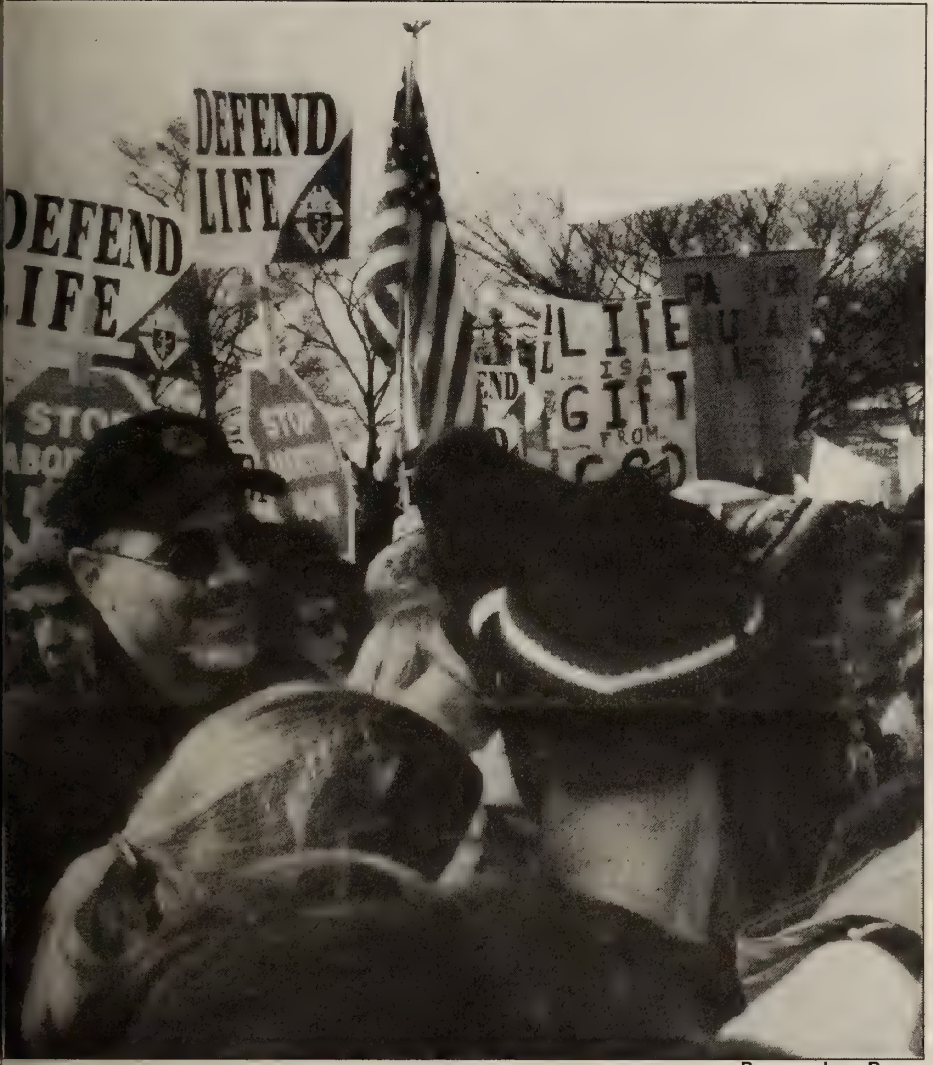

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

y, and occasionally chanted or sang pro-life songs during the March for Life on
ands took to the nation's capitol for the annual event.

ABOVE LEFT: Thousands poured into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a Mass to open the 2001 Vigil and March for Life.

ABOVE: Among the pilgrims marching at this year's event were hundreds of parishioners from the Diocese of Charlotte, including this group who chatted with Bishop Curlin before the March.

BELOW: Belmont Abbey College freshman Lori Woody and Charlotte Catholic High School senior Brittany Wakefield read from Scripture during a Mass Bishop Curlin presided at for Diocese of Charlotte pilgrims at the March for Life Jan. 21. Church leaders and March officials applauded the ever-increasing support young people give to pro-life efforts.

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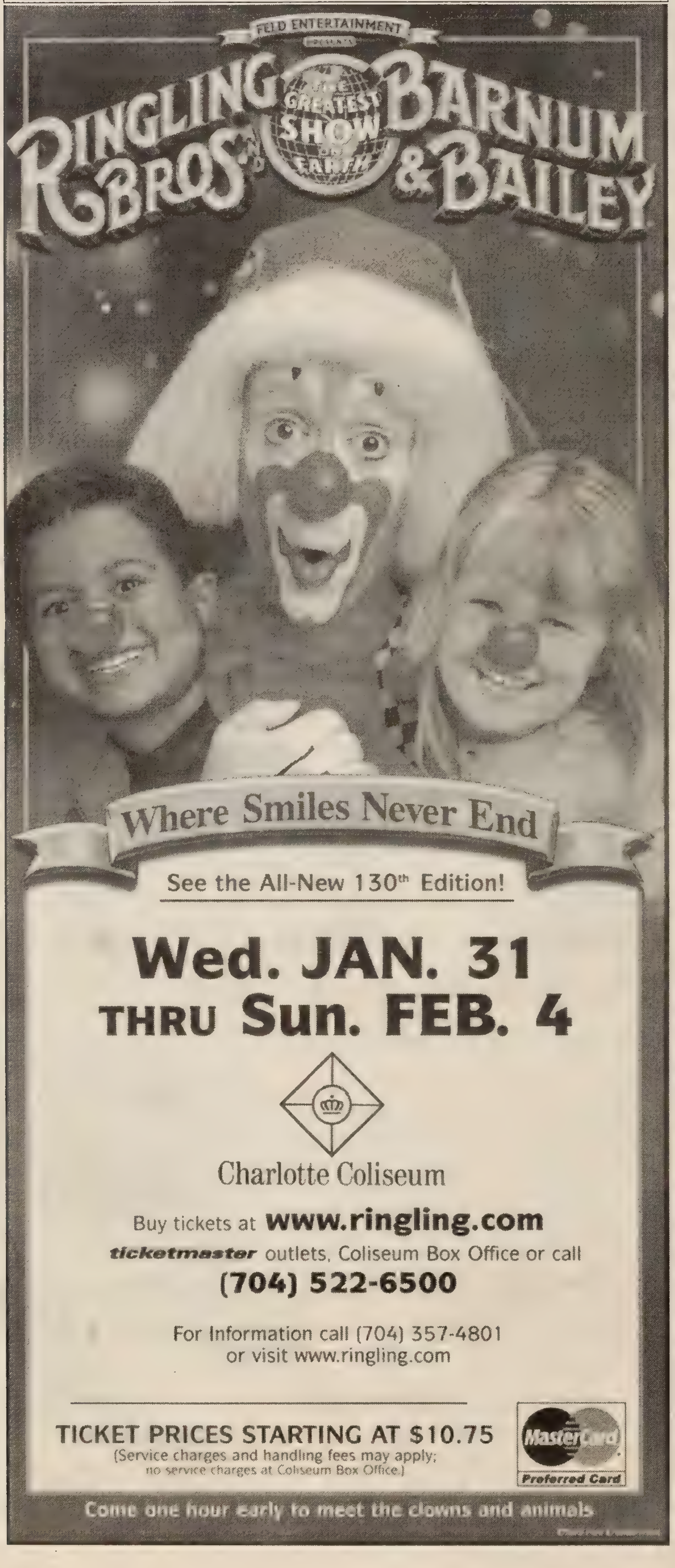
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Word to Life

January 28, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalm 71: 1-6, 15-17
2) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
3) Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

Alvin has been an ordained minister for nearly 30 years. He has loved his vocation unwaveringly, ministering to the sick and broken, supporting members of his flock through their various struggles, encouraging youth and children in the ways of faith and sharing in the joys of Christian community. But mostly he has loved "preaching the word."

Making a priority of speaking the word of God, ironically, has put him at odds with some of his brethren. It sometimes happens with churches, as with other institutions, that ends are overshadowed by means.

Ministers are pressured by budget concerns, day-to-day church operations, congregational "politics" and the theological and organizational wranglings of their larger denominational bodies.

Alvin always has worked hard to serve all those needs of his church, but often has felt that such matters have taken his attention from his primary purpose: listening to God and speaking his word to the people in his care.

Unfortunately, it was personal tragedy, the death of a son, that brought Alvin the understanding — and with it the courage — to be the kind of prophet the Lord wants.

Alvin's son, the middle of three children, was killed in a car accident at age 23. A handsome, popular, recent college grad, this young man was filled with promise. When he died Alvin saw his child's bright intellect, engaging personality and musical talent pass away. But as he worked through his grief he realized — as Paul points out in today's second reading — that what endures is his love for his son and the love his son had for him and so many others.

"I know what my main concerns have to be," Alvin said, "my family and preaching the word, and if others don't like that or want to push me to do otherwise, it doesn't affect me at all." The loss of his son put it all in perspective, he explained.

Now he understands the will of God, and as he sees his son in God's arms he understands the love of God. So that is all that motivates him as he becomes immune to worldly values and popular opinion.

In today's Gospel Jesus follows the will of God, and his neighbors don't like it. But their will has no power over him. I can imagine Alvin walking right along with him amid an indignant crowd and passing straight through, untouched.

QUESTIONS:

Do you have concerns that your make it difficult for you to follow the will of God? Which terms in Paul's description of love present the biggest stumbling blocks for you?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Jan. 28 - Feb. 3, 2001

Sunday, Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, Luke 4:21-30; **Monday,** Hebrews 11:32-40, Mark 5:1-20; **Tuesday,** Hebrews 12:1-4, Mark 5:21-43; **Wednesday (St. John Bosco),** Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15, Mark 6:1-6; **Thursday,** Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24, Mark 6:7-13; **Friday (Presentation of the Lord),** Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40; **Saturday (Sts. Blasé and Ansgar),** Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21, Mark 6:30-34

Readings for the week of Feb. 4 - 10, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11; **Monday (St. Agatha),** Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday (St. Paul Miki & Companions),** Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday,** Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday (St. Jerome Emiliani),** Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday,** Genesis 3:1-8, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday (St. Scholastica),** Genesis 3:9-24, Mark 8:1-10

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Education, from page 1

around the school during class time and may sit with them during lunch.

With Sacred Heart School next door from the church and the cafeteria in the church basement area, the church and its staff are a daily part of the students' lives.

"We get the extra Mass which is good because we have more time to be with Jesus," said Virginia Ball, a 13-year-old seventh grader. "It is nice to be so close to church because what you learn in religion class, you can think about while in Mass."

The students in kindergarten through eighth grade attend weekly Mass with their own parish priest, and each grade level is able to take part as commentators, lectors, altar servers, gift bearers and other helpers during the Mass.

"Each grade takes turns being a part of the Mass, and this builds the adult community by involving them in the church community at an early age," said Kathleen Miller, principal. "They look forward to taking leadership roles in the Mass, and they enjoy seeing their parents, whom we invite to share in the worship."

Father Putnam engages the students in an interactive homily, where the students raise their hands as if in a classroom setting to answer questions that he asks.

"I love Father Putnam because he is really involved with the school, and I am going to Mass even more often than my parents are because I go twice, sometimes three times a week, if my family goes twice during the weekend," said eighth-grader Brian Weber, 13, who said that his education and the positive relationships he has with his teachers are most important to him. "It is nice going an extra day because I am getting that extra dose of good, Catholic 'stuff.' It can't hurt."

Additionally, at the beginning of each month, the class, in charge of the Mass for that week, presents a positive character trait to the young congregation. At the end of the month, students who have best exemplified that trait receive certificates. "It teaches Christian morals and values," said Miller.

The presence of the church offers a sense of oneness for the students, principal and faculty and enhances their working in a Catholic school setting.

"Having the school there adds a new dimension to parish life because, by its nature, the school demands more attention," said Father Putnam. "You can get a sense of accomplishment because you have the opportunity to touch so many students' lives that you don't get in another setting, and it is a good opportunity for the children to interact with a priest on a less formal basis."

The school principal said that she appreciates the relationship between the school and the church. "It is one parish family with school and church combined. It is very enriching because I can call the church office, and they can call me; we work together. We are one church family, and we emphasize family at the school."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Schools
Celebrate

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Textbook Evaluation

From left to right, Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert, assistant superintendent of schools; Marianne Rahn, seventh- and eighth-grade English teacher from St. Pius X School in Greensboro; Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent of schools, look at textbooks for their classes. All diocesan sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade English teachers gathered at the pastoral center in Charlotte on Jan. 23 to evaluate textbooks from five different companies and approved by the state. They judged the various textbooks on their strengths and how they would fit in with their schools' curriculums.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Creating better world helps build kingdom of God, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — From rejoicing over the birth of a child to working for peace, anything anyone does to create a better world contributes to building the kingdom of God, Pope John Paul II said.

In creating a better world for all people, "we are called first of all to cancel fear of the future," the pope said Jan. 24 at his weekly general audience.

"Love for humanity, for its material and spiritual well-being and for authentic progress must animate all believers," the pope told an estimated 4,000 people gathered in the Paul VI Audience Hall.

"Every act undertaken to create a better future, a more habitable earth and a more fraternal society participates, even if in an indirect way, in building the kingdom of God," he said.

Pope John Paul said it is obvious many people today, especially the young, feel paralyzed by the destruction, ugliness and evil they see around them.

"If we look at the world and its history, at first sight it seems that war, violence, oppression, injustice and moral degradation dominate," he said.

But as the Bible teaches, "the situation arose because man freely chose not to follow God's plan and so destroyed the original harmony between the creature and the Creator," the pope said.

The world's men and women, he said, need to undergo conversion, to walk along the path of righteousness and to follow God's "design of peace and love, of truth and justice."

God has given men and women the gifts of wisdom and virtue, he said, and with God's help, people can use their gifts to create a better world.

The pope asked Christians to share their confidence in God's power and their hope for the future especially with young people, who can be so frightened that they become immobilized or apathetic or turn to drugs or violence.

"In addition, joy must emerge for the birth of every baby so that each child is welcomed with love and preparations are made for each one to grow in body and spirit," he said.

"In this way," Pope John Paul said, "one collaborates in the work of Christ himself who, defining his mission, said: 'I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.'"

Guest Column

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP.
GUEST COLUMNIST

Today is the first day of the rest of your life

At the beginning of the new year, we look back with nostalgia over the last year and forward with hope to what next year may bring. Looking back, we may find happy events: Our oldest daughter got married, our son was made superintendent, our grandfather retired, our in-laws got sick and blamed us for it.

There are those who look back with regret at the last year as a lost year, as missed chances, lost opportunities. For them the new year's events mean another year coming by, getting older, the extra wrinkle, the extra grey hair for those who have it. There are also those who look back with thankfulness and at the new year as a new challenge: These people never grow old, they believe that until death, there must be a chance for success, improvement, joy, thankfulness. A few days ago I met an 82-year-old man who was learning how to play the violin, and why not?

There are those who don't care, and that's a real pity, because there will never be any challenge for them. As a matter of fact, everything is dead and buried for this category of people. "I don't care" is a terrible disease.

Let us briefly reflect on the paradox of time. In a recent poll, the most common expression in the year 1998 was "Good morning, how are you?" In the year 1999, the most common expression was "I'm sorry, I have no time." Unfortunately, this is also the common excuse we give for all our failings and shortcomings. We don't have time to call, to write, to smile, to eat, to sleep, to work.

Parents admit they don't have time to take care of their children. The children don't have time to listen or do what the parents want them to do. They both run in opposite directions and never meet, or they run against each other and crash. Would it not be a better idea to make our journey walking side by side, helping each other, maybe holding hands? Husbands don't have time for their wives, and vice versa. They don't have time to love, to share — or if they try, they say, "It is a wasted time." Would it not be a better idea to keep on trying and wasting more time, because, to your surprise, that wasted time becomes the most valuable time?

So, we don't have time, and what makes that more remarkable is that we are living in an age when modern technology has furnished our lives and our homes with all sorts of time-saving gadgets. It is an age of instant coffee, TV dinners, and on. Just remember what it was like to boil a kettle then, to light the fire in the morning — and yet our grandparents very rarely, if ever, complained that they had no time. There was always time for everything then; there is no time for anything now.

The mistake is that some people think that there is a way to find happiness, and happiness is a destination. The truth is that there is no way to happiness; happiness is the way. Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

There is no point in regretting or wishing "If only we could begin all over again," because we can and we must. Life begins whenever we want it to begin. Today, in fact, no matter what age you are, is the very first day of the rest of your life.

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville and a regular contributor to The Catholic News & Herald.

Catholic Schools Week

FATHER JAMES HAWKER

Celebrate Catholic Schools

Thirty-five of us were in the first grade class at St. Patrick's School in Roxbury, Mass. The building, constructed in the nineteenth century, was an impressive structure even then in 1945. We who participated in this inner-city school were so happy to have this haven of hope in our little lives. Our parents, good and loving people, were eager that we be enriched by the enlivening experience of attending that beautiful bastion of Faith.

Even today I recall so vividly the rotund, robust nun, Sister Mary Joseph. Whenever she shared the story of Sammy Sassafras, our eyes would be like saucers and our hearts would be filled with joy. For all of us Sammy, the African-American boy, became a special and treasured friend. He told us about the love of Jesus for him and how much he, in turn, loved the Lord. He heard Jesus speak to him and told us to listen to Jesus' call to each of us. "Come to Me, Come to Me," Jesus says, "Come to Me. Come when you're happy. Come when you're lonely." Jesus says, "Come to Me." Sister Mary Joseph loved to tell the tale of Sammy and she knew how delighted we were to hear it. She was so aware that Sammy, with whom we all identified, brought each of us to Jesus.

More than half a century has passed since those days at St. Patrick's School. Yet, the memories of Sister Mary Joseph and Sammy Sassafras, having been etched deeply in my consciousness, are still with me. I've never failed to understand and appreciate how the sublimity of God's love is discovered so often in the simplicity of the human story. The ultimate purpose of the Catholic School is to tell the story and assist the hearer to be touched and transformed by its message. My first-grade teacher in the worn but wonderful building set the stage for each of us to come to Jesus when, whether happy or sad, the events and experiences of life unfolded.

Throughout the last one hundred and fifty years dedicated priests, brothers, sisters and laity serving in Catholic schools have proclaimed and explained, exemplified and lived the magnificent message of the Lord Jesus. They have assisted those in their care to mature in their understanding and appreciation of the ineffable truth that every child is truly valuable and loveable in the mind and heart of God. They have stressed that each is gifted and called to be gift. These teachers, whether ministering in urban, inner city, suburban or rural schools, have implemented the common challenge of cultivating the minds, stimulating the hearts and motivating the behavior of those entrusted to them.

Sister Mary Joseph, who personified so powerfully the purpose of the Catholic school, went home to the Lord many years ago. As a truly committed Catholic educator she was such a splendid story herself. So many of us who have been enriched by the enviable memories of our formative years in a Catholic school can recount similar stories. Weren't we blessed to be the beneficiaries of such unforgettable encounters? They taught us what it means to be a Catholic who lives as a friend and follower of the risen Christ. During this week and always we have every reason to celebrate Catholic Schools.

Father James Hawker is the Vicar for Education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Between parent and child: facing hard truths

You never forget your first car. I remember every detail about mine. It was a Chevy Nova, sky blue and beautiful. I was in college and couldn't afford it without financial help from my parents. Their only condition was that I drive carefully. Not two months after I got the car, disaster struck. I was heading home far too late from a high school reunion. I remember thinking: it would be nice just to close my eyes and rest for a second. My next memory was seeing my car wrapped around another car. Nobody, thank God, was hurt. But the Nova was history.

It took me a day to call home. My mother was understandably upset. My father was away on business and she suggested I call him. "That won't be necessary," I said. "I'm not telling Dad about the accident." I don't remember exactly what my mother said, but the gist of it was: it's going to be kind of hard to explain the missing car over the next few years.

She was right. I had to come clean and tell him. But I was sure my father would lose it and chew me out and that he'd never trust or help me again. I felt like a frightened, stupid fool. Three days after the conversation with my mother, with a knot in my stomach, sweaty palms and a tension headache, I called my father and broke the news. Long pause. Dad asked, "Was anyone hurt?" "No." "All right, all right, relax, we'll talk about it when I get home," was all he said. That was it. No screaming, no put-down, no "How could you be so stupid?" Just concern coupled with the relief that no one had been hurt.

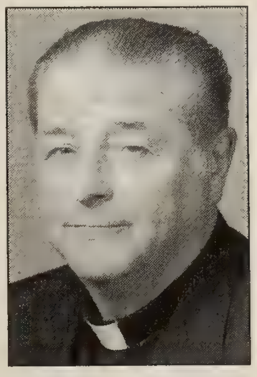
Many young people sell parents short, seeing their limitations and not their strengths. Parents often misjudge themselves, too. They may have no idea how great their coping skills are - until they are most needed.

I had a visit one day from a young couple who had been dating for about a year. Something was making them tense. Finally, Valerie broke the news: "Father Jim, we're pregnant." I was happy for their expected child, if not thrilled with the circumstances, but there were more problems. "Look, Father, Kevin and I love each other and we believe that it is wrong to get rid of the baby." I, obviously, agreed. "But Father, if my parents find out that not only were we having sex, but that I'm pregnant, they'll kill me."

True to Valerie's predictions, her father went crazy when faced with the news. He yelled, cursed and called her a slut. He promised to throw her out of the house. Meanwhile, her mother cried, and her boyfriend Kevin just kept quiet. After hours of hysteria, we called it a night. Valerie's dad stayed angry for about a month. But he did not throw her out of the house and, gradually, he came around. He started to drive Valerie to the doctor, he nagged her about eating right, and he complained about her smoking, because "it would hurt the kid."

When little Vanessa was born, I had the privilege of baptizing her. When the christening was over, I stood at the door of the church to say good-bye. The person who lovingly cradled this beautiful baby in his arms was Grandpa, his eyes bright with tenderness. For beyond the anger, confusion and pain of seeing his daughter make a mistake, he was what all good parents strive to be: loving, compassionate and resilient.

"Coming clean" may not be easy for adults or young people. But it's almost always better - for everyone.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

May Catholic Weddings Be Performed Outdoors?

Q. Does the Catholic Church permit a marriage to be performed by a priest outdoors? Our daughter and her fiance, who is not Catholic, are thinking of having the ceremony in a local park, in a lovely area where weddings are popular.

Is this arrangement possible? We've been told it is not, but that sometimes the priest will allow it. What is the rule? Is it left to the discretion of the priest? (New York)

A. The general law of the church requires that a marriage between two Catholics or between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic be celebrated in a parish church unless specific permission is granted by the bishop for the marriage to take place elsewhere.

The reason is that our churches, our buildings for prayer and worship, are considered sacred places where our most sacred events should take place. Certainly the sacramental marriage of Christian people — two Catholics or a Catholic and a baptized Christian of another denomination — is one of them.

Thus, not only because it is an act of worship, but because a wedding is an especially solemn public act of our faith, the parish church is obviously the preferred location.

As I said, exceptions to this rule are possible at the discretion of the local bishop. One reason, for example, could be when one or both partners, Catholic or otherwise, have so little connection with or respect for their Christian faith that a church wedding would be meaningless for them, perhaps even for their families.

The usual policy for your diocese would be the one set by your own bishop.

If the non-Catholic party in an interfaith marriage is not baptized (in other words, the marriage would not be a Christian sacrament, according to Catholic theology) the wedding may be celebrated either in church or some other suitable place; that might be an outdoor location.

These regulations are found in the Code of Canon Law (1118).

The Red Mass

Q. Our Catholic newspaper referred recently to a Red Mass, which was celebrated by the bishop. Could you explain what is such a Mass? (Wisconsin)

A. The so-called Red Mass originated about 800 years ago in Europe to bring judges and other lawyers together to ask God's guidance in their profession. It received its name from the red robes then worn by judges and from the red vestments used when celebrating the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The custom has continued through the centuries in several European nations. Since 1928, it is observed annually in many dioceses of our country to ask the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit for those in the legal profession.

Some dioceses also celebrate a similar White Mass for physicians and others in the health care professions. It is called white because of the usual color of uniforms associated with those professions and because it is frequently celebrated around the feast of St. Luke, patron of physicians, when white Mass vestments are worn.

A free brochure in English or Spanish answering questions Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Catholic Schools Week

BY DR. MICHAEL SKUBE
GUEST COLUMN

Celebrate Catholic Schools

"Parents have a fundamental and primary right to make decisions about the education of their children; consequently Catholic parents must be able to choose an education in harmony with their religious convictions." Pope John Paul II, Mexico, 1999

2001 - A spiritual and academic odyssey is what we are celebrating during a special week, Jan. 28 - Feb. 2. We ask you to share the spirit with the 7,300 students in our 17 schools.

We celebrate that a Catholic school education puts the focus on a child's growth - mentally and spiritually. That's because a Catholic school education nourishes more than the ability to read and write. It also helps children learn to respect themselves and others and gives them a real appreciation for the beauty and wonder of the world around them. Children are given an education that connects them to both the real world and the spiritual world. It is an environment where wisdom and wonder bloom.

It was in that special spirit and energy inspired by the millennium that the Catholic Church celebrated the Jubilee all during 2000. Even though the Jubilee year concludes in January 2001, the millennium is just beginning. That's what inspired this year's theme: Celebrate Catholic Schools. For all of us involved in Catholic School education, the celebration continues.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, Catholic Schools Week 2001 offers a focus for each day of the week from the Sunday opening liturgy to Friday's final activities.

Sunday, Jan. 28. Celebrate Catholic Schools in our parishes.

Monday, Jan. 29. Celebrate Catholic Schools in our community.

Tuesday, Jan. 30. Celebrate Catholic Schools through our students.

Wednesday, Jan. 31. Celebrate Catholic schools in our Nation. This is the National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools.

Thursday, Feb. 1. Celebrate Catholic Schools through our volunteers.

Friday, Feb. 2. Celebrate Catholic Schools through our teachers and support staff.

Come celebrate during this week because our Catholic Schools:

* Emphasize spiritual, religious and value formation

* Have a proven record of academic excellence

* Provide a challenging atmosphere

* Maintain a secure environment

* Work closely with parents for the good of their children

* Have educators and support staff who believe all children can learn

Our goal is not only to touch the lives of children now and in the future but for all eternity.

Celebrate our mission with us!

Dr. Skube is superintendent of diocesan schools.

Real World, from page 7

signed with their lives and challenges as the main focus. He said that being involved with Life Teen is what helped him through some rough patches in his life.

"After I watched the show, I found that Matt was someone who was openly Catholic, comfortable in his prayer life and firm in his own convictions," said Kathleen Lewis, coordinator of St. Mark Youth Ministry who also heads the Life Teen Ministry at her church. "His connection to Life Teen is very solid, and I called to ask him to speak to the teens."

Smith said that overall, he is glad that he went on the show and still keeps in touch with most of the roommates. He wants people to realize that he is just a normal person who wants to share his faith in God and his church. "I believe that God has given me lots of grace, and I try to do what is best. My faith makes me who I am and gives me the confidence and freedom that I have in public. It gives me this cocky flair that God is going to watch after me, that I have nothing to fear. With him, we can do anything together."

Father Dave Brzoska, St. Mark parochial vicar, was also a frequent viewer of the show. "You see things on TV, and you really question if that person is just saying something for TV, but he was really genuine. What really struck me was his authenticity and joy about his faith and about sharing his life. I think it really showed that he was coming from the heart, and I think his life has been touched and affected by his faith and belief in God."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Catholic Schools Week 2001:

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

What is Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social values in their students. Catholic Schools Week is a key part of the year-long National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools.

When is Catholic Schools Week 2001?

Catholic Schools Week begins the last Sunday in January. In 2001 it will be observed January 28- February 3.

What is the theme of CSW?

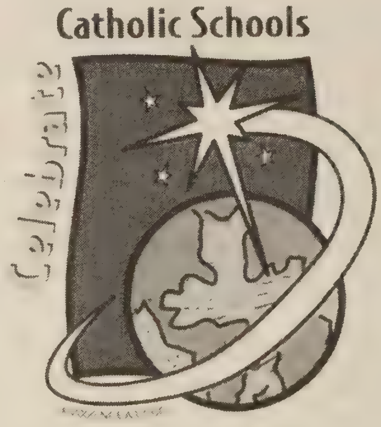
The theme of the 2001 Catholic Schools Week is: "Celebrate Catholic Schools".

Who sponsors Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the United States Catholic Conference (USCC). Individual dioceses and local Catholic elementary and secondary schools develop and promote their own CSW activities each year.

What does Catholic Schools Week celebrate?

Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life; it is an education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S.



What is the purpose of the Catholic Schools Week celebration?

The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country. During this week, many dioceses and schools encourage parents to take full advantage of the benefits of local Catholic schools by enrolling their children in those schools. CSW is also an occasion for schools to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to the local Catholic schools.

How long has Catholic Schools Week been around?

The Catholic Schools Week celebration became an annual event in 1974. The first national Catholic Schools Week slogan was "Different Where It Counts—Message, Community, Service."

Where is Catholic Schools Week celebrated?

CSW is celebrated in communities across the U.S. that have Catholic elementary and secondary schools. State governors, big city mayors, and small town councils have joined in to proclaim "Catholic Schools Week" in their localities year after year.

When is National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools observed?

National Appreciation Day falls on the Wednesay of Catholic Schools Week (this year: January 31, 2001). This event was founded in 1990 to encourage Catholic school supporters nationwide to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to our country. On this day in particular, advocates are urged to wear a button showing their support.

When is National Appreciation Day For Catholic School Teachers observed?

This day in honor of the 167,000 Catholic school teachers nationwide is scheduled on Friday of Catholic Schools Week (this year: February 2).

Classifieds

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Director of Development: The diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Social Services. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Minimum of 2 years' experience in fund-raising and marketing. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan boards. Please submit resume by February 14 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 700 families near Raleigh, North Carolina is building new church and desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have a BA in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time salary of 35K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by February 28 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Principal, Elementary: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Raleigh, NC announces its opening for Principal, effective July 1, 2001. We are a parish-based K-8 coeducational school serving 538 students. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have an advanced degree and administrative experience. Prospective candidates interviewed immediately. Direct inquiries to: Principal Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 2710 Overbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27608. (919)782-1670 ext.123; Fax (919)420-2188.

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Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia (south of Atlanta), is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2001-2002 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment as well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume to John Cobis, Principal, OLMCHS, 861 Highway 270, Fairburn, GA 30213.

Teachers: Cardinal Gibbons High School anticipates the availability of full-time faculty positions for the 2001-2002 school year in the following subjects: English, Spanish, Latin, Mathematics, and Theology. Interested candidates should send their resumes to: Brother Michel Bettigole, OSF, Principal, Cardinal Gibbons High School, 1401 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27607. E-mail - brmichel@catholic.org

Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Diocese of Savannah seeks a qualified director for this ministry in south Georgia. Qualifications: Practicing Catholic in good standing; at least 3 years' relevant experience; master's degree or equivalent in appropriate field; suitable organizational skills; demonstrated capacity to work collegially; strong oral and written communication skills; ability to travel independently within Diocese. Spanish language ability a plus. For job description and application contact Youth Ministry Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax (912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com

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On first workday, Bush reverses abortion funding policy abroad

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — On his first workday in office, President Bush signed an order reinstating restrictions on U.S. funds for international family planning groups that encourage abortion.

The order was signed Jan. 22 as tens of thousands of abortion protesters went home after the annual March for Life from the Washington Monument to the Supreme Court. The march marked the Jan. 22 anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion in the United States.

Bush's order bans the use of U.S. aid funds by international organizations that spend any money — even from other sources — on either promoting or performing abortions. Two days after he took office in 1993, on the 20th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, President Clinton rescinded the ban on such funding, which had been in place since it was instituted in 1984 by President Reagan.

Bush's action was hailed by pro-life organizations ranging from the Knights of Columbus to the National Right to Life Committee.

"We are heartened that one of President Bush's first acts was to set a pro-life course for his administration," said a statement from Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

At a press briefing, Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said the action means the U.S. government "will no longer be using taxpayer dollars to encourage abortion."

Reversing the Mexico City policy was listed by NRLC as one of its priorities for the new administration. Johnson said the Clinton administration's policy "collided with the cultural and religious values and the laws that exist in the majority of developing nations."

But the International Planned Parenthood Federation predicted programs to prevent unplanned pregnancies would suffer the most under the new policy because abortion services themselves were already ineligible for U.S. funds. A member of the European Union Employment and Social Affairs Commission said she would encourage the president of the European Union to raise the issue in a meeting with Bush planned for June. The European Union is an alliance of nations for economic, social, defense and foreign policies.

Bush's plan to reverse his predecessor's action on the Mexico City policy was announced by his press secretary, Ari Fleischer.

"This policy recognizes our country's long history of providing international health care services, including voluntary family planning to couples around the world who want to make free and responsible decisions about the number and spacing of their children," read Fleischer's statement.

Bush's statement said there would be no new restrictions on funding for organizations that treat women suffering from injuries or illness that result from abortions.

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Saint Leo School in Winston-Salem varsity basketball player Ashley Washing gives a stuffed lion, the school's mascot, to members of the varsity Blessed Sacrament School varsity team. An eighth-grader from Blessed Sacrament, in Burlington, recently passed away in a tragic automobile accident, which also took the life of her father. Her mother and brother, the latter of whom is in the first grade at the school, are the only survivors. The lion is a gift for the boy. A hand-made rosary, sympathy cards from students, and a check for $2,025 from St. Leo School families was also presented to the team for the family.

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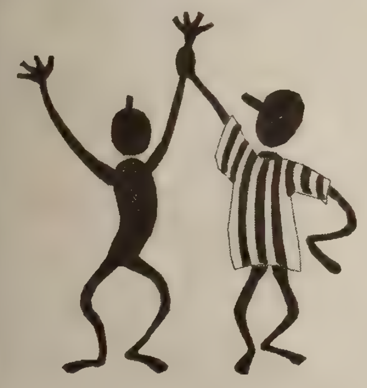

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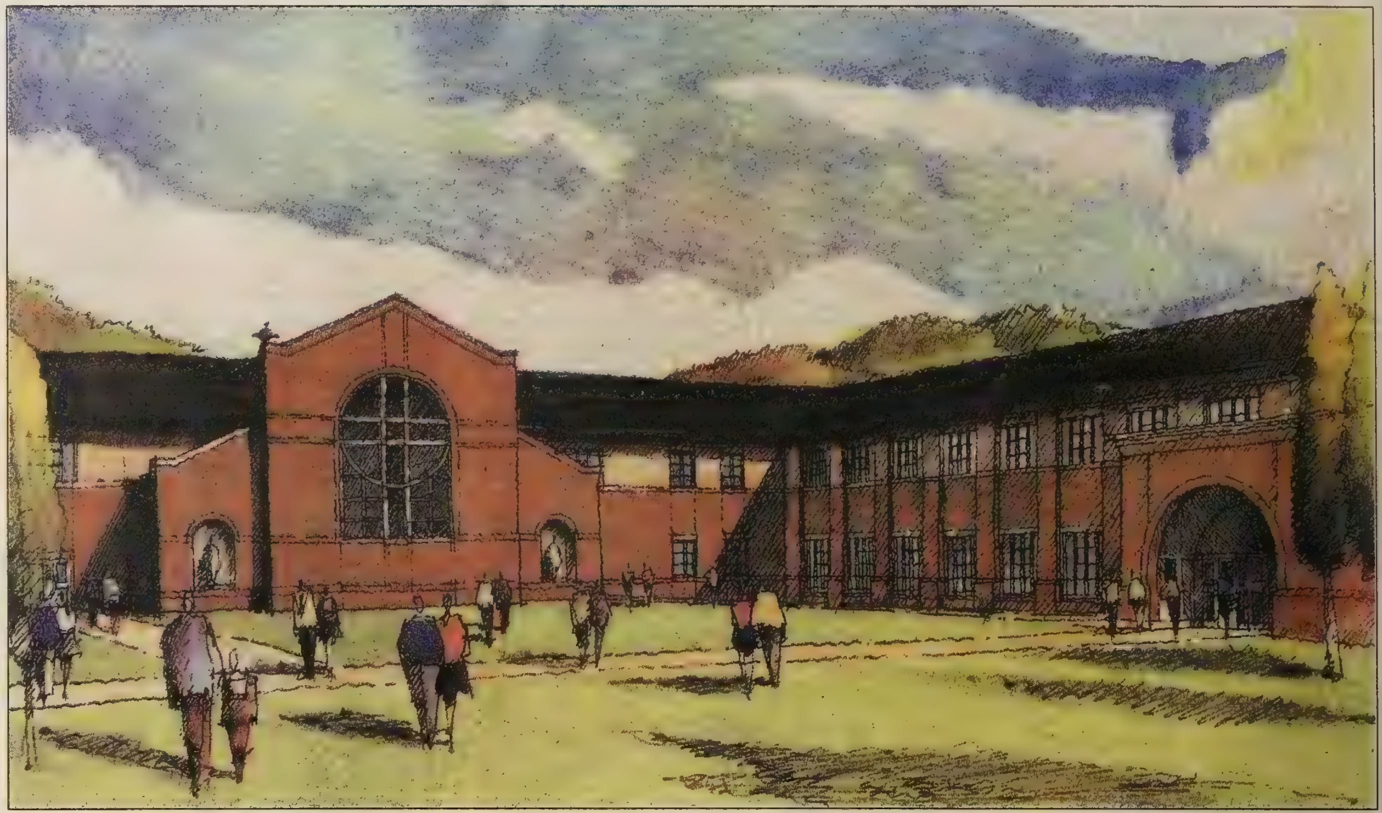
A foundation of faith supports school of tomorrow

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor



WINSTON-SALEM — In the not-too-distant past, a vision of a new Catholic high school facility in the Triad may have seemed light years away. For the parents whose tenacity and fervor helped ignite a blueprint for the education of their children, the light at the end of the tunnel is now under construction at crossroad near Interstate 40, south of Kernersville on NC 66.

For the parents whose tenacity and fervor helped ignite a blueprint for the education of their children, the light at the end of the tunnel is now under construction at crossroad near Interstate 40, south of Kernersville on NC 66.

This coming fall — the 2001-02 school year — students at Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School will enter the freshly painted corridors as the first incoming classes of their new state-of-the-art, high-tech Catholic High School.

By all rights, this new school is the result of overwhelming community support. "It's exciting to see this dream of a new Bishop McGuinness High School become a reality through the generosity and hard work of so many in the Triad," said Bishop William G. Curlin, bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte. The capital campaign surpassed its goal by a significant margin.

An increase in campaign donations brings benefits that many hoped for, but few families realistically expected. "We were able to reduce the amount of the capital fee, in part, because of the success of the campaign," said William G. Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. Instead of approximately $900 per family, the capital fee - an amount every Triad Catholic School family pays - will be nearly $200 less.

"Dreams can certainly come true," said BMHS Principal George Repass. "Certainly that is the conclusion to be drawn from the school's extraordinary good fortune in obtaining such a wonderful yield from the capital campaign effort. Goals which address the broadening and deepening of our program opportunities will now be possible at the new site, which could not have otherwise been realized - goals such as broad-based technology support in all learning areas in the traditional core curriculum, as well as goals centered on the addition of programs in business education, the computer sciences, technology-supported activities in the arts, and the continuation of our strongly emphasized expansion of library/media resources."

"It has been a priority of mine to have a new Catholic high school in the Triad that prepares students to be faithful disciples of Christ and leaders in their church and community," said Bishop Curlin.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 2, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 21

Inside

Pope names record 44 cardinals

Places stamp on church governance, will help Holy Father govern Church for remainder of papacy.

...PAGE 3

Diocese responds to earthquake in India

...PAGE 5

Local News

Seminarian sees God in art, everyday life

...PAGE 4

African American Affairs Ministry event blends community, faith, heritage

...PAGE 7

CSS case manager helps those in need

...PAGE 16

Every Week

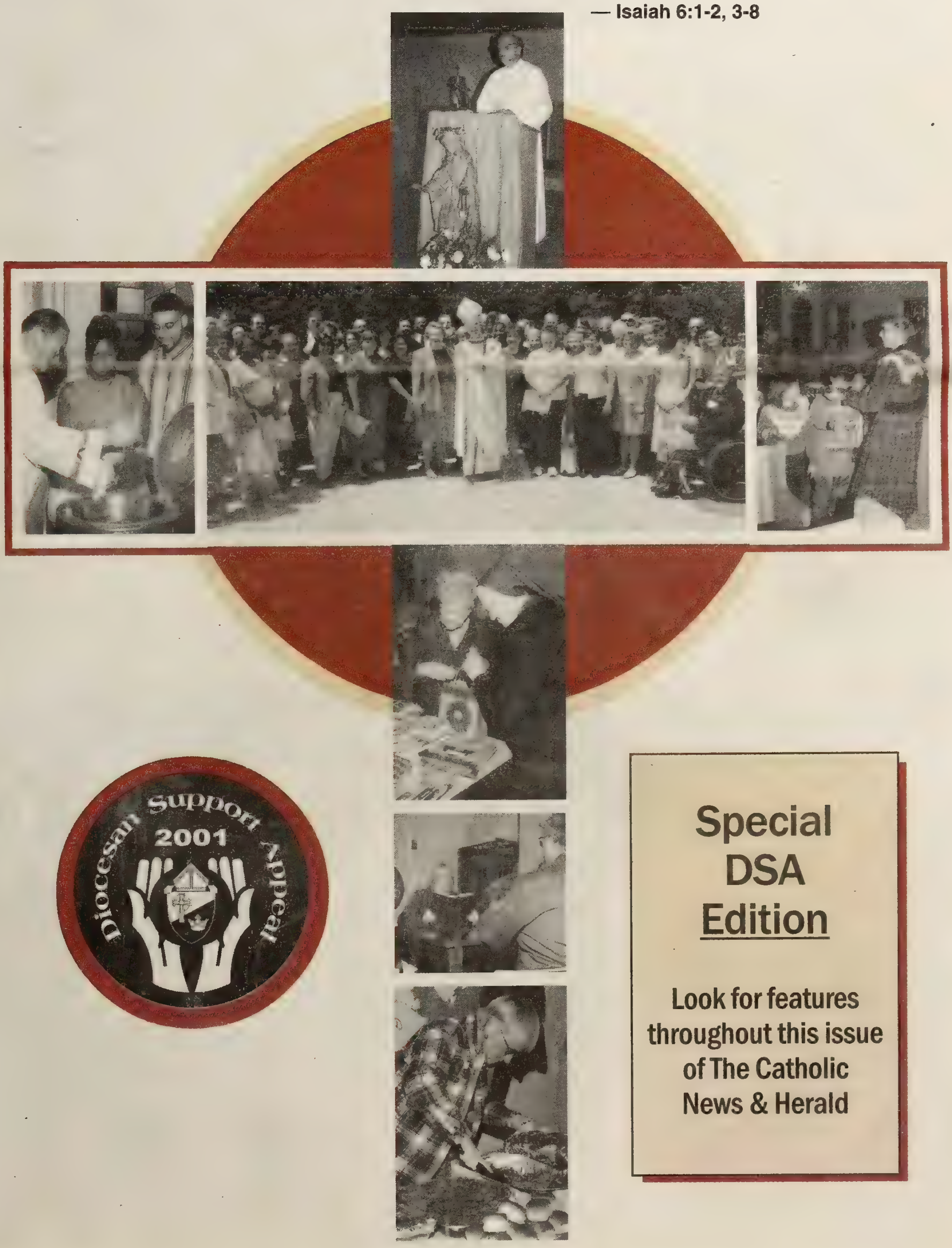
Entertainment
...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns
...PAGES 12-13

Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch ... Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men. —Luke 5: 4, 10

"Whom Shall I Send?"

— Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8



Diocesan Support Appeal 2001

Special DSA Edition

Look for features throughout this issue of The Catholic News & Herald

Church urged to help Americans move from tribalism to solidarity

NEW YORK (CNS) — Father Bryan N. Massingale, a professor at the Milwaukee archdiocesan seminary, St. Francis in Milwaukee, called in a New York lecture for the church to help Americans move away from tribalism to solidarity. In the Christian faith, diversity of colors and languages is not "reluctantly accepted" but "cherished and celebrated" as a gift of God, he said. Speaking at St. John's University in Queens Jan. 25, Father Massingale said the United States was undergoing a demographic change that would soon make non-Latino whites a minority group. The United States will cease to be a microcosm of Europe and will become a microcosm of the world, he said. Christians face the challenge of "interpretation of differences," and are called to undertake this task in a way that keeps pluralism from becoming tribalism, he said.

Pope signs revised constitution of Vatican City State

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has signed Vatican City State's first new constitution in 72 years, abolishing on paper practices and traditions already ruled out by previous popes, including use of the death penalty. The revised "basic law" of the 108.7-acre state confirms that the supreme pontiff is the sovereign of the state and governs it with full power. The law refers to the governance of Vatican territory, not the governance of the Roman Catholic Church. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Jan. 26 the text will be published "in a few days." "The new text updates the previous law, making a better distinction between legislative, executive and judicial powers," he said.

Catholics urged to stand up to fundamentalists

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Biblical fundamentalism is "creeping and finding its way into Catholic life" and a growing number of Catholics are being seduced by its religious naivete and oversimplistic approach to Scripture, according to the U.S. provincial superior of the Sulpicians. While attributing some of the defections to the active and even militant evangelizing efforts of fundamentalists, Sulpician Father Ronald D. Witherup also blamed the losses on weak or nonexistent Catholic Bible study programs, unwelcoming Catholic churches and poor preaching. "The reality is that the preaching quality in the United States among Catholic priests and deacons is not always of the highest caliber and is not always very biblical," he told a group of parish-based catechists, youth ministers and educators in a daylong program Jan. 11 in the Baltimore Archdiocese.

Photo CNS

BUSH TALKS WITH U.S. CATHOLIC LEADERS

President George W. Bush talks with U.S. Catholic leaders at the residence of the archbishop of Washington Jan. 25 in Hyattsville, Md. Clockwise from top left is the president, Cardinal-designate Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop of Washington; retired Washington Cardinal James A. Hickey (partially hidden from view); Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Alberto Gonzales, White House general counsel; and Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Obscured from view, but also present, were Washington Auxiliary Bishop William E. Lori, newly appointed bishop of Bridgeport, Conn.; and national security adviser Condoleeza Rice.

El Salvador earthquake provoked anxiety for relatives in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The January earthquake that killed at least 700 people in El Salvador also sent tremors through the hearts of Salvadorans in the United States. Broken and busy telephone lines made it a struggle for Salvadorans to learn about the safety of their relatives in the quake zone. Many in Los Angeles and elsewhere channeled their sufferings into prayers for the victims at weekend Masses. This was accompanied by fund raising to aid victims of the Jan. 13 quake. "The biggest thing is the uncertainty of not knowing if family members are dead or alive," said Jesuit Father Michael Kennedy, pastor at Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights. The Los Angeles Archdiocese has one of the largest Salvadoran populations in the United States, about 500,000.

Church in Chile wants further data on Pinochet years

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — With Chile remaining divided over the political legacy of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the Catholic Church has pushed for further clarification of the human rights situation during his 1973-90 dictatorial rule. It also has tried to steer a middle course between Pinochet's defenders and his critics. In a mid-January interview, Cardinal-designate Francisco Errazuriz Ossa of Santiago expressed hope that "when there has been some conclusion to the Pinochet case," the armed forces will provide further data on people who disappeared during that regime. Pinochet opponents say that these victims were kidnapped by the military. The church has praised an armed forces' report on 200 disappeared people, essentially endorsing the report's much contested credibility; but it has lent support to human rights groups that criticize the military for not providing all the available information.

Vatican, Anglican Communion announce new working group

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and the Anglican Communion announced the formation of an international working group to prepare a joint affirmation of faith and promote cooperative projects. The Anglican-Roman Catholic Working Group will be led by Anglican Bishop David Beetle of Highvale, South Africa, and by Catholic Archbishop John Bathersby of Brisbane, Australia, the Vatican said in an announcement Jan. 25, the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In addition, the group will have five Anglican and five Catholic members and a secretary from each side. The announcement said the working group, proposed by Catholic and Anglican bishops during a meeting in Canada in May, would try "to consolidate 30 years of ecumenical contact and dialogue."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 3 - 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Hispanic Center, Charlotte

February 4 - 6:30 p.m.
Mass
Davidson College, Davidson

February 9 - 1:30 p.m.
Mass
St. Pius X School, Greensboro

February 11 - 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

February 12 - 7:30 pm
Legislative Dinner with
Bishop Gossman, Raleigh

Diocesan planner

February

4 BELMONT — In celebration of the 6th anniversary of the Adoration Chapel, located behind the monastery on the Belmont Abbey College campus, all are invited to a covered dish party at the Queen of the Apostles Church Family Center, 503 N. Main St., today after the 11 a.m. Mass around 12:30 p.m. Adorers are asked to bring friends and a covered dish to share. For details, call Marie Siebers at (704) 827-6734.

5 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the office building. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse meets from 6-7 p.m. tonight and Feb. 19 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call (704) 364-5431.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Mark Lawlor. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next Mass takes place Mar 5. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

10 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is offering Lenten Small Faith Sharing Groups, meeting once a week for the six weeks of Lent, to

Pope names record 44 cardinals, places stamp on church governance

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

> **The biggest surprise in the pope's naming of 12 a Roman Curia cardinals was the high number. Many had expected the pope to restrict the number of Vatican cardinals to make room for more residential archbishops and still stay under the numerical limit of 120 voting-age – or under-80 – cardinals; instead, the pope waived the limit and left the college with 135 voting members.**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Naming a record 44 new cardinals in January, Pope John Paul II placed a definitive stamp on the body that will help him govern the church for the rest of his papacy and someday elect his successor.

The pope enhanced the influence of three groups in particular: cardinals from the Roman Curia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The 12 new appointees of the Curia, the Vatican's administrative structure, means that of the 135 potential electors in a conclave, 41 would be active or retired Vatican career officials — more than 30 percent of the total.

Latin America picked up 10 residential cardinals and one in the Vatican, which would give the continent 27 cardinal-electors, or 20 percent of the total. That percentage will increase as cardinals turn 80 over the next few years, because Latin America's cardinals are younger than the rest.

In fact, of the church's 25 youngest cardinals, eight are from Latin America — seven of them residential archbishops.

The reverse process will occur among Roman Curia voting-age cardinals: Of the 15 cardinals who will turn 80 over the next two years, 10 of them are from the Curia. So the Vatican's numerical influence in a potential conclave is at a high point, but will steadily decline.

Europe added 21 voting-age cardinals. Five of them were from former communist countries of Eastern Europe, continuing a trend by the Polish-born pope. East Europeans now represent more than 10 percent of the cardinal-electors, and Europeans overall account for 48 percent.

The latest batch of cardinal nominees is important whether or not a conclave is held anytime soon. Pope John Paul has increased the cardinals' voice in church governance and tends to rely on them individually as the most trusted advisors on regional and universal issues.

Cardinals from around the world are, more and more, frequent visitors at the Vatican, where they help manage the business of Vatican congregations and other agencies, take a leading role in synods and, when necessary, meet with the pope in private audience.

For the last few years at the Vatican, there has been talk of a "Latin American moment." The Synod for the Americas in 1997 ended up being dominated by Latin American issues. Since then, the pope has selected a number of important Latin American prelates to head Vatican departments, including sacraments and divine worship, clergy and health care.

The idea that the College of Cardinals might elect a Latin American pope in the next conclave is not so strange, considering that the continent is home to more than 40 percent of the world's Catholics. But until now, few Latin American cardinals have been well known outside their region.

That is clearly changing, and the latest group of nominees includes several high-profile leaders, including Honduran Cardinal-designate Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Tegucigalpa, former president of the Latin American bishops' council and a member of four major Vatican agencies.

The biggest surprise in the pope's naming of 12 Roman Curia cardinals was the high number. Many had expected the pope to restrict the number of Vatican cardinals to make room for more residential archbishops and still stay under the numerical limit of 120 voting-age — or under-80 — cardinals; instead, the pope waived the limit and left the college with 135 voting members.

There had been rumors in recent weeks about papal displeasure at his own Curia, based on a papal warning late last year against "rivalry and careerism" among Vatican officials. In that sense, the pope's generosity in handing out red hats in Rome probably came as a relief.

Among the curial cardinals, in fact, were two highly visible and mobile career Vatican administrators: Italian Cardinals-designate Giovanni Battista Re, head of the Congregation for Bishops, and Crescenzio Sepe, who helped manage Holy Year 2000 and is awaiting his next assignment.

The curial list also contained two quieter types, however, who may be important figures when conclave time arrives: Vietnamese Cardinal-designate Francois X. Nguyen Van Thuan, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, whose 13 years in a communist prison in his native country is seen by many as an eloquent witness of the faith in the modern age; and German Cardinal-designate Walter Kasper, a highly respected theologian who may soon head the Vatican's ecumenical department or another curial agency.

The recent appointments were considered good news in Italy, where the papacy is still popularly viewed as an Italian institution on loan to a foreigner. Over the years, practically every Italian cardinal has been dubbed "papabile," or potentially electable in a conclave. Now, Cardinal-designate Re is already being described in newspapers as the Italian answer to church governance of the future.

Buoying Italians is the fact that they remain the biggest single national bloc of conclave voters, with 24. The United States is next with 11, and no other country has more than seven.

But the clock is ticking for many of the Italians: Over the next year and a half, six Italian cardinals will turn 80. That will leave Italy with at most 18 voting cardinals — still the biggest group and nearly 15 percent of the total, but well below the 23 percent of the last conclave in 1978.

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explore and reflect on the Sunday scripture readings. Sign up for the groups begins today and continues through Feb. 25. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., is celebrating a Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite in Malayalam at 6:30 p.m. tonight. For details, call the church office at (336) 884-0244 or (336) 884-5858.

MAGGIE VALLEY — An "Overnight Retreat for Sweethearts" is taking place this weekend through Feb. 11 at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. This romantic and prayerful evening getaway weekend includes a "sweetheart" dinner at 5 p.m. this evening and a conference and faith sharing. Also taking place is a renewal of marriage vows. For more details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

11 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

MORGANTON — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St., is hosting a Valentine Tea for Chocolate Lovers this afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in Murray Hall. Valentine delights include snow-drenched chocolate cheesecake, brownie decadence, chocolate-kissed strawberries and other goodies. For tickets and other information, call the church office at (828) 437-3108.

12 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent meets tonight and Feb. 26 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

14 CHARLOTTE — A session entitled "Spiritual Aspects of Grief" is being held at the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. The gathering is for those who have experienced a loss or those in bereavement ministry. For more information, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having their meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program with a guest speaker from Sharon Luggage and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

16 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting a Reiki retreat weekend. Reiki is a natural healing technique that uses laying on of hands to reduce stress and accelerate the body's ability to heal. Karen Prescott, a second-degree Reiki practitioner in the Usai system of healing, is the retreat facilitator. For more information, call Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege at (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

17 DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 Denver is having their annual Italian Night in the parish hall of Holy Spirit Church, 537 Hwy. 16 North, at 7 p.m. tonight. The dinner is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests may dine on soups, pasta, desserts and other foods. For tickets or other information, call Pat Lisi at (704) 896-7735 or the church office at (704) 483-6448.

23 CHARLOTTE — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter this weekend at the Holiday Inn Airport in Charlotte. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. The weekend begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight and ends at 4 p.m. on Feb. 25. Upcoming marriage encounters are taking place Mar. 9-11 and May 25-27. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (704) 274-4424 or go to http://cg.thedepot.com/me.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Seminarian sees God in art, everyday life

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — On a recent visit to the see city of a diocese, where he hopes to serve as a priest, seminarian Alejandro Alaya spoke of finding God.

Alaya says God's voice sent him in pursuit of religious life, after all. But it is also sensing God in everyday life — and especially in his own artwork — that Alaya truly feels a divine presence.

"Since I was a teen-ager, I had that deep desire for giving my life to God," says Alaya, a native of Argentina. "I felt that voice inside me — that feeling, that desire, that need for filling my heart with something more. That belongs to God, to the mystery of God.

"That voice is still inside me."

While that voice has long been there, Alaya felt another pull, too. "For me it was difficult to enter the seminary because I wanted to do my art," he says. "I design tapestries, and my cousin and I founded a small company. At one point, we had the chance to do an exhibition in Toulouse, France."

"I had a great curiosity for the world," he continued. "I wanted to see the world as much as I could, and I wasn't ready to settle down in just one way of life. I think it was my artist impulse telling me to see as much as I could."

The reality of making a living as an artist eventually set in, however. "Unfortunately, I am not a very good businessman — just a designer," he says, laughing. "So I didn't do very well in the business."

Plus, while he dreamed of pursuing that impulse to see the world as an artist, Alaya still had the feeling of being sent in a different direction.

> **"Since I was a teen-ager, I had that deep desire for giving my life to God," says Alaya, a native of Argentina. "I felt that voice inside me – that feeling, that desire, that need for filling my heart with something more. That belongs to God, to the mystery of God. "That voice is still inside me."**
>
> *– Alejandro Alaya*

In a small community in Argentina called El Siambon, Alaya continued his discernment process at a Benedictine monastery. "I took many retreats, and at first, I thought of becoming a Benedictine," he says. "It was a great time."

His work as an artist continued, and in those tapestries, he experienced God's presence as well. "I wanted to try as much as I could to express God and the divine through art," he says. "Through art, you can express the mysteries of God that are beyond words. Art is a metaphor for the divine, the transcendent."

Though he doesn't recall any particular conversion experience that steered him toward the priesthood, Alaya again began to answer the call to be sent into religious life. Through more retreats, and in discussion with the Benedictines, Cistercians, Salesians and Dominicans he met, Alaya was convinced that the time was right for him to give himself completely to God and his plan.

Alaya left his homeland and settled in Asheville. Five years ago in that mountain town within the Diocese of Charlotte, he became a faithful parishioner and, later, a worker at the Basilica of St. Lawrence downtown. In daily conversations with the priests who have ministered at the church, he found examples of faith.

"That was a big step in my life because I started living around priests everyday," says Alaya, who worked as a maintenance man at the historic church. "They influenced me, and I enjoyed so much just hanging around with them."

Through more prayer and discernment, Alaya knew where his life was headed. "It didn't happen in any special event," he says of his calling. "I just knew that the time would come for me in which I was ready. Now is that time."

Now a first-year seminary student at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., Alaya continues along the path of his faith journey. Though "100 percent" involved in his studies at this mile marker, he hopes to find God in his tapestries and painting again somewhere down the road.

As he felt about his calling, "the time will come" to return to art as well, he said — "God-willing, when I join the priesthood."

Alaya looks forward to the day he is sent as a newly ordained priest to a parish, where he will embrace the people of God in the Diocese of Charlotte. "To serve people, to bring God to them — I think that is the thing that attracts me the most," he says of his calling. "I want to live truly in God and bring him to others."

The vocations program is one of the life-giving ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte partially funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal. For details on vocations in the Diocese of Charlotte, contact Father John Allen at (704) 370-3353.

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Diocese responds to India Earthquake

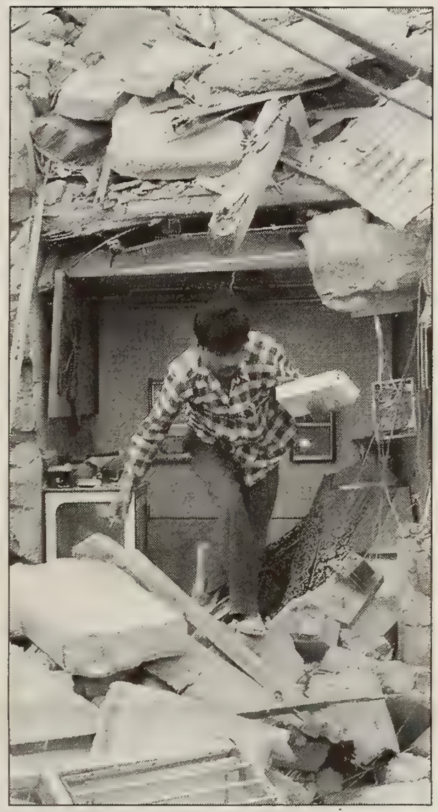
The people of India are recovering from a devastating earthquake that struck the country on Friday, Jan. 26. Over 20,000 people are believed dead, and tens of thousands are still missing. The high number of injured and the hundreds of thousands of displaced persons have placed a tremendous burden on the available government resources. The state of Gujurat was especially hit hard by the earthquake. Two cities, Bhuj and Ahmedabad, have suffered tremendous damage and loss of life.

The Diocese of Charlotte, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is responding to the immediate human needs of the people of India for food, plastic sheeting, blankets, tents, mats and other non-food items. CRS is the U.S. Catholic Church's international development and relief organization and is committed to helping the people of India recover from this tragedy and rebuild their communities.

This call for your generous response to the needs of the people of India follows upon the Diocese of Charlotte's recent appeal for assistance to aid the people of El Salvador. Only two weeks ago, El Salvador experienced a severe earthquake.

Please consider making a donation to support the earthquake relief efforts of CRS in India and/or El Salvador. Kindly respond to parish initiatives by remitting a contribution directly to your parish. Make checks payable to your parish, marked clearly for CRS Relief: India or CRS Relief: El Salvador.

Alternately, donations may be sent to the Diocese of Charlotte, Attn: Earthquake Relief, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C., 28203. All contributions will be forwarded to CRS. Thank you for your generosity.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Simple acts speak volumes

Sound fiscal responsibility eases way for social services

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — Alicia doesn't know what her day will bring. Today she will serve as translator at a medical center for a non-English speaking Catholic Social Services' client. The CSS Refugee Office client has cancer, and hearing the intricate details of needed treatment in his native tongue will hopefully soften the anxiety he faces.

It's all in a day's work for Alicia, a case manager for CSS's Refugee Office. Tomorrow will bring another client, another challenge, another solution provided by this division of Catholic Social Services. And at least in part, contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal help offset the cost it takes to provide life-enhancing services.

'Whom shall I send?' Isaiah's wise words appropriately give credence to the 2001 DSA theme. And for CSS, it is the smattering of caseworkers sent out to tend the masses that fulfill the mission of the diocesan social services ministry.

In reality, the Refugee Office receives about four percent of their annual budget from the DSA. This agency relies largely on government grants including funding from the United States Catholic Conference. But DSA, nonetheless, is a part of their foundation.

But this underscores how the Refugee Office to a greater degree, and other DSA agencies, and ministries — to lesser degrees — depend on alternative sources of income to supplement DSA funding.

Catholic Social Services is one of the four focal points of the annual support appeal. Along with CSS, Multi-Cultural Ministries, Educational Ministries and the Vocations Program are beneficiaries of the generosity of members of the diocese.

"The 2001 goal of $3,333,000 is the result of preparing account-by-account budgets for each agency and program which comprise these four areas of ministry," said William G. Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte. This years' DSA goal represents a 6.15 percent increase over last year. "We try very hard to limit cost increases while expanding program services." The diocese, said Weldon, has been very successful in this by focusing on other sources of financial support for DSA programs.

Quick evidence of external funding success is the Refugee Office, which holds national acclaim for their outreach services. "The Refugee Office, CSS and all program directors work very hard to stretch every dollar in funding to maximize services rendered," said Weldon.

"Catholic Social Services will benefit from an increase in funding of approximately $70,000 of the total DSA increase of $193,000," said Weldon, adding that educational and multi-cultural ministries will each receive an increase of about $50,000 over last year.

"Last year more than 45,000 individuals were impacted by programs made available thanks to financial support of the DSA," said Weldon. "Every dollar counts. We take very seriously our responsibility to use these funds as prudently as possible to achieve the goals of the various agencies and ministries."

The DSA provides the means, while the ministries provide the way. Some find a way up; others find a way out, and most all find a way to a stronger relationship with the Lord. "The DSA provides an opportunity for others to join with me in reaching out to make Christ present in a world where His presence is so sorely needed," said Bishop William G. Curlin.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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Pope names seven more new cardinals, brings total to 44

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a surprising and unprecedented move, Pope John Paul II named seven new cardinals after appointing 37 just a week earlier. The new nominees included archbishops from Ukraine and Latvia whom the pope had designated cardinals "in pectore" — in his heart — in 1998, but whose names could not be divulged until now. Additionally, he named two prelates from Germany, the first black cardinal from South Africa, a Bolivian and the head of the Ukrainian Eastern-rite church. The two cardinals-designate whom the pope reserved "in pectore" at the Feb. 21, 1998, consistory are: Marian Jaworski of the Latin-rite Archdiocese of Lviv, Ukraine, 74, and Janis Pujats of Riga, Latvia, 70. The other five new cardinals-designate are Lubomyr Husar, newly elected major archbishop of Lviv and head of the Eastern-rite Ukrainian Catholic Church. He will be 68 Feb. 26; Johannes Joachim Degenhart of Paderborn, Germany. He turns 75 Jan. 31; Julio Terrazas Sandoval of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 64; Wilfred Fox Napier of Durban, South Africa, 59; and Karl Lehmann of Mainz, Germany, 64.

People facing medical-moral dilemma need a lifeline, says priest

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — Like good friends who aid contestants via telephone on ABC-TV's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," priests often are summoned to dispense practical information to people facing morally charged medical decisions. "They're like a lifeline," said Paulist Father Richard Sparks, a pastor, author and ethicist who led a study week for Erie diocesan priests on health care ethics at Erie's Villa Maria Center in early January. When people confront difficult medical issues such as infertility or whether it's OK to terminate life support or treatment for a sick relative, he said, they sometimes wonder where God is in their lives or why a good God would allow his people to suffer. Priests, he said, are in a unique position to help people decide on a final answer to the tough moral decisions they face.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

MAN PRAYS NEAR DESTROYED HOUSE IN BHUJ, INDIA

A man prays near his destroyed house in the northwestern Indian city of Bhuj Jan. 27 following a massive earthquake that hit the region the day before. The death toll from the powerful earthquake was reaching beyond 20,000.

Polish priest faces extradition to Austria for fraud

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Polish priest faces extradition to Austria for allegedly misappropriating $1.3 million while using fake letters from his archbishop. The prosecutor's office in the central city of Lodz, Poland, said it was awaiting a court order for the extradition of Father Wiktor Dudzinski on charges of embezzling 20 million Austrian shillings (US$1.3 million) while working in the country. The priest, who holds Austrian citizenship, retired from his parish at Aggsbach-Markt, Austria, in September 1999. An arrest warrant was issued three months later after claims that he had staged bogus collections for his home Archdiocese of Lodz. Judge Janusz Ritman of the Lodz County Court said Father Dudzinski, who was one of 130 Polish priests working in Austria's Vienna Archdiocese, was being "treated as a private citizen."

Catholics among Mongolian herders hit by blizzards

HONG KONG (CNS) — Catholic families are among more than a million herders in Inner Mongolia suffering from fuel and food shortages in blizzard-hit northern China. Father Kang Zhenqing, pastor of Xilin Gol in China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, said the local church was unable to render relief aid to those families because the blizzards, the worst in 40 years, have cut off communication with the areas. UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, said Father Kang was quoted by Beifang Jinde, a Catholic social service organization in China's Hebei province. Herders in China's northern neighbor, Mongolia, also have been hit by the weather. Eight herders and nearly 500,000 animals have died since November.

It's no mystery: Novelist supports Catholic education

CLARK, N.J. (CNS) — Mystery writer Mary Higgins Clark put in a few good words for Catholic education during a reception hosted by St. Agnes School in the city of Clark. "Catholic education serves as the fabric — the moral base — that will serve your children all the days of their life," the author said. "We don't know what the future has in store for us, but a good Catholic education, in a nurturing environment, can help students prepare for whatever life may bring," she added.

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African American Affairs Ministry event promotes blend of community, faith, heritage

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It takes more than the color that you find on a palate to turn humanity into an art...."
— Ellis Paul, "Translucent Soul"

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — On the dawn of a month celebrating black history, people of African descent in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered to discuss who they are as people of faith, culture and community.

The Diocese of Charlotte's African American Affairs Ministry sponsored the 16th Annual Memorial Celebration for Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 27 at Our Lady of Consolation Church. Parishioners of the diocese's handful of predominantly African-American parishes attended to hear a national leader on black Catholic issues speak a message of unity.

Dr. Hilbert Stanley, executive director of the National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC), headquartered in Baltimore, directed a series of workshops on evangelizing people of African descent. His message sparked his audience to strive for participation and leadership in the church and the community.

"The National Black Catholic Congress exists to provide education both to people of African descent and those of other ethnic groups in the church," Dr. Stanley said in an interview. "So often the history, culture and values of black people are not included."

The program Stanley led at the Charlotte parish was developed by the NBCC around a 1997 address to the U.S. Catholic bishops by Bishop Edward Braxton, auxiliary of St. Louis. In that message, Bishop Braxton urged his brother bishops to find culture-appropriate ways of evangelizing their congregations.

Likening the neighborhood barbershop as a beacon in black communities where people can come for comfort, conversation and community, Bishop Braxton said the church is an even stronger refuge.

Stanley agreed, emphasizing the point by noting Pope John Paul II's encouragement of the same with the release of the new catechism of the church. "He was saying that if the countries do not adapt that catechism to the people and the culture living there, then the catechism is going to be useless," Stanley said.

The diocese's African American Affairs Ministry promotes evangelization and education in the black community and in the diocese at large. One of its main events, the annual King memorial, honors the life of the fallen civil rights leader while focusing on contributions black Catholics make to the church and community.

In November 1999, the ministry sponsored a pilgrimage to the Our Mother of Africa Chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Last September, it led a pilgrimage to Rome to witness Pope John Paul II's canonization of Sudanese slave Josephine Bakhita and American benefactor Katherine Drexel.

Last summer, the ministry sponsored a tent revival that drew more than 500 to Charlotte for preaching, music and fellowship. Like its other activities, the ministry hosted the event to attract faithful Catholics as well as the unchurched and those who have fallen away from the faith.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, diocesan vice chancellor and vicar for the African American Affairs Ministry, said there are some 2,000 registered black Catholics in the diocese.

Stanley said that to evangelize and teach others effectively, people must evangelize and teach themselves first. "What we're trying to do is strengthen the background of our own people," he said. "So many of our people do not know their own history and culture because it hasn't been taught in our schools — and it's certainly not taught in the church."

The workshops took the feel of town meetings, with Stanley directing the conversation and participants sharing experiences and thoughts on being people of culture and faith in today's United States. "We can be black, and we can be Catholic in this country," he said. "This program is designed to raise our comfort level with being Catholic and being black. We can enter a Catholic church and leave our blackness out there, but that's not being true to ourselves."

SEE MINISTRY, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Dr. Hilbert Stanley, executive director of the National Black Catholic Congress, chats with Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd during the 16th Annual Diocesan Memorial Celebration for Martin Luther King Jr. Rev. Mr. Todd, diocesan vice chancellor and vicar for the African American Affairs Ministry, was honored during the event for his work for people of African descent.

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Students travel to 'City of Joy' to volunteer time, talent

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — College students look forward to their Christmas break as a time to go home to their families to relax and unwind after long hours studying. However, eleven Wake Forest University students opted to travel halfway around the world the day after Christmas to serve as volunteers in one of the world's most poverty-stricken countries. Through a university-sponsored trip, the Wake Forest's City of Joy Scholars Program, the students went to Calcutta, India, to work in homes and agencies founded and sponsored by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters.

The name, "City of Joy," is taken from a novel and movie about India's largest city, where Mother Teresa conducted most of her ministerial work and founded the Missionaries of Charity.

The students, led by Coventual Franciscan Father Jude DeAngelo, the campus minister for Wake Forest University, and John Bradley, a 22-year-old senior English and German major chosen as this year's student leader after traveling to India last year with the college program, lived and worked in Calcutta for almost three weeks through the school program entering its seventh year. They lived at a local YMCA and traveled to the various homes for the city's poor, disabled, sick and dying to help in any way deemed necessary

Courtesy Photo

The students and Conventual Franciscan Father Jude De Angelo, campus minister, pictured center, from the Wake Forest University's City of Joy Program take time to enjoy the sights in India and stand in front of the Taj Mahal. The students volunteered to work in the homes and medical facilities sponsored and founded by the Missionaries of Charity Sisters in Calcutta, India, during their Christmas break.

Father DeAngelo was chosen to be the faculty leader for this year and said that through college student fund raising and support from local church and school communities, he was able to travel to India. "Our Lady of Mercy Church and Holy Family Church parishioners, the students at Our Lady of Mercy School and the Knights of Columbus made great donations and all wanted to be a part of the trip. Those connections between local parishes, institutions and campus ministry was a huge gift and goes beyond dollars and cents."

Bradley explained the nature of the program and what they had to face. "This is a really different experience, and people don't really realize it until they are there. This is difficult physical labor starting with 36 hours of travel. You can't drink the water, and you have to be very cautious about the foods. It is a polluted city, and this is poverty of a different sort. It is really hard emotionally, intellectually and physically, and it takes a little while to come to grips with it."

The students' day began at dawn with a light breakfast and optional daily Mass with the sisters and the morning volunteer session at several of the homes, and in the afternoon, the volunteers came together to work at Kalighat, Mother Teresa's first-established facility for the dying.

Twenty one-year-old Erin Swanson, a senior English major, worked at a home for mentally and physically handicapped children, where she helped with baths, simple motor skills work and basic class work like coloring, singing and other activities in the morning. Bradley worked at Prem Dan, a home for the mentally and physically handicapped, in the morning, where he helped with laundry, cleaning and comfort to many of the male patients. He and three other students had to boil, scrub, rinse and hang laundry and scrub down the bedroom floors and stack beds during the morning hours.

In addition to the chores and working with the people in the homes, Father DeAngelo was asked to celebrate Mass, hear confessions, administer sacraments and give a conference to the sister community. "There was a real hunger to hear the different experiences of religious and diocesan priests and to be able to use the

See CALCUTTA, next page

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CALCUTTA,

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

gifts that I have and just to be with these women was a wonderful experience."

Bradley talked about the importance of daily Mass during his time in India. "It was really incredible to go to Mass with the sisters everyday. For me, Mass was a centering and starting point for me," he said. "It put everything in focus. Even though it was a very Catholic environment, several students of other denominations were interested in taking part in daily Mass."

Swanson agreed, "It was a pretty powerful experience to go to Mass in the morning, and whether you were Catholic or not, you were able to appreciate the beauty of the Mass, especially the ones held at Mother Teresa's tomb."

One of the most rewarding experiences for Father DeAngelo was the chance to travel to India with students of different denominations. "Knowing that students of other faiths were involved and being a part of that ecumenical group was exciting. To witness students not of our faith see the Catholic Church and the sisters and volunteers from around the world and to participate with them in prayer and to see how they honor the faith commitment of whoever they serving was a beautiful thing."

"It was an amazing opportunity for personal growth and to help out other people. I had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be able to go, and I am glad I did it," said Swanson. "The fact that the Missionaries of Charity devote their entire lives to service of the poor with love, consistency and diligence and that so many volunteers from all over the world come to help the sisters and brothers renewed my faith in humanity."

Campus Ministry is one of the life-giving ministries partially funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

New faith formation policy embraces far-reaching catechetical community

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — When Bishop William G. Curlin approved a diocesan policy designed to reach out to parents who catechize their children at home, he took an innovative step as shepherd of a diocese committed to educating its parishioners in the faith.

The policy for home catechesis for the Diocese of Charlotte was implemented last October following a yearlong study by pastors, parents and catechetical leaders in western North Carolina. The goal of the policy, said Father James Hawker, diocesan vicar for education, is to emphasize the pastor as chief catechist while embracing the teaching role of parents.

"The home catechesis policy assists in a collaborative stance between pastors and parents of children who are catechized at home," said Father Hawker. "There is no question that parents have the primary responsibility regarding the education of their children. At the same time, the pastor is responsible to ensure that those within his parish family, including children, are properly prepared in their understanding and appreciation of the teachings of the faith."

Canon law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are quoted in the policy.

Key elements of the page-and-a-half-long policy include:

— Parents' notification of intent to pastors that they wish to catechize their children in the home.

— Ongoing dialogue between parents and pastors/parish catechetical leaders.

— The providing of diocesan and parish expectations and resources for faith formation and sacramental preparation — including registration, recommendation of texts and other guidance — to parents by pastors/parish catechetical leaders.

— The signing of a covenant by the pastor, parents and children symbolizing the mutual bond and an understanding of expectations and responsibilities.

"The bishop wants to support the role of parents as the primary educators of their children, and at the same time he is bound by canon law to support the pastors who ultimately determine the readiness of children for receiving the sacraments," said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs.

Villapando said less than 50 percent of dioceses in the United States have any policy on home catechesis, and he is not aware of any other diocese in which a covenant between pastor, parent and child is signed to acknowledge parents' rights and pastors' responsibilities.

In a recent series of workshops for pastors and parish catechetical leaders, Villapando outlined the policy and its guidelines. "In doing the workshops, I explained to the people that the heart of this policy is dialogue," he said. He added that the policy is replete with language like communication, community and shared responsibility, while it is clear that the pastor — in any catechetical efforts — primarily determines a child's readiness for the sacraments.

In a letter to pastors, Bishop Curlin voiced hope that the policy will bridge faith formation between the parish and the home. "I am confident that the ... policy will assist pastors and parents to ensure that the catechetical mission within the parish is implemented collaboratively and responsibly," he said.

That spirit of collaboration is important in any faith formation endeavor, Villapando said. He applauded parents throughout the diocese who want the best for their children when it comes to knowing and living their faith.

"The bishop is a symbol of unity," he added. "He wants the pastor, who is the chief catechist at the parish level, to be a symbol of unity, too."

Faith Formation is one of the life-giving ministries partially funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Book Review

New book offers step-by-step rules for life

Reviewed by BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
Catholic News Service

"Living Faith Day by Day" could have been subtitled "How to get your spiritual life in order without needing a doctorate in theology."

Debra Farrington provides an understandable (and that is a key word), step-by-step process of how one can develop and apply rules for living.

In a conversational manner, Farrington has written a text that not only teaches the value of examining one's life and developing rules for that life, but she inspires the reader, through her own stories and the stories of others, to take action.

From the background about rules for religious communities to the chapter-by-chapter development of rules for oneself, this book makes self-spiritual reform a non-threatening undertaking. What Farrington says is the stuff many Catholics may have heard during retreats or other spiritual enrichment sessions. The difference is that this book can serve as a resource, as a workbook for those who do not succeed the first time they try something.

Each chapter includes suggestions on how to practice the rules. In the chapter on work, she writes, "One way of recognizing our limits is to set some boundaries for ourselves. By establishing some guidelines for the hours we work, what we will do, and how we will serve, we admit to our limits and build them into our days."

With topics like stewardship, hospitality and simple living, this is a book that lends itself to being marked up with underlines, highlights and margin notations. It is a book that can be picked up and read a few pages at a time.

As a giver of retreats and workshops on spiritual life, Farrington is wise enough to know that spiritual development does not take place in a vacuum. Thus, she writes about the mind and the body, too. In doing so, she provides encouragement for readers to examine all aspects of their lives, while subtly reminding them that the core of success, i.e., happiness, is found in one's relationship with God.

"Living Faith Day By Day" is an excellent book for those beginning a spiritual journey, as well as for those who have already begun, but who wish to examine where they are going.

Olszewski is editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

LIVING FAITH DAY BY DAY: HOW THE SACRED RULES OF MONASTIC TRADITIONS CAN HELP YOU LIVE SPIRITUALLY IN THE MODERN WORLD,
by Debra K. Farrington. Berkley Publishing Group, division of Penguin Putnam, Inc. (New York, 2000). 276 pp., $13.95.

Word to Life

February 4, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalm 138:1-5, 7-8
2) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
3) Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

The unworthy prophet, the sinful disciple, the convert who formerly persecuted believers, all of them awed by God's holiness, humbled by their own sinfulness. The description of this motley crew sounds a bit like James Joyce's description of the Catholic Church: "Here comes everybody." And maybe it is, but listen on.

Of the three described above, the unworthy prophet is Isaiah; the sinful disciple is Peter; the convert who persecuted Christ in his church is Paul.

Today's readings make a very particular point about our response to God's holiness in light of our own self-knowledge. But the Isaiah passage offers an image of God's provision for this very sense of our unworthiness. He first confesses, before the throne of God, in the grips of his own awe: "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the king, the Lord of hosts!"

Next he describes God's provision: "Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 'See,' he said, 'now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sins purged.'" And Isaiah continues, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?' 'Here I am,'" said Isaiah, now full of God-given courage, "'send me!' And (the Lord) replied: 'Go and say to this people ...'"

At one time or another, all of us will be called to speak up for God. At such times, when we are certain by all we know of God through the teachings of the church, the word of God in Scripture and the still, small voice of our consciences informed as well by common sense wisdom, we will have the courage to "go and say to this people" the message God has given us to deliver.

I've known many reluctant prophets across the years. They fear to speak for many reasons, their own sinfulness, natural humility and shyness, among them. But when they have known that speaking up would make a difference and have found that what they were called to say lined up with what God has revealed of himself, they have spoken. They have risked. They have called others to a higher standard of respect for life, moral rectitude and justice.

It will never be easy to be either a disciple or a prophet, but if we commit ourselves to be people of prayer who inform their consciences through reading Scripture and attending to the teachings of our church, we will always find it possible — though sometimes painful — to speak and to live

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 4 - 10, 2000

Sunday, Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11; **Monday (St. Agatha),** Genesis 1:1-19, Mark 6:53-56; **Tuesday (St. Paul Miki & Companions),** Genesis 1:20-2:4, Mark 7:1-13; **Wednesday,** Genesis 2:4-9, 15-17, Mark 7:14-23; **Thursday (St. Jerome Emiliani),** Genesis 2:18-25, Mark 7:24-30; **Friday,** Genesis 3:1-8, Mark 7:31-37; **Saturday (St. Scholastica),** Genesis 3:9-24, Mark 8:1-10

Readings for the week of Feb. 11 - 17, 2001

Sunday, Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26; **Monday,** Genesis 4:1-15, 25, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday,** Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cyril & Methodius),** Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday,** Genesis 8:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday,** Genesis 11:1-9, Mark 8:34-9:1; **Saturday (Seven Servite Founders),** Hebrews 11:1-7, Mark 9:2-13

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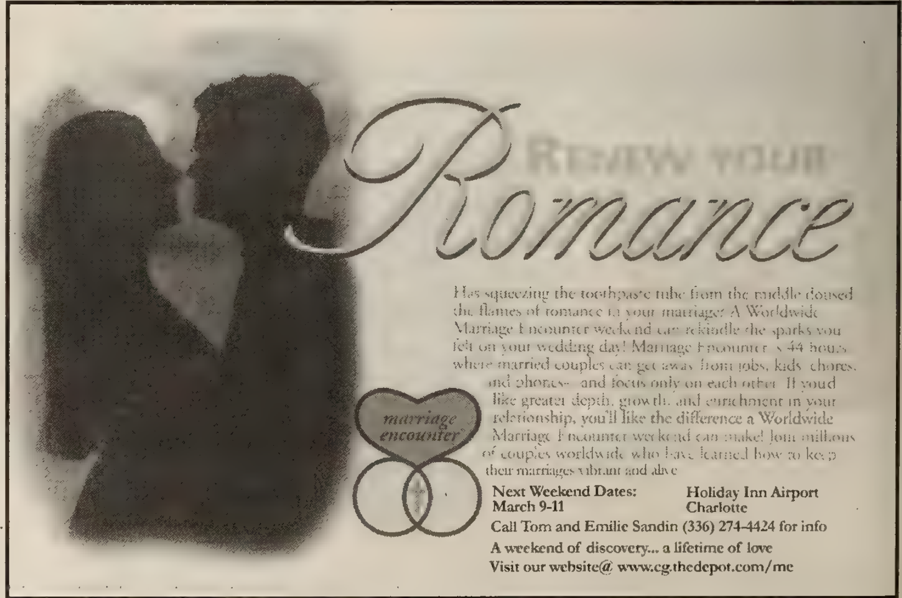

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Video Reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle" (2000)

Occasionally diverting children's comedy in which animated cartoon characters, a talking moose (voice of Keith Scott) and a flying squirrel (voice of June Foray), team up with an FBI agent (Piper Perabo) to stop the evil plans of a power-hungry leader (Robert De Niro) and his two faithful underlings (Jason Alexander and Rene Russo). Combining computer animation with live-action characters and backgrounds, director Des McAnuff's lackluster film has a lagging narrative but succeeds in garnering hardy laughs when it pokes fun at itself. Fleeting crass language and some comically intended violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Universal)

"Bring It On" (2000)

Silly teen flick about a newly elected cheerleading captain (Kirsten Dunst) whose perky world is flipped with the discovery that her team's routines were stolen from an inner-city hip-hop squad that threatens to out pompom them in the national competition. As directed by Peyton Reed, by-the-numbers plotting and bromidic dialogue cast a shadow on the few laughs that make the innocuous film mildly amusing. A few fleeting sexual references and some crude slang expressions. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

"Cecil B. Demented" (2000)

Repulsive and ridiculous comedy about a famous Hollywood actress (Melanie Griffith) forced to star in a radical underground movie after she is kidnapped by fanatical movie purists (led by Stephen Dorff) bent on destroying "multiplex America." The latest offering from writer-director John Waters starts energetically with clever film-industry barbs but quickly loses momentum as the slapdash plot gets mired in gratuitous brutality and nasty humor. Recurring violence, an orgy, several lewd sexual references, intermittent drug use, devil-worshipping implications and constant rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Artisan)

"Death on the Nile" (1982)

An heiress is murdered on a honeymoon cruise up the Nile and Agatha Christie's sleuth, Hercule Poirot (Peter Ustinov) is on hand to interrogate such suspects as Bette Davis, Angela Lansbury, Maggie Smith, George Kennedy and Mia Farrow. Directed by John Guillermin, it is an intricately plotted whodunit that plays the game fairly in laying out clues to challenge the mystery fan. A lavishly produced 1930s period piece with exotic Egyptian locales, the film is solid escapist entertainment for those who don't mind rather graphic depictions of murder. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Republic)

"Deceived" (1991)

A young widow (Goldie Hawn) discovers that her museum-curator husband (John Heard) was leading a double life, putting her and her little girl (Ashley Peldon) in mortal danger. Director Damian Harris' nifty thriller is packed with implausibilities but scores on atmosphere and emotionally involving suspense. Momentary violence and mild sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Touchstone)

"Dinosaur" (2000)

Visually superb animated adventure set in prehistoric times after a devastating meteor turns much of Earth into dry rubble, forcing a herd of dinosaurs to search for their nesting grounds while pursued by larger predators of their species. Directors Ralph Zondag and Eric Leighton successfully combine real backgrounds with spectacular computer-generated digital images that are extraordinarily lifelike although the narrative is skimpy and the pace sometimes slow-moving. Some scenes of predatory violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney)

"MVP: Most Valuable Primate" (2000)

Plodding family film has an escaped chimpanzee befriending a deaf girl (Jamie Renee Smith) and helping her brother's (Kevin Zegers) high school hockey team win a championship match by joining the team. Directed by Robert Vince, the film alternates between the chimp's amusing antics and hockey action as it skates on sentimentality to a foregone conclusion. Some rough hockey play. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney)

"Steal This Movie" (2000)

Flawed biography about Yippie founder Abbie Hoffman (Vincent D'Onofrio), a revolutionary prankster and counter-cultural figure who used flamboyant and provocative tactics to raise awareness of social issues in the 1960s. Director Robert Greenwald's broad narrative becomes overwhelmed with the era's political complexities while the details of Hoffman's life are told in methodical, uninspiring flashbacks. A few sexual encounters, some nudity, drug use and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Trimark)

CNS PHOTO FROM CLOUD TEN PICTURES

SCENE FROM FILM 'LEFT BEHIND: THE MOVIE'

Kirk Cameron stars in "Left Behind: The Movie." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says kingdom of God will come through quiet cooperation

By CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The kingdom of God will not have its full establishment on earth through some apocalyptic event, but quietly and with the cooperation of men and women who work for justice and peace, Pope John Paul II said.

In the midst of "the weakness, misery, violence and injustice of human history," Jesus Christ has already inaugurated God's kingdom by defeating death and offering everyone the possibility of salvation, the pope said Jan. 31 at his weekly general audience.

God's plan of salvation promises liberation and peace not only for all humanity, but also for the world which God created, he told an estimated 4,000 people in the Paul VI Audience Hall.,

Living in a world "under the weight of evil, contradictions and death," people can be tempted to doubt the promise of "a new heaven and a new earth," he said.

Discouraged, some people make no attempt to work for the transformation of the temporal world, he said.

"They are convinced that nothing can change, that every effort will be in vain, that God is absent and cares nothing about the minuscule part of the universe which is the earth," he said.

On the other extreme, the pope said, are those who expect "apocalyptic scenes" marking God's interruption of history and establishment of his kingdom.

But "God has entered human history and the world and proceeds silently, awaiting humanity with patience," the pope said. "He respects human liberty, sustains those in the grips of desperation, leads us step by step and invites us to collaborate in the project of truth, justice and peace.

"Divine action and human commitment must intersect," Pope John Paul said.

Christians must go through their lives "trying to follow the footsteps of God and working with him to give birth to a world in which mercy and truth shall meet, justice and peace shall kiss," he said.

At the end of his audience, Pope John Paul greeted and posed for photographs with players and officials of the Irish national rugby team.

The team was in Rome for the Feb. 3 opening match of the Six Nations Championship. The tournament opens with Ireland playing Italy. The other countries in the league are England, Scotland, Wales and France.

Guest Columnist

BARBARA GADDY,
Associate Director
of Development
Guest Columnist

In his book, *The Way of the Wolf: The Gospel in New Images*, Marin Bell shares a memorable parable about young Barrington Bunny, who was searching for a family to party with on Christmas Eve. He was saddened because he didn't have a family of his own and *felt he didn't* have any characteristics that would allow him to fit in with the other forest animals.

After all he couldn't swim out to the beavers den, nor could he climb up to the squirrel's nest. Feeling all alone, Barrington met the great silver wolf, who taught him three very valuable lessons.

Barrington learned that all the animals of the forest were part of his family. Then he learned that everyone, himself included, had gifts and talents to contribute to the well being of them all. Finally, he learned that the secret to happiness could be found in giving. So he used his talent, the ability to hop, to find gifts for the other animals—gifts *without strings attached*. His gifts were carefully matched to the needs of each recipient, but he gave them freely—with *no strings attached*. The beaver family got a strong stick for their den and the squirrel family a nice pile of leaves and grass for their nest. Barrington learned the joy of giving without anticipating reward and without counting the cost, and with *no strings attached*. I will leave the ending to your own imagination or further reading.

This little parable reminds me in many ways of stewardship and the Diocesan Support Appeal. By virtue of our Baptism, we are all part of one family—the Body of Christ. While each member of the family has a variety of diverse needs, God has gifted each member of this family with unique gifts and talents to serve the needs of the rest. Furthermore, God has also gifted each of us in varying degrees with gifts of our time, talent and treasure. One of the secrets to real happiness comes in giving to others—freely, with *no strings attached*, without seeking a reward or counting the cost. Some of us are sent by God to use our talents directly in service to others as catechists, counselors, seminarians, deacons, campus ministers or youth ministers. Others may participate in these important ministries of the Church through contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. Still others may find that the only way they can serve the Body of Christ is through prayer. Regardless of our own individual needs, we can all share with other members of our "family" a portion of the time gifted to us, the talent given to us and the treasure allotted to us.

Barrington Bunny has a lesson for us all — a reminder of living and giving, of sharing and caring. And we can apply that lesson for life to our own participation in the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Principles of Catholic Social Thought

FATHER WILLIAM J.
BYRON, SJ
CNS Columnist

Part IX: The Principle of the Common Good

Contemporary Catholic social thought, building on Aristotle and Aquinas, understands and applies the notion of the "common good" in a common-sense way.

In its Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Vatican Council II explained the common good as "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfillment" (No. 26). The council immediately added that this principle relates to "the general welfare of the whole human family."

Sally Spalatin-Moore, of Malibu, Calif., has 10 "Credenda/Agenda" ("Things to Believe/Things to Do") principles posted on her family's refrigerator door. One says, "Your choices must foster the universality of the common good." Another says, "The common good insists upon a global family."

It is quite natural for families (and voters) to see the world through their respective kitchen windows. It is unusual, however, for the ordinary citizen's worldview to be truly global.

Respect for the person is one piece of the common good. Also included is the promotion of conditions that encourage development of the full human potential of all persons in all circumstances.

Another important part of the common good is the maintenance, by public authority, of peace and security.

In our day, however, the principle of the common good has taken on global proportions by reaching beyond family and neighborhood to cross regional and national boundaries.

What constitutes the common good in a particular set of circumstances and a given historical context always will be debatable. But if there is no debate — if there is an absence of concern for or sensitivity to the common good in public discourse — then you have a clear indication that society stands in need of help.

As a sense of community erodes, concern for the common good declines. This is an obvious danger in an age of individualism.

The common good of society as a whole can be likened to the balance that is not simply desirable but necessary for both wheel and tire on an automobile. Perfect balance means safe progress whenever the wheels are in motion. Both driver and mechanic take the whole tire, the entire wheel, into consideration when they inspect tires for safety and road readiness.

The New Dictionary of Catholic Social Thought, edited by Judith A. Dryer (Michael Glazier Books, 1994) contains an interesting article on the common good. It makes the point that recent teaching presents two complementary themes relative to this concept, namely, the individual's obligation to contribute to the common good and the right of the individual to participate in society's benefits.

Anyone who takes a moment to reflect on the fact that more than 44 million Americans participate in no health insurance program today will be forgiven for expressing outrage at this obvious assault on the principle of the common good.

For better or worse, all of us in the human community are in the same boat. All of us have to work to keep it afloat and pull our respective oars if progress is to be achieved. Turn again to the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Nos. 25, 30) for further instruction on this point:

The good of each person is bound up with the good of the community, and the obligations of justice and love are fulfilled when each person contributes to the common good in accord with his or her abilities and in light of the needs of others.

Commitment to the common good is the ultimate self-improvement program!

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Our unique selves

Pre-natal studies are discovering ever more tantalizing facts about our early development. One of the most fascinating has to do with our thumbprints. It seems that at no later than eight weeks after conception, each of us has a not-to-be-duplicated fingerprint. It will match no other person on planet earth. We are, from the outset, uniquely and wonderfully ourselves.

What a shame, then, that so much of our lives are spent conforming to other people's expectations or standards. Why do we worry so much about being like everyone else? In wardrobe, in style and in perspective, people too often need to be what others expect. I have been told, "You're not like other priests." Now, what does that mean? How can anyone determine what a priest should be like? Have any of these questioning folks taken a good look at the chosen Twelve? Could there be a more diverse and yet more delightfully unique band of followers for the Man Himself? Clearly, the Lord had no cookie-cutter at hand in selecting his apostles! Made individually and wonderfully by the Creator, we owe it to ourselves and our God to be the people he calls us to be.

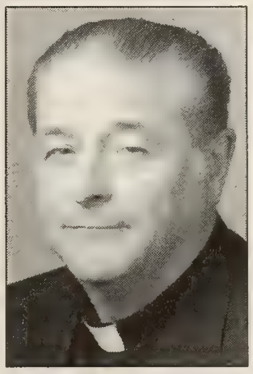
Two recent films, both suitable for adult audiences, focus on this issue, and both are worth your time. If you miss them in the theaters, wait for them on video, but please be sure to catch these two great movies.

One was "Billy Elliot" (Universal Pictures), the story of an 11-year-old coal miner's son from Northern England played to perfection by Jamie Bell. He dares to be different by pursuing an interest in ballet. Through the firm but understanding help of a teacher named Mrs. Wilkinson (Julie Walters), Billy finds his destiny through dance. This is where he shines, where he feels fulfilled, where he can be most truly himself. For much of the movie, Billy's vocational choice is hidden from his Dad (Gary Lewis) and tough older brother Tony (Jamie Draven). He knows that they will see his choice as unmanly and oppose it. When they at last discover his secret, they react with severe disdain. Only the reality of how limited his son's prospects would otherwise be finally allows Mr. Elliot to let Billy pursue his dreams.

Another jewel of a film is "You Can Count On Me" (Paramount Classics). Terry (Mark Ruffalo) is the family failure. Moving across America from job to job, he fits no mold and drives his more traditional sister Sammy (Laura Linney) to distraction. Why, she and his hometown neighbors reason, can't he be more like us? Why not settle down? Why not avoid trouble with the law? Why not be more respectable? But Terry is far more open to life than all his judges. He wears his imperfections more candidly, but he is not any less a person for his unique way of living. In fact, Terry is far less artificial than his sister. Sammy attends church regularly while her brother does not. But once outside the confines of Sunday worship, she breaks many more of the Commandments than Terry does. By the film's end, in fact, we recognize a more authentic wholeness in Terry. He has remained the person he is, not someone pretending to be another.

Both films celebrate the wonder of being who you truly are. Both films encourage people to ignore the powerful tendency to blend in. You are uniquely and wonderfully made, different from others. Just being your best self is something to appreciate. A great message, that.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The soul "after" death but "before" the Second Coming

Q. Some friends and I were discussing what happens to your soul when you die. I thought the soul immediately goes to heaven.

Another thought one's soul remains sleeping until Jesus comes again; then we go to heaven, but it will feel like you have been asleep for only a second. Can you shed any light on our thoughts? (Maryland)

A. Most of what you asked cannot be answered with anything more than pure speculation. A few considerations, however, might throw some hopeful light on your discussion.

First, we know that people are in heaven right now, including Jesus, of course. Our Catholic and general Christian understanding of saints who have died, been canonized or otherwise, is that they are with God — or, if you wish, "in heaven."

Second, as far as we can theorize, for reasons that are obvious there will be no "time" as we have it here (hours, days, years) in whatever existence comes after death. Time-related words like "until," "later," "before," "after" and so on, really are thus meaningless in that setting.

As we know, with God there is no past or future, no yesterdays or tomorrows. All that is exists in one eternally present moment in and for God. If we think about it, that is the nature of eternity — no limits, no boundaries, no markers into the future.

Third, we cannot think of the soul as the real "me" and our body as a dispensable attachment that we need in this life, but no longer. Both our spiritual and material parts, traditionally referred to as body and soul, are essential for our human nature, whether here or in the next life.

In other words, there can never be such a thing as a truly human soul floating around without a body. If a soul does not have some relation to a body, it is not a human soul. Whatever it is, if such a separate existence were even possible, it would not be a human being.

Without getting too philosophically technical, all this follows from the church's traditional explanation of our human nature ("body" and "soul") in terms of the Greek metaphysics passed down to us by Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas, in which elements called matter and form are the inseparable, interwoven components of all material beings.

This all fits and presupposes, of course, what we profess in the Apostles' Creed: I believe in the resurrection of the body.

Attempts at this sort of reflection commonly raise the question: How can we explain the continued existence of deceased human bodies through centuries of time?

I don't think we can explain it. It is commonly acknowledged today that the awakening of the dead to the sound of the trumpet at the end of time of which St. Paul speaks (1 Cor 15), is his metaphorical effort to put into human language an event, the cosmic mystery of transformed life, that transcends all human experience and concepts.

Your friend's comment about being "asleep for only a second" is interesting. Putting all the above (and lots of other factors) together, many have suggested that when we die, our next conscious moment will be the resurrection, our rising to the new life that Paul attempts to describe in that letter.

It seems to make sense, insofar as any explanation we might make of the next life can make sense, given our very limited experience in this one.

Perhaps the response Jesus seems to give about such questions (in John 14, for example) is still the best: Don't be afraid. Trust me, and don't be too concerned about it. If I told you, you couldn't understand anyway. Just know it will be worth waiting for.

"Whom Shall I Send?"

MOST REV. WILLIAM G. CURLIN
Bishop of Charlotte

Jesus knew that the work of spreading the Good News of Salvation and building the Kingdom would require many hands. He knew that he could not do it all alone, so he called others to join him in the work of his Father. He formed them and sent them out in his service.

As the shepherd of this diocese, I have been entrusted with the same mission of spreading the Good News and building the Kingdom here in Western North Carolina. And, like Jesus, I cannot do it alone. I depend on the thousands of people in this diocese who have responded to the question, "Whom shall I send?" with an enthusiastic, "Here I am, send me!"

When I consider the rapid growth of this diocese and the tremendous task of providing for the increasing needs of the people, I know that I need help. I am ever so grateful for those who are eager to go forth and serve in the name of the Lord. I depend on the loving service of holy and dedicated priests to serve the people of God in our 90 parishes and missions. I am grateful for the 20 seminarians who have answered the call to serve others through the priesthood.

Yet before they can be sent forth into the parishes and missions, they must be properly formed. Likewise, the catechists, RCIA team members and youth ministers serving in our parishes receive instruction, support and encouragement through programs offered by our educational ministry offices. Your gifts to the Diocesan Support Appeal help provide education and formation for our future priests as well as our parish lay leaders.

I cannot personally answer every cry for help from those who are trying to cope with the death of a loved one, a problem of addiction or a broken marriage. I need the help of counselors and caseworkers from Catholic Social Services who are trained to help others deal with life's tragedies. These co-workers in the Lord are especially invaluable in responding to the ever-increasing needs of our ethnically diverse population. I am deeply gratified by the thousands of people who help me on a daily basis meet the needs of the growing number of Catholics in the Diocese of Charlotte.

I see the DSA as a way that every parishioner can participate in the ministries so vital to the life of our diocese. The DSA provides an opportunity for others to join with me in reaching out to make Christ present in a world where His presence is so sorely needed. Each person who gives to the Diocesan Support Appeal can proudly say, "The Lord sent me!"

Diocesan Support Appeal 2001

MINISTRY, from page 7

Stanley emphasized the difference between forming new culture-based rites in the church and culture-based adaptations of liturgy and catechesis to effectively evangelize. A recent study, he said, found that black Catholics overwhelmingly opposed any new rites; they simply want to be welcomed as a contributing and vital part of the universal church.

A helpful way of evangelizing and educating, he said, is to reach one person at a time. "We don't need to go out and make a big speech on the street corner or knock on doors," he said. "If we can talk to one person and spread the Good News about the church, our spirituality and our values, then that's the way to do it."

During a Mass following the workshops, the board of the African American Affairs Ministry honored the ministry's director with an award for dedicated service.

Rev. Mr. Todd is the 2001 recipient of the Glenda Rollins-Gaither Service Award, named in memory of a founding member of the ministry and honoring a person each year who has made contributions in advancing full recognition and inclusion of African Americans.

The ministry board recognized Rev. Mr. Todd as "the keeper of the diocese's vision for evangelization and ministry for people of African descent." After a standing ovation upon his receiving the award, Rev. Mr. Todd spoke of the power of Christ in his life.

"Before I knew who Jesus was, I didn't know who I was," he said. "I mean this sincerely: If you don't have that personal relationship with Jesus, you are completely lost. Without him, you are nothing."

He asked the congregation to pray for unity in the faith journey, "that all of us together can accomplish what God put us here for."

Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, celebrated the Mass. In his homily, he recalled those black ancestors who lived and died in the belief that all are equal in God's eyes and who reached out in support, encouragement and love for others, especially the needy.

"No matter how far we have come, we must turn to every one of our brothers and sisters who are visited with suffering and trial," he said. "The hallmark of our belief must be that no one stands alone."

African American Affairs Ministry is one of the life-giving ministries partially funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

DSA Supported Agencies and Ministries

Social Services Ministries	**704-370-3262**
Diocesan Ministries	**704-370-3228**
Disability Ministry	*704-370-3250*
Disaster Relief	704-370-3228
Elder Ministries	704-370-3220
Family Life-	704-370-3250
Marriage Preparation	*704-370-3228*
Natural Family Planning	704-370-3230
Prison Ministry	(beeper)704-581-7693
Respect Life	704-370-3229
Office of Justice and Peace	**704-370-3225**
Campaign for Human Development	704-370-3234
Catholic Relief Services	704-370-3231
Education - Issue Response	704-370-3225
Social Services / Western Regional Office	**704-255-0146**
Hispanic Social Services - Adoption - Counseling	
Crisis Intervention -Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Social Services / Charlotte Regional Office	**704-370-3232**
Adoption - Counseling - Crisis Intervention	
Foster Care - Pregnancy Support - Programa Esperanza	
Social Services / Piedmont-Triad Regional Office	**336-727-0705**
Casa Guadalupe - Adoption - Counseling	
Crisis Intervention - Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Multicultural Ministries	
African American Ministry	704-370-3399
Hispanic Ministry	704-335-1281
Hmong / Lahu Ministry	704-327-2341
Educational Ministries	
Vicar for Education	704-370-3210
Campus Ministry	704-370-3212
Catholic Schools Administration	704-370-3271
Faith Formation	704-370-3246
Lay Ministry Training	704-370-3213
Media Resources	704-370-3241
RCIA	704-370-3246
Young Adult Ministry	704-370-3212
Youth Ministry	704-370-3211
Vocations	
Permanent Diaconate	704-370-3344
Seminarian Education	704-370-3353

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Director of Development: The diocesan Office of Development has an opening for a full-time director of development for Catholic Social Services. The candidate must be a college graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field. Minimum of 2 years' experience in fundraising and marketing. Responsibilities include managing the annual giving campaigns, handling all aspects of production of newsletters and annual reports, and serving as liaison to diocesan boards. Please submit resume by February 14 to Jim Kelley, Office of Development, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, NC 28203-4003.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 700 families near Raleigh, North Carolina is building new church and desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have a BA in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time salary of 35K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by February 28 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Principal, Elementary: Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Raleigh, NC announces its opening for Principal, effective July 1, 2001. We are a parish-based K-8 coeducational school serving 538 students. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic, have an advanced degree and administrative experience. Prospective candidates interviewed immediately. Direct inquiries to: Principal Search Committee, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 2710 Overbrook Rd., Raleigh, NC, 27608. (919)782-1670 ext.123; Fax (919)420-2188.

Principal, Elementary: St. Mary School, Johnson City, Tennessee, has an opening for principal beginning July 1, 2001; 200 students, K-8. Southern Association accreditation. Qualifications: practicing Catholic; leadership skills; master's in administration or willing to work on certification. Deadline: February 23rd. Letter and resume to: Kathleen Mitchell, 2211 E. Lakeview Drive, Johnson City, TN 37601.

Teacher: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School is accepting applications for certified Kindergarten Teacher starting March 2001; also, 3rd Grade teacher for August 2001. Contact or send resume to: Ed Manville, Principal. Phone: (919)570-0070; Fax: (919)570-0071; e-mail emanville@stcathsiena.org

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia (south of Atlanta), is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2001-2002 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment as well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume to John Cobis, Principal, OLMCHS, 861 Highway 270, Fairburn, GA 30213.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Diocese of Savannah seeks a qualified director for this ministry in south Georgia. Qualifications: Practicing Catholic in good standing; at least 3 years' relevant experience; master's degree or equivalent in appropriate field; suitable organizational skills; demonstrated capacity to work collegially; strong oral and written communication skills; ability to travel independently within Diocese. Spanish language ability a plus. For job description and application contact Youth Ministry Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax (912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com

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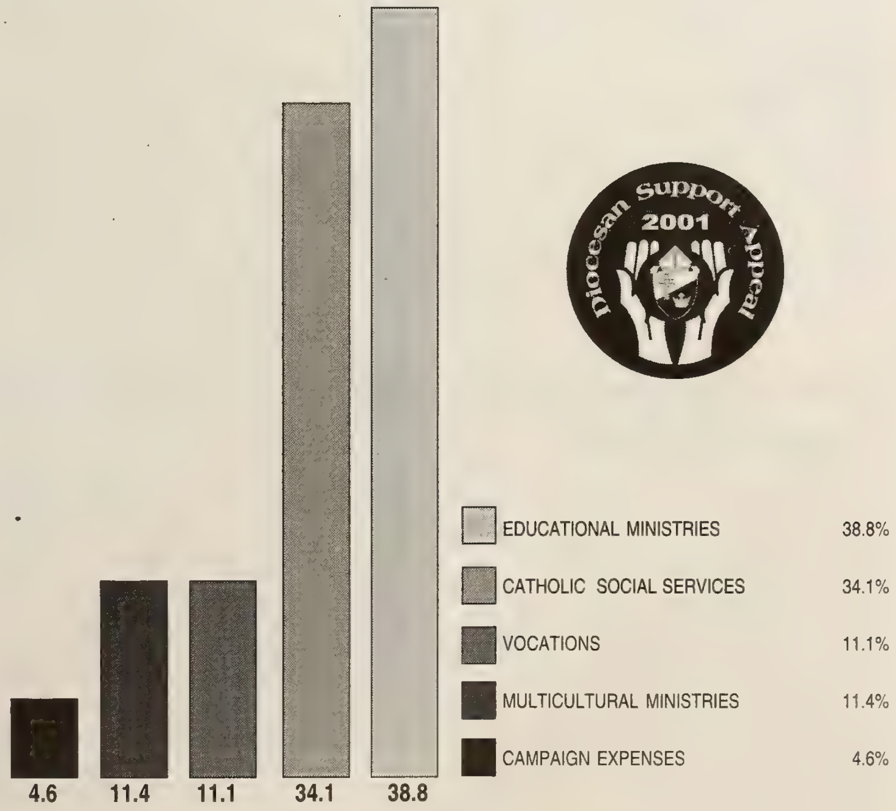
1	Our Lady of the Assumption	$39,796.00	Charlotte
2	St. John Neumann	$80,310.00	Charlotte
3	Our Lady of Consolation	$39,509.00	Charlotte
4	St. Ann	$59,154.00	Charlotte
5	St. Gabriel	$301,101.00	Charlotte
6	St. Patrick Cathedral	$75,726.00	Charlotte
7	St. Peter	$71,223.00	Charlotte
8	St. Vincent de Paul	$100,001.00	Charlotte
9	St. Thomas Aquinas	$108,594.00	Charlotte
10	St. Luke	$50,411.00	Charlotte
11	St. Mark	$83,099.00	Huntersville
12	St. Matthew	$240,868.00	Charlotte
15	Our Lady of the Annunciation	$17,217.00	Albemarle
16	St. James	$50,091.00	Concord
17	St. James	$9,317.00	Hamlet
18	St. Joseph	$11,898.00	Kannapolis
19	Our Lady of Lourdes	$30,631.00	Monroe
20	Sacred Heart	$51,654.00	Salisbury
21	Sacred Heart	$2,651.00	Wadesboro
22	Our Lady of the Americas	$8,901.00	Biscoe
23	St. Andrew the Apostle	$6,098.00	Mars Hill
24	St. Barnabas	$43,428.00	Arden
25	St. Eugene	$67,289.00	Asheville
26	St. Joan of Arc	$18,902.00	Asheville
27	Basilica of St. Lawrence	$52,079.00	Asheville
28	Sacred Heart	$40,574.00	Brevard
29	Immaculate Conception	$94,630.00	Hendersonville
30	Chapel of the Redeemer		Hot Springs
31	St. Jude	$10,939.00	Sapphire Valley
32	St. Margaret Mary	$23,343.00	Swannanoa
33	St. John the Baptist	$28,580.00	Tryon
37	St. Elizabeth	$39,805.00	Boone
38	Sacred Heart	$3,613.00	Burnsville
40	St. Francis of Assisi	$7,632.00	Jefferson
41	St. John Baptist de La Salle	$11,399.00	North Wilkesboro
42	St. Frances of Rome	$4,552.00	Sparta
43	St. Lucien	$5,887.00	Spruce Pine
46	Queen of the Apostles	$32,114.00	Belmont
47	Immaculate Conception	$10,032.00	Forest City
48	St. Michael	$71,061.00	Gastonia
49	Christ the King	$4,282.00	Kings Mountain
50	St. Dorothy	$16,761.00	Lincolnton
51	Our Lady of the Angels	$6,673.00	Marion
52	St. Mary	$19,772.00	Shelby
53	St Helen	$2,623.00	Spencer Mountain
56	St. Joseph	$25,741.00	Asheboro
57	St. Joseph of the Hills	$10,791.00	Eden
58	Our Lady of Grace	$116,430.00	Greensboro
59	St. Benedict	$17,090.00	Greensboro
60	St. Mary	$23,309.00	Greensboro
61	St. Paul the Apostle	$126,617.00	Greensboro
62	St. Pius Tenth	$76,153.00	Greensboro
63	Christ the King	$13,033.00	High Point
64	Immaculate Heart of Mary	$69,618.00	High Point
65	Holy Infant	$13,356.00	Reidsville
66	Our Lady of the Highways	$12,071.00	Thomasville
69	St. Aloysius	$75,203.00	Hickory
70	St. Francis of Assisi	$15,431.00	Lenoir
71	St. Therese	$70,732.00	Mooresville
72	St. Charles Borromeo	$28,687.00	Morganton
73	St. Philip the Apostle	$39,238.00	Statesville
74	St. Joseph	$19,480.00	Newton
76	Holy Redeemer	$3,016.00	Andrews
77	St. Joseph	$5,941.00	Bryson City
78	Immaculate Conception	$3,180.00	Canton
79	Our Lady of Guadalupe	$2,863.00	Cherokee
81	Prince of Peace	$2,165.00	Robbinsville
82	St. Francis of Assisi	$21,284.00	Franklin
83	Immaculate Heart of Mary	$11,516.00	Hayesville
84	Our Lady of the Mountains	$10,450.00	Highlands
85	St. Margaret	$16,541.00	Maggie Valley
86	St. John the Evangelist	$13,585.00	Waynesville
88	St. Mary	$11,679.00	Sylva
89	St. William	$12,155.00	Murphy
91	St. Stephen	$5,167.00	Elkin
92	Holy Cross	$41,976.00	Kernersville
93	Our Lady of the Rosary	$12,536.00	Lexington
94	St. Francis of Assisi	$8,190.00	Mocksville
95	Holy Angels	$13,310.00	Mount Airy
96	Our Lady of Mercy	$50,413.00	Winston-Salem
97	St. Benedict the Moor	$10,851.00	Winston-Salem
98	St. Leo	$119,463.00	Winston-Salem
99	Holy Family	$86,065.00	Clemmons
101	St. Bernadette	$12,869.00	Linville
103	Holy Spirit	$18,080.00	Denver
107	Good Shepherd	$7,748.00	King
109	Holy Trinity	$5,934.00	Taylorsville
110	Our Lady of Fatima	$18,824.00	Winston-Salem

2001 DSA MINISTRIES BUDGET

Catholic Social Services

Diocesan Ministries

Special Ministries	$191,893
Natural Family Planning - Respect Life - Prison Ministry	
Elder Pastoral Services (CRISM) - Elder Social Services - Widowed/Separated/Divorced - Family Life - Marriage Preparation	
Office of Justice and Peace	$145,687
Campaign for Human Development - Catholic Relief Services	
Parish Social Ministry - Voices for Justice - Legislative Network	
Refugee Resettlement Program	$33,761
Catholic Social Service Administration	$82,159
Regional Services	
Western Regional Office - Asheville	$180,461
Hispanic Services - Adoption – Counseling - Crisis Intervention Foster Care - Pregnancy Support	
Charlotte Regional Office	$249,790
Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention, Foster Care, Pregnancy Support, Programa Esperanza	
Piedmont Triad Office - Winston-Salem	$253,552
Casa Guadalupe, Adoption, Counseling, Crisis Intervention Foster Care, Pregnancy Support	
Multicultural Ministries	
African American	$22,050
Hispanic Ministry	$311,000
Hmong Ministry	$46,786
Educational Ministries	
Faith Formation	$344,944
Catholic Schools	$240,969
Campus Ministry	$396,743
Evangelization	$25,000
Lay Ministry Training	$43,569
Media Resources	$64,995
Vicar's Office	$59,427
Youth Ministry	$118,668
Vocations	
Permanent Diaconate	$73,510
Seminarian Education	$295,836
Campaign Expenses	$152,200
Total	**$3,333,000**



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Prayers for African-American family to begin Black History Month

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — African-American Catholics around the country will kick off Black History Month in February with prayers for the African-American family.

The National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family, observed on Feb. 4 this year, was established in 1989 by Franciscan Father James E. Goode as an opportunity to give special thanks to God for families and to place their every care in the arms of Jesus.

The observance is co-sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for African-American Catholics, National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, National Black Sisters' Conference, National Association of Black Catholic Administrators; National Black Catholic Congress, Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, Josephite Pastoral Center and the Immaculate Conception Province of the Order of Friars Minor.

Beverly A. Carroll, executive director of the bishops' secretariat, said celebration of Black Catholic History Month would begin with a prayer service Feb. 5 at the bishops' national headquarters in Washington.

In a brochure for the National Day of Prayer for the African-American Family, Father Goode urged families to mark the day by:

— Worshipping and praying as a family.

— Celebrating a meal together and telling your family story.

— Setting aside some time to read the family Bible.

— Saying a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary for the needs of all families throughout the world.

— Making a family resolution, no matter how big or small, and striving to fulfill that resolution throughout the year.

"We want every generation born of African descent to know that through it all we have been, and we are, a people of faith," Father Goode said. "We've come through trials, tribulations and persecution. Here we stand. Look how far we've come with the Lord."

Harambee Mass

BELMONT — Belmont Abbey College will host a Harambee Mass in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Belmont Abbey on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, will serve as celebrant for this Mass celebrated for parent's weekend at Belmont Abbey College.

The Perpetual Help Gospel Choir and the Kabaka Dancers and Drummers from Our Lady of Consolation will enrich the Mass with their presence and performance.

CSS case manager works with those in need

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Most people do not think of the airport as the place where life can begin anew, but for some refugees who are first arriving in the United States, it is where they first meet their guide to a new country with a new culture and way of life. Alicia Garcia is a Catholic Social Services Case Manager in the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office, and many times, her job begins at the airport where she meets her clients and accompanies them to their new homes.

After Garcia makes sure that the clients have their basic needs met for their first days in America, then her daily and monthly routine begins — one that is subject to change at any minute.

"We are trying to help them in any way possible to make their lives as easy as possible after they arrive in this country," stressed Garcia, who has been working with CSS for nearly five years. "We are always very busy, and we don't work basic 40-hour weeks. We sometimes have to go to appointments at 8 a.m. and have to pick up the client at 7 or 7:30 a.m. Also, if someone has a job that doesn't end until 5 or 6 p.m., we have to schedule our appointments after that. We also visit the clients every week to make sure they have everything they need. You have to have the heart for this kind of work."

All clients are given a two-hour orientation involving basic skills and basic knowledge so that they can function in their new homes and neighborhoods. She teaches them about city and state laws and provides basic English lessons for everyday words if a language barrier exists. She also provides local geographical information about hospitals, grocery stores and other necessary knowledge. She also translates all school documents to register the children of these families and gives her phone number and information to the school in case of questions or emergencies.

She accompanies all of her clients to their state-required medical appointments, a series of three, where they receive immunizations, physicals and tests, and acts as a translator and a liaison between her office and the Department of Social Services (DSS).

"We make sure everyone receives the most appropriate medical attention because many do not have the resources they need," said Garcia. "We are their representatives with DSS, and we apply on their behalf with DSS for their benefits."

These trips do not include medical appointments that she must transport her clients to if they are ill. Unfortunately, many of them fall into that category. Garcia spoke of several clients whose main concerns now involve their health. "In one Cuban family, the father had a heart attack before coming to this county and was referred to a cardiologist here. His wife is partially-blind and lost her hearing from a virus and cannot work, and their daughter contracted Hepatitis B from a transfusion."

Courtesy Photo

Alicia Garcia, pictured center, greets some of her clients, a Somalian family, as they arrive for the first time in the United States over a year ago.

Many of her clients have various problems, and Garcia is a part of every aspect of their lives. "A bond is created between the case worker and the client, and we become attached to one another which can be difficult because you have so many clients to help. You have to exercise control so that you don't get too involved in their lives. You have to be a good listener, and you have to be caring and understanding. It gives me such great pleasure when I have a case where the clients were in such poverty when they arrived, and two years later, they have worked and saved to buy a house. They are a part of me."

Catholic Social Services is one of the life-giving ministries in the Diocese of Charlotte partially funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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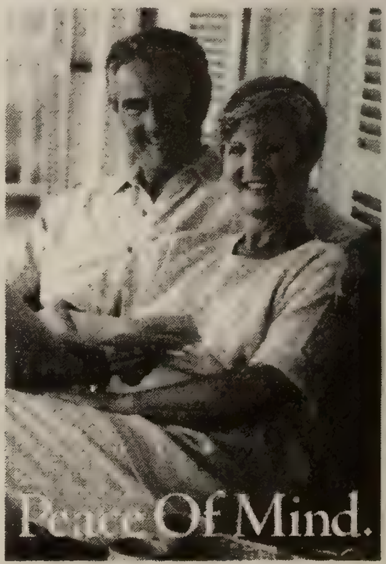
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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 9, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 22

Inside

Robert Gately remembered as veteran newsman
...Page 3

Aid reaching Indian earthquake survivors
...Page 7

Local News

Diocesan high schools show sporting spirit
...Page 5

Asheville man answers call to diaconate
...Page 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are hungry, for you will be satisfied. — Luke 6: 20-21

Sisters continue outreach with charisms of mercy, charity

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

ROSMAN — The directions are simple: Right after Victory Baptist Church, put your blinker on when you come to the 45-mile-per-hour sign. And, then, just around the curve to the right is the sign for the Frances Warde Health Service.

Turn up the driveway and into the parking lot. The rocking chair is out front, and the "Welcome" sign on the door greets around 100 patients a week. A lot of those patients are the elderly poor; many are children.

Grants, donations and fees charged for services fund the Frances Warde Health Service. Grants come from various sources such as foundations. A recent grant from the Sisters of Mercy of Belmont, N.C., for instance, will pay the salaries of the nursing staff this year. Medicare pays 80 percent of treatment cost for patients eligible for that benefit. Patients pay all or part of the remaining 20 percent, whatever they can afford, of their treatment cost. The clinic subsidizes about 45 percent of its patients from such sources as the Good Samaritan Fund, the repository for all donations Frances Warde receives.

The clinic also has a patient assistance program, in which drug companies provide medicines for patients who are below a certain level of income, don't qualify for Medicaid, and have no health insurance that pays for drugs.

What would it mean not to have the clinic available?

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Sister Carol Hoban, SC, family nurse practitioner at the Frances Warde Health Service, consults with patient Brenda McCall.

"They'd owe doctors a lot of money, or they wouldn't go and they'd be dead," Mercy Sister Jacqueline Dewar of Detroit, said.

Mercy Sister Gretchen Hermanny, M.D., and Sister Jacquie founded the Frances Warde Health Service 18 years ago in nearby Balsam Grove. In a way, they were following in the footsteps of Sister Frances Warde, leader of the first group of Sisters of Mercy to come the United States. They arrived in America in 1843 and spent their lives founding hospitals, schools, orphanages and homes for women.

Sister Gretchen's specialty is internal medicine. A Sister of Mercy of New Jersey, she had researched regions that were medically underserviced and decided that this area near Brevard in rural Transylvania County was the place where she wanted to work. She called a friend, Sister Jacquie, a former teacher, principal and pastoral minister.

"I wanted something that was with the poor," Sister Jacquie said. "Our community had a program called New Foundations that put people with the poor. Gretchen had finished her boards and was ready to go. She called me and asked if I wanted to go. I said 'Sure.' "

They arrived in November 1983 and for the first 10 days lived in a travel trailer with no electricity or running water. "We had a gas stove," Sister Jacquie said. "We did a lot by candlelight, and we went to bed early."

Father Joseph Mulligan (now pastor of St. Luke Church in Mint Hill) had recently been assigned as pastor of Sacred Hart Church in Brevard, and he helped them find a house that could serve as home and clinic.

"He was a great help," Sister Jacquie

See SISTERS, page 15

Celebrating life in Christ

"...I have called you by name — you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a community of Maryfield Nursing Home residents, the Poor Servants of the Mother of God Sisters that staff the residential care and nursing home facility, other men and women religious and area supporters gathered to celebrate the commitment many have made to ministry rooted in the Lord.

A Mass in honor of the World Day for Consecrated Life was held in the chapel at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point on Feb. 2.

According to information from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference (NCCB/USCC), the day, commissioned by the pope, has been observed in dioceses across the country for the past several years to commemorate those men and women who have answered God's call. All men and women religious, including diocesan and order priests, live a consecrated life — one in which they pledge their lives to God through the profession of the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Although diocesan priests do not necessarily take the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, they do commit to lead simple and celibate lives in service to their bishop and the diocese.

Although Feb. 2 is the day designated for the worldwide celebration, since the day fell on Friday this year,

See CELEBRATING, page 8

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Peace activists rally in Jerusalem

Israeli peace activists march past a soldier during a rally in Jerusalem Feb. 3, days before Israelis were to elect a new government leader.

Speakers debate need for bigger role of women in church

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (CNS) — An Ohio congresswoman urged U.S. Catholic women to use American society's democratic freedom to move the church internationally toward democratic structures more open to women. But law professor Mary Ann Glendon voiced reservations about "importing secular notions of governance into the church." Glendon, who teaches at Harvard Law School, and Rep. Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio, who are both Catholic, appeared together Feb. 4 in a session of a Common Ground Initiative program held in New Rochelle. Kaptur called for a fuller representation of "those doing the work and professing the belief" at every level of the church.

Happy tourists carry off Vatican Christmas tree decorations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Nativity scene still standing in St. Peter's Square in early February was not as odd a sight as the happy tourists leaving the square carrying large gold or silver balls. The unusual souvenirs had hung on the Vatican Christmas tree since mid-December. As Vatican workmen dismantled the Nativity scene and used a crane to remove decorations from the massive tree Feb. 5, many of the plastic ornaments crashed to the ground and burst. But those that workers managed to catch were given to members of the crowd which had gathered to watch and shout their pleas for a special Vatican souvenir. Members of the crowd who did not get one of the balls left content with a wicker star or even a length of silver garland from Pope John Paul II's Christmas tree.

Aid reaching earthquake survivors in India, says CRS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Relief supplies are reaching earthquake survivors in western India, and materials for shelter are among their most critical needs, said a Catholic Relief Services worker. In a Feb. 5 telephone interview from Bhuj, one of the most seriously affected areas, David Snyder of Catholic Relief Services said CRS staff have been delivering supplies to the surrounding villages. CRS is the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency. "Our supply line is kind of kicking into high gear now," he said. The aid "mobilized in the U.S. and around the world is really starting to get here and have the impact getting out to people." The main needs are for shelter, he said, including tents, tarps and blankets, especially because of low temperatures this time of year.

Youths on visit to Capitol Hill urged to be politically involved

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Jesuit priest who once served in Congress told high school students visiting Capitol Hill Feb. 1 that he hoped their experience would change their lives and make them "resolve to be active politically." Jesuit Father Robert Drinan addressed more than 300 high school students in a setting that was very familiar to him — the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a Democratic congressman from Massachusetts from 1971 to 1981. The students came from across the country to participate in the weeklong National Young Leaders Conference. They took part in seminars, tours and political discussions.

Outgoing general secretary calls World Youth Day best experience

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Looking back on 11 years at the U.S. bishops' national offices in Washington, Bishop-designate Dennis M. Schnurr said, "For me the highlight was without question the World Youth Day in Denver." That 1993 event, which he coordinated, "was really a life-transforming experience, because it gave me a new awareness of the potential that we have in our young people and the eagerness of our young people to make a contribution to the church," he said. Bishop-designate Schnurr ended his term of office Feb. 2 at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, where he was general secretary for the past six years and associate general secretary for five-and-a-half years before that. Pope John Paul II appointed the 52-year-old priest from Sioux City, Iowa, to be bishop of Duluth, Minn., on Jan. 18. He is to be ordained a bishop in Duluth April 2.

UNESCO panel gives peace prize to Sant'Egidio Community

PARIS (CNS) — A UNESCO panel led by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger awarded its annual peace prize to the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community, a Catholic lay community. The Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize, which includes a gold medal and a cash award equivalent to about $160,000, was presented to Sant'Egidio President Andrea Riccardi during a Feb. 1 ceremony at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. In announcing the prize Jan. 27, Kissinger said the prize jury decided unanimously that the Sant'Egidio Community was the most appropriate recipient. "Our choice comes in recognition of the efforts of the Community of Sant'Egidio to achieve ecumenical reconciliation among all religions and for their work in Algeria, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and Yugoslavia," he said.

Pope says religious offer example of self-giving

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Men and women who belong to religious orders offer the whole church an example of the joyful self-giving that should mark the lives of all Christians, Pope John Paul II said. At a Feb. 2 Mass marking the feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the fifth annual Day for Consecrated Life, the pope led hundreds of brothers, nuns and priests in offering thanks for the gift of religious life and renewing their commitment to their vows. The Mass in St. Peter's Basilica was celebrated by Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in the presence of the pope, who gave the homily and led the prayer of thanksgiving.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 11 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

February 12 — 7:30 p.m.
Legislative dinner hosted with
Bishop Joseph Gossman, Raleigh

February 15 — 10 a.m.
Foundation Board Meeting
Hickory

February 17 — 8:30 a.m.-noon
Spiritual retreat with Knights
and Dames of Malta, Charlotte

February 18 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

11 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on Feb. 15 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3 p.m. on Feb. 25 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

MORGANTON — St. Charles Borromeo Church, 728 West Union St., is hosting a Valentine Tea for Chocolate Lovers this afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in Murray Hall. Valentine delights include snow-drenched chocolate cheesecake, brownie decadence, chocolate-kissed strawberries and other goodies. For tickets and other information, call the church office at (828) 437-3108.

12 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent meets tonight and Feb. 26 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

14 CHARLOTTE — A session entitled "Spiritual Aspects of Grief" is being held at the ministry center of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. The gathering is for those who have experienced a loss or those in bereavement ministry. For more information, call (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program with a guest speaker from

Christians should not be intimidated by media, pope says

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must not be intimidated by the hostility the media sometimes show to the Christian message and Christian values, Pope John Paul II said.

From radio to the Internet, modern media reach an audience whose size "would have been beyond the wildest imaginings of those who preached the Gospel before us," the pope said.

In his message, the pope wrote, "As much as the world of the media may at times seem at odds with the Christian message, it also offers unique opportunities for proclaiming the saving truth of Christ to the whole human family."

At athe beginning of the third millennium, he said, "an estimated two-thirds of the world's 6 billion people do not in any real sense know Jesus Christ."

Proclaiming the Gospel to those who have never heard its message and renewing the faith of those who have strayed will require more than an effective use of the media, the pope said, but the media as a tool cannot be ignored.

"Catholics should not be afraid to throw open the doors of social communications to Christ, so that his Good News may be heard from the housetops of the world," he said.

The size of the media's potential audience is not the only motive for church action in the field of communications, he said.

"The media are having an increasingly visible effect on culture and its transmission," he said. "Where once the media reported events, now events are often shaped to meet the requirements of the media," sometimes blurring the line between truth and illusion.

At the same time, the ease of getting information has given people an

See MEDIA, page 15

Robert Gately remembered as veteran newsman, founding editor of The Catholic News & Herald

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

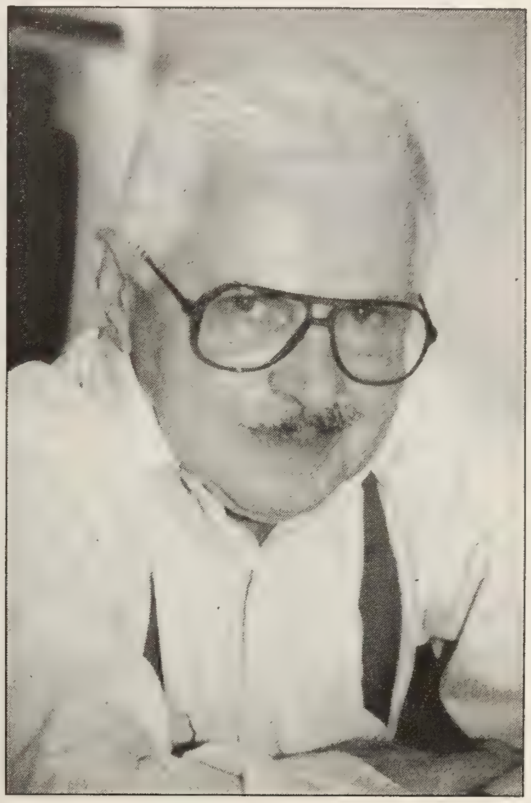
CHARLOTTE — If it is said that ink pulses through the veins of a true newspaperman, Robert Gately was an ink-stained tribute to the profession. Founding Editor of *The Catholic News & Herald* Robert Gately died Feb. 3 — his legacy retained within printed volumes of newsprint.

A veteran newsman and venerable political pundit, Gately spent his lifetime among the working press. He spent time with several small newspapers before joining United Press International. For 31 years, he served various editorial posts within UPI in Indianapolis, Charlotte and Chicago. Prior to his retirement from UPI in Chicago, he was editor of UPI's National Radio.

While in Illinois, Gately was active in politics, serving as an elected County Commissioner for DuPage County, one of the western suburbs of Chicago.

During his tenure with *The Catholic News & Herald*, Gately frequently wrote politically charged commentary linking the teachings of the Catholic Church with current national and international issues.

Gately joined the pastoral staff of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte in July 1987, spending time on research and special projects from the chancery. He was appointed editor of *The Catholic News & Herald* when it was established as the diocesan newspaper early in the 1990s. The first edition was published September 6, 1991.



It was a transition for the veteran newsman — whose background in publishing came from the era of cut and paste set up for newspapers — to move into the age of desktop publishing. This challenge, however, he took in stride, taking *The Catholic News & Herald* into the electronic age.

His efforts paid off as the Charlotte diocesan newspaper became one of the first diocesan papers in the nation prepared totally within an electronic environment. Moreover, during his tenure with *The Catholic News & Herald*, the newspaper garnered awards for journalistic excellence.

Gately retired from *The Catholic News & Herald* in 1995 following surgery and for recuperation. In a letter published on Sept. 1, 1995, Bishop William G. Curlin said, "Bob has met the challenges of his illness with courage and fortitude of faith." Bishop Curlin, publisher of *The Catholic News & Herald*, accepted Gately's resignation "with reluctance," thanking him for his efforts in establishment of the diocesan newspaper.

Robert Edward Gately, 73, died Feb. 3, 2001, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. A member of St. Peter's parish in Charlotte, Gately was born Jan. 23, 1928, in Boston, son of the late Joseph Gately and Marie Galligan Gately. He was a graduate of Boston Latin High School and Northeastern University in Boston. He was a Navy veteran.

Surviving are a stepdaughter, Carol Eastwood, and two granddaughters, Christie Eastwood and Anna Eastwood, all of Charlotte; a brother, Richard Gately, and his wife, Elizabeth, of Braintree, Mass.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial Mass was celebrated on Feb. 8 at the Catholic Pastoral Center, with committal following in the Sharon Memorial Park Mausoleum. Bishop Curlin and Jesuit Father Robert J. Paquet officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Peter's Catholic Church, 507 South Tryon St., Charlotte, N.C. 28202.

Contact Editor Joann S. Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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Sharon Luggage and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

16 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting a Reiki retreat weekend. Reiki is a natural healing technique that uses laying on of hands to reduce stress and accelerate the body's ability to heal. Karen Prescott, a second-degree Reiki practitioner in the Usai system of healing, is the retreat facilitator. For more information, call Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege at (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

17 DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 Denver is having its annual Italian Night in the parish hall of Holy Spirit Church, 537 Hwy. 16 North, at 7 p.m. tonight. The dinner is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests may dine on soups, pasta, desserts and other foods. For tickets or other information, call Pat Lisi at (704) 896-7735 or the church office at (704) 483-6448.

23 CHARLOTTE — All married couples are invited to participate in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter this weekend at the Holiday Inn Airport in Charlotte. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour period when couples can take time off from families, work and other responsibilities to focus on each other to grow spiritually and emotionally as one. The weekend begins at 7:30 p.m. tonight and ends at 4 p.m. on Feb. 25. Upcoming marriage encounters are taking place Mar. 9-11 and May 25-27. For more information or reservations, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (704) 274-4424 or go to http://cg.thedepot.com/me.

24 CHARLOTTE — A Catechist Recognition Process Workshop for catechist training and certification is being held today at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. Registration takes place from 8:30-9 a.m. followed by Mass at 9:15 a.m. Five Phase 1 modules are being offered during two sessions from 10:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and from 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. with a new Phase II module offered in the afternoon. Any adult involved in parish ministry or seeking personal enrichment is invited to come. For more information and to register, contact Marylin Kravatz, Southern Regional Coordinator for Faith Formation, at (704) 370-3247.

Upcoming

CHARLOTTE — "Education for Solidarity: Catholic School Teaching and Economic Life," a program of the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty Catholic Campaign for Human Development, is being presented in workshop-style format March 3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. This event, sponsored by the diocesan CCHD office, is for parish leaders, educators, business people, those interested in social concerns and others. For registration and other information, call Dr. Barney Offerman at (704) 370-3234 by Feb. 15.

CHARLOTTE — The Mecklenburg County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America in cooperation with Dyer-Hart Productions is organizing Charlotte's 5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade steps off at noon on Mar. 17 from the corner of Tryon and Stonewall Sts. The parade travels down Tryon past St. Peter Catholic Church and through uptown to 5th St. An Irish festival is also taking place after the parade. For more information or to join in the parade, call Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or NCAOH@aol.com.

CHARLOTTE — St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., is planning their sesquicentennial celebration, which lasts from Mar. 18 until Jan. 29, 2002. The church history committee is interested in hearing from former parishioners who would like to share stories or facts about the church's history. This information will be used for the celebration and possibly for a published church history. Contact the parish office at (704) 332-2901, Ext. 12, with your name, phone number and time to call.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Education Vicariate to sponsor second round of Leadership Training workshops

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Education Vicariate will focus on leadership in action next month as a second part of its Leadership Training for Lay Ministers program.

The pilot program debuted last fall for lay people involved primarily in educational ministry. Campus ministers, educators, liturgy and music coordinators, parish catechetical leaders, RCIA coordinators, youth ministers and other interested persons are invited to attend the program.

The program was designed by education vicariate officials who wanted to offer an organized way for lay ministers to maximize their leadership potential and responsibilities.

"The first workshops provided a foundation on leadership skills, and these workshops will zero in on taking those skills and applying them to a certain ministry," said Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, diocesan director of religious formation for schools. "This concept — leadership in action — is not something new for this diocese. We're simply affirming what people in the diocese are doing and letting people know that they are in sync with what is going on in the church."

The program, scheduled for March 23-24 at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd. in Charlotte, will include three tracks: Communication and Collaboration; Providing Human Services in the Parish and Doing Faith Justice; and Evangelization and Inculturation.

Diocesan and community leaders will facilitate the sessions.

Terry Aiken, a diversity and leadership consultant from the Triad, will present a keynote address to begin the program on March 23. In addition to his consulting work, Aiken has been a juvenile court counselor for 11 years and is director of youth ministry at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, where he is a parishioner.

The new round of workshops will be related to last fall's program, although they will be a self-contained unit. Those who did not attend the program in the fall are welcome as new participants.

Like the church at large, the Diocese of Charlotte is committed to fostering and utilizing the talents of lay people, Sister Maureen said. "We have the gift of talent in this diocese, and we're tapping into that talent," she said. "This is a very unique program in that it is coming from the laity and is for the laity.

"The Second Vatican Council documents emphasize the gifts of the laity, and we're just implementing those documents."

Ann Peters, the director of faith formation at St. James Church in Hamlet who attended the first workshops, said she feels called to serve the church as a lay person in a leadership role.

"When I moved from Wisconsin to here in Richmond County, where there are only 143 Catholic families, I made the resolve to do whatever was asked of me" in terms of serving the church locally, said Peters, whose background includes teaching in a Catholic school and working as a catechist.

Weighing her options as a schoolteacher or a faith formation director in her new hometown, Peters felt she "could serve more people more effectively" in the church.

The church continues to call on lay people as significant contributors whose potential needs to be tapped. At a worldwide gathering of lay leaders last November in Rome, Bishop Stanislaw Rylko, secretary of the Vatican's laity council, said lay Catholics experience "such a need to re-live, in a truly fresh way, amazement at the greatness and beauty of the Christian vocation — a vocation rooted in baptism."

In an interview with Catholic News Service, laity council president Cardinal J. Francis Stafford said, "The task of bringing the expression of God's love to the world rests primarily with the lay person in the church."

Cardinal Stafford emphasized the value of the lay person in the post-Vatican II church. "That's very important, that the lay person is now perceived since the Second Vatican Council as integrally involved — integrally a part of — the very mission of the church; not an appendage, not a recipient, but an actual, active disciple of Christ."

For registration information and other details on "Leadership Training for Lay Ministers, Part II: Leadership in Action," see the advertisement in next week's issue, or call (704) 370-3244.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Former Belmont Abbey coach Al McGuire dies

MILWAUKEE — Legendary college basketball coach Al McGuire died Jan. 26 at the age of 72. McGuire's career was launched at Belmont Abbey, where he coached from 1958-1965. His departure for Marquette University led to phenomenal seasons there, culminating with his NCAA championship win in his last coaching game of his career in 1977.

McGuire, who brought basketball glory to Marquette University in the 1960s and '70s, played Jan. 29 to his final full house, his funeral Mass at Gesu Parish, Milwaukee. McGuire died of acute leukemia Jan. 26 at the Franciscan Woods treatment center in Brookfield, a Milwaukee suburb.

In his 13-year coaching career in Milwaukee, he led the Marquette Warriors to 11 consecutive post-season appearances, capturing the NCAA title in 1977 and National Invitation Tournament title in 1970.

Belmont Abbey College awarded an honorary doctorate to McGuire in the fall of 2000. Presented in absentia due to his illness, the doctoral diploma and citation were sent to McGuire's home in care of his wife, Patricia.

McGuire taught health classes and coached at Belmont Abbey from 1957-1964, just before he embarked on his historic seasons at Marquette University. During his first year at the Abbey, he took the Crusaders to five postseason tournaments, including NAIA and NCAA tourneys. His overall record at the Abbey was 109-64.

After moving to Marquette, he led the Warriors to win the NCAA championship during his very last game before retiring from coaching. His overall record at Marquette was 295-80. In 1992 he received basketball's highest honor when he was elected to the Hall of Fame.

McGuire had a successful career in sports merchandising and television broadcasting, retiring in the spring of 2000.

More than 20 years ago, he founded Al's Run and Walk, which benefits Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and is now the third largest foot race in the nation.

"Al McGuire achieved more renown than perhaps any other Abbey employee," said Dr. Robert A. Preston, president. "But it was for his respect for Catholic education, his desire to develop student athletes fully and his civic commitments that we honored him. We are fortunate to have had him as our Crusaders coach."

Belmont Abbey College is a private Catholic liberal arts institution providing undergraduate education to approximately 1,000 students. Monks of the Order of St. Benedict founded Belmont Abbey in 1876.

Belmont Abbey College and Catholic News Service contributed to this story.

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High school athletics extend Catholic school vision, athletes and directors say

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Lynn Ruggieri is passionate about basketball. She loves competing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. She has crafted some valuable friendships.

Moreover, the senior at Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School says participating in athletics makes her a well-formed person.

"This is my third year of playing basketball, and the past two years I've been co-captain," says Ruggieri, 18. "The younger players really look up to you — not only in basketball, but also outside of school with morality-type stuff.

"They look up to you and follow you, so I think that I have to be this type of leader on and off the court — at practice, during games and just being together."

Ruggieri is one of dozens of youth who participate in the athletic programs of the Diocese of Charlotte's two Catholic high schools. Like their curricula and other activities, the schools have designed sporting programs that are an extension of their vision for values-based educational experiences.

Eddie Mitchell is directing a blossoming sports program at Bishop McGuinness in Winston-Salem. He says the school community has embraced a vision of teamwork and sportsmanship where athletics are concerned.

"I wasn't interested in if we won or lost as such," said Mitchell, who took over as athletic director last May. "I was interested in *the way* we won or lost. That's meant a lot to me, and overall, we have kept to that standard."

Courtesy Photo

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School basketball player Bob Kilbough drives to the hoop during a recent game. The diocese's two Catholic high schools have athletic programs that are an extension of values-based educational experiences.

A new football program was well received by the McGuinness community, Mitchell says, adding that the school also has a new cheerleading team and a revamped soccer program. McGuinness will introduce lacrosse and wrestling over the next two school years.

Joey Nitz, a basketball player and cross-country runner, says participating in Bishop McGuinness sports has enhanced his leadership skills and made him appreciate cooperation even more.

He's an active volunteer for Special Olympics — an extension of a passion for sports that he says is a fundamental part of who he is.

"Our coach and our players don't always talk basketball before every game," says Nitz, an 18-year-old senior. He adds that the team prays before each time they take the court.

"It's a lot deeper than just the game," he says. "It's a lot more than just basketball — it's pretty much developing us as persons who are going to leave high school and join the ranks of the world."

Ruggieri and Nitz agree that good conduct, self-discipline and values-based behavior are important in athletics — just as they are in the Catholic school experience and through life in general.

Their athletic director agrees as well.

"Athletics really is an important factor in what we do here," says Mitchell, a retired professional soccer player. "We have a lot of good kids who come through here who are really grounded. I think the athletic program really gives them the opportunity to shine, and that shows in their academics, too."

Down the interstate at Charlotte Catholic High School, a tradition of excellence permeates the classrooms and athletic fields as well. Jim Oddo, who has coached and directed the athletic program there since 1973, says the sports program has rounded out many students' experiences at that school also.

"Sports in general is just a very big rallying point around the whole community," says Oddo. At this high school, he adds, "there's a good overall Catholic spirit and very good support."

With pride, he easily recalls gymnasiums and stadium bleachers filled with Charlotte Catholic fans — both at home games and on the road. He remembers close calls and thrilling victories. He speaks with excitement about the undefeated girls' volleyball team that won the state championship last fall, and Charlotte Catholic's being awarded the Wachovia Cup for overall athletic excellence for two consecutive years.

But, like his counterpart in Winston-Salem, Oddo says his pride and excitement aren't limited to wins over losses.

"It's more than just participation in sports," he says. "We are a faith community, and sports is one way to pull people together."

See ATHLETICS, page 15

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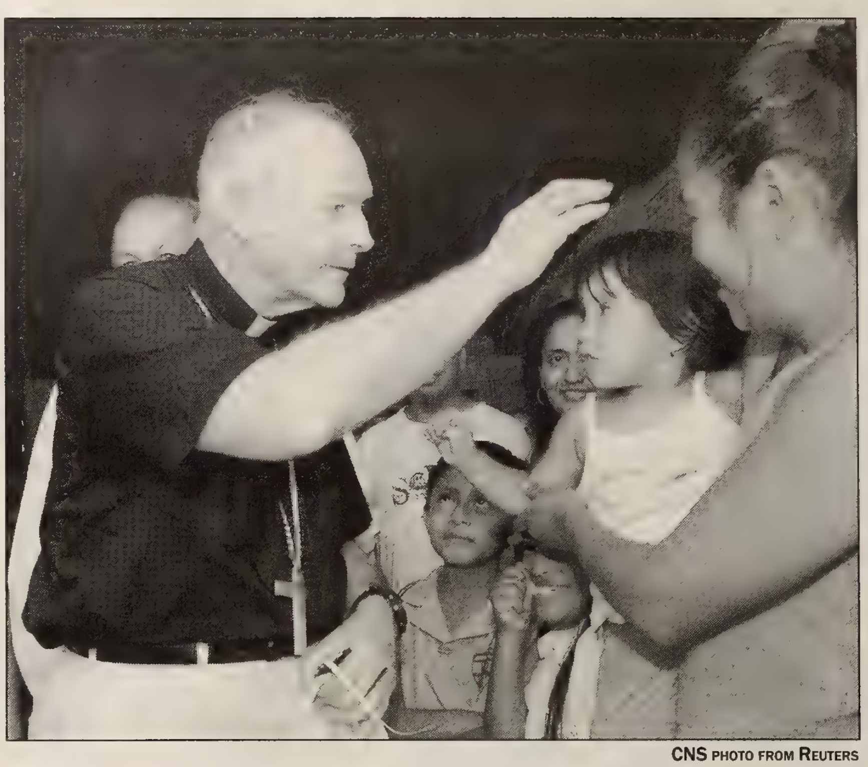
Vatican interreligious dialogue expert defends 'Dominus Iesus'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican official who coordinates interreligious dialogue, Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, said a church document re-emphasizing Christ as savior for all should not create problems for non-Christians. The document, "Dominus Iesus," simply spelled out basic Catholic beliefs, Cardinal Arinze told Vatican Radio Feb. 3. Dialogue with those of other faiths must continue, but can bring "great risk" if Catholics are not sure about their own identity, he said. When "Dominus Iesus" was issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in September, it prompted considerable negative reaction in interreligious and ecumenical circles. The document affirmed that the church of Christ exists fully only in the Catholic Church, and it rejected the idea that "one religion is as good as another."

Lockerbie verdict bittersweet for Pennsylvania Catholic couple

GREENSBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Carole and Glenn Johnson Jr. of Hempfield Township in the Greensburg Diocese lost their only daughter in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Beth Ann Johnson, 21, and Elyse Saraceni, 20, of Salem Township, perished in the crash on their way home for the holidays after studying abroad. They were both Seton Hill College students. So Jan. 31 — the day verdicts were handed down in the trial of two Libyans accused of carrying out the bombing — was a bittersweet day for the Johnsons. Libyan intelligence agent Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, 49, was convicted of the mass murder of 270 people — 259 who were aboard the flight and 11 on the ground. He was sentenced to life in prison and is eligible for parole in 20 years. Lamen Khalifi Fhimah, 44, was found not guilty and walked away a free man.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

McCarrick blesses child in El Salvador

Washington Cardinal-designate Theodore E. McCarrick blesses a child as he greets residents of the city of Izalco, El Salvador, Feb. 1. He was in the country with representatives from Catholic Relief Services assessing damages from January's devastating earthquake.

Priest remains in critical condition after being shot at school

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — A priest who served as a Catholic school principal remained in critical condition after being shot when he refused entrance to three strangers. Three unidentified people, who some suspected were indigenous militants, approached the Catholic school in Canchipur, India, Feb. 2. One shot Father Tommy Manjaly, the school principal, who refused their demand for admission, an archdiocesan official said. Such demands are a pretext to attack, Msgr. Joseph Kachiramattam, vicar general of Imphal Archdiocese, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. He said that indigenous militants in Manipur state, which is served by the archdiocese, often demand money from missionaries.

World War II Polish freedom fighter Jan Karski remembered

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The life and deeds of the late Jan Karski, a member of the Polish Resistance during World War II who tried to alert the world to the horrors of the Nazis' Holocaust, were remembered Jan. 31 during a tribute to him at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Karski, first captured by Soviet forces and later by Nazi troops only to escape each time, tried to warn U.S. and British officials about what was happening to Europe's Jews, but his words fell on disbelieving ears. He would say of his mission that "it was a failure," but his story "is not a story of failure," said Jesuit Father Leo O'Donovan, president of Georgetown University, where Karski taught government and East European history for nearly 40 years until his retirement in 1995. Karski died last June 13 at age 86.

No good can come from cloning plans, pro-life official says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The announcement that a pair of U.S. and Italian scientists plan to proceed with the cloning of a human being strikes fear — and disgust — in the heart of Richard Doerflinger of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "This is awful if it does work," said Doerflinger, associate director for policy development in the pro-life office, in a Jan. 31 interview with Catholic News Service. "And it's worse that it will often fail and lead to the destruction of a great deal of innocent life," he added. Panayiotis M. Zavos, professor of reproductive physiology at the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Severino Antinori, director of a Rome-based artificial insemination clinic, announced Jan. 25 in Lexington, Ky., that they planned to begin cloning human beings for couples who have not been able to bear children.

Nun says popular rap music among forces harming today's youths

NEW YORK (CNS) — The president of Covenant House says lyrics by popular rap star Eminem and others are an example of cultural forces that are giving young people today a sense of hopelessness. Such forces are "spawning a generation of children who feel more lost, terrified, disenfranchised, hurt and hopeless" than any generation in history, said Sister Mary Rose McGeady, a Daughter of Charity. The head of the youth shelter, which has its headquarters in New York, made the comments in her monthly letter to supporters, dated Feb. 7. She also mentioned the "rap icons" called Puff Daddy and Dr. Dre, but spotlighted Eminem singing lyrics such as one imagining "the joy" of murdering "wives, nuns, sluts — whoever."

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Aid reaching earthquake survivors in India, says CRS

By JENNIFER E. REED
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Relief supplies are reaching earthquake survivors in western India, and materials for shelter are among their most critical needs, said a Catholic Relief Services worker.

In a Feb. 5 telephone interview from Bhuj, one of the most seriously affected areas, David Snyder of Catholic Relief Services said CRS staff have been delivering supplies to the surrounding villages. CRS is the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency.

"Our supply line is kind of kicking into high gear now," he said. The aid "mobilized in the U.S. and around the world is really starting to get here and have the impact getting out to people.".

In the village of Nalappa, CRS distributed buckets, soap, three heavy wool blankets per family, tarps and jerrycans, he said.

"We have three villages to go to tomorrow, and that number is likely to go up exponentially every day," he said.

The main needs are for shelter, he said, including tents, tarps and blankets, especially because of low temperatures this time of year.

"The need for food isn't yet critical. People are still able to recover food and still grow crops. ... Water is more critical," he added.

Coadjutor Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz of Anchorage, Alaska, a CRS board member, was to arrive in Bhuj Feb. 6 to visit the area, said Snyder.

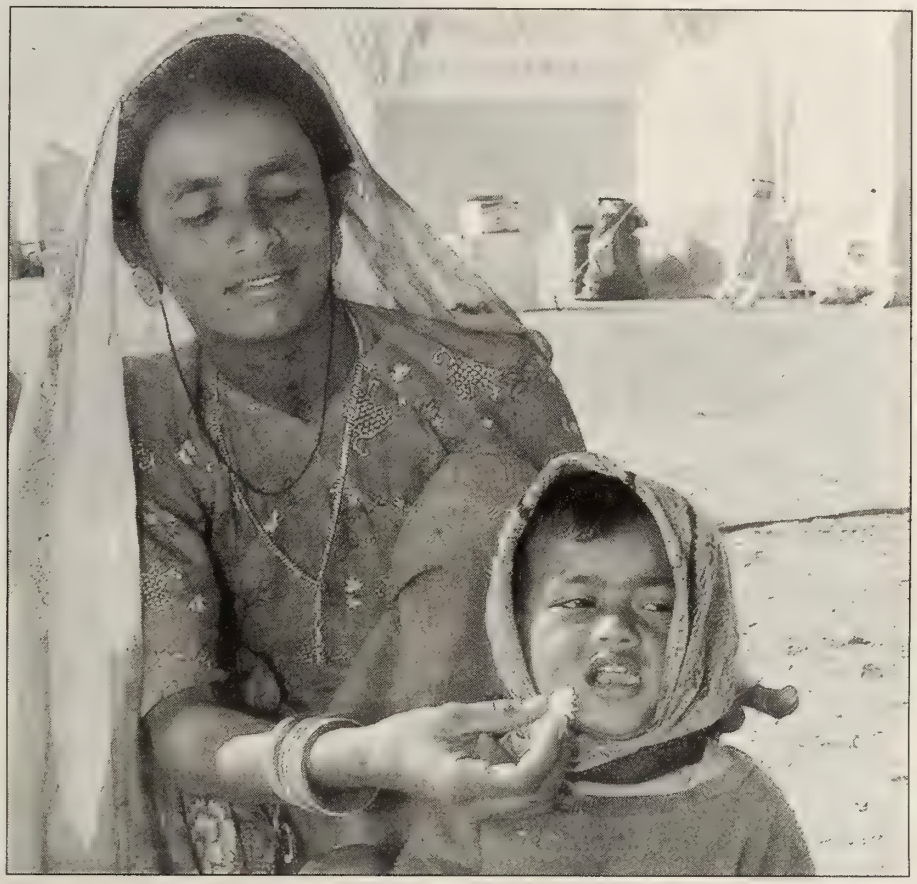
U.S seismologists measured the Jan. 26 quake, centered in India's western Gujarat state and also felt in neighboring Pakistan, at magnitude 7.9, making it the strongest to strike India in 50 years. Indian officials feared the death toll could rise to 30,000 people.

Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes said the final death toll may never be known.

Seismologists recorded more than 50 aftershocks, at least one measuring more than magnitude 6, in the 36 hours following the first quake.

But more than a week after the quake, people were being found alive under the rubble.

On Feb. 5, a middle-aged brother and sister were pulled from the ground floor of their collapsed apartment building in Bhuj where they had been trapped in their kitchen and had enough food and water to survive, reported Reuters, the British news agency.



CNS photo from Reuters

A woman feeds her injured child outside a Red Cross hospital in the western Indian city of Bhuj Feb. 5. At least 30,000 people are thought to have died in the devastating earthquake that ravaged western India in late January.

Sean Callahan, Catholic Relief Services' regional director for South Asia, said trauma counseling and long-term reconstruction assistance will be needed to help people recover from the quake.

In a Feb. 1 telephone interview from CRS headquarters in Baltimore, Callahan said, "There are a lot of people that have been really affected by trauma of loss of all family," as well as "parents who have heard ... their children go silent or crying underneath (the rubble), and they couldn't help them."

Callahan said at least a year-and-a-half of reconstruction work will be required, since many of the houses were completely destroyed and people have no shelter.

CRS is operating two emergency relief offices in Gujarat, said Callahan, one in Ahmedabad, the capital, and one in Bhuj, one of the most severely affected areas.

"It's going to be a long haul, the rehabilitation of this area," which will require reconstruction of housing and sanitation services, and restoration of electricity and water supplies, Callahan said.

"Many of the businesses have been destroyed, too. People have lost not only their homes but their livelihood for the future," he added.

Callahan said concerns are increasing over a risk of epidemics because of unsanitary conditions and lack of clean water.

"Makeshift hospitals have been set up under tarps and tents" to try to control the spread of disease, "but there's definitely the potential," he said.

He noted that several serious natural disasters have hit India in the last few years, including a cyclone in Orissa state in late 1999 that killed 20,000-30,000 people and major flooding in eastern India in late 2000 that left thousands dead or missing.

Callahan said CRS has committed $650,000 to rehabilitation.

The New York-based Catholic Medical Mission Board announced Jan. 31 that it donated $25,000 to its partner agency, Caritas Internationalis India, and is ready to airlift antibiotics, analgesics, vitamins and first aid supplies.

Christian bishops in India urged church agencies to join Hindus in helping survivors, despite claims that right-wing Hindu groups have interfered in their relief work.

In New Delhi Feb. 5, the government said power had been restored to more than 80 percent of some 900 quake-affected villages.

At his Jan. 28 weekly Angelus prayer, Pope John Paul II, said, "I assure my closeness, with sentiments of deep solidarity, to the Indian and Pakistani populations struck by this appalling disaster."

He called on all people to "unite their moral and material forces, so our brothers and sisters so harshly tried get the necessary relief."

Want to help?

The Diocese of Charlotte, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is responding to the immediate human needs of the people of India for food, plastic sheeting, blankets, tents, mats and other non-food items. CRS is the U.S. Catholic Church's international development and relief organization and is committed to helping the people of India recover from this tragedy and rebuild their communities.

This call for your generous response to the needs of the people of India follows upon the Diocese of Charlotte's recent appeal for assistance to aid the people of El Salvador. Only two weeks ago El Salvador experienced a severe earthquake.

If you wish to donate funds to support the earthquake relief efforts of CRS in India and/or El Salvador, please send a contribution to your parish office. Make your checks out to your parish marked clearly for CRS Relief: India or CRS Relief: El Salvador. Alternatively, you may make your donation check out to Diocese of Charlotte, mailing your check to the following address: Diocese of Charlotte, CRS Earthquake Relief, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Contributions will be forwarded to CRS. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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Despite Super Bowl loss, priest loves being Giants' chaplain

BY WARD MIELE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — Despite the defeat of his beloved New York Giants, his first Super Bowl is something Father Richard Corbett will not soon forget.

That is because in addition to being acting executive director of the CYO for the Archdiocese of Newark, Father Corbett is also the Catholic chaplain for the Giants, a team he has supported for as long as he can remember.

Chaplain since last June, Father Corbett celebrates Mass for players and other team personnel prior to all home and most away games. He celebrated Mass on Super Sunday Jan. 28 at 1:30 p.m., five hours before kickoff.

A good portion of the Giants' staff is Catholic, Father Corbett told The Catholic Advocate, Newark's archdiocesan newspaper.

Regulars at Mass include fullback Greg Comella, defensive tackle Christian Peter, backup linebacker Pete Monty and backup quarterback Jason Garrett.

Asked how he likes being Catholic chaplain, Father Corbett answered enthusiastically, "I love it. It is great, wonderful."

As chaplain, the priest has the "unique perspective" of being on the sidelines during games — that is, of course, with the exception of the Super Bowl for which he had "a good seat."

Cruising the sidelines is not without its perils. In the Jan. 14 playoff game against the Minnesota Vikings that sent the Giants to the Super Bowl, Father Corbett was almost upended by a charging Rob Smith of the Vikings. "You have to be careful," he says with a chuckle.

At the Mass on Super Bowl game day, Father Corbett recalled, the players and Coach Jim Fassell were "really relaxed and confident."

But the chaplain began to feel it was not going to be the Giants' day when the team failed to capitalize on the momentum of Ron Dixon's touchdown run that closed the gap to 17-7.

After the Baltimore Ravens won the game 34-7, Father Corbett said, the players were "down" but "still in good spirits. They are good sports."

CELEBRATING,

from page 1

in the United States, the event was observed by many on the weekend of Feb. 3 and 4. The sister community at Maryfield Nursing Home decided that they would have their first community Mass on the feast day.

"It is important that we celebrate consecrated life because by baptism, we are all consecrated, but we have a special call because of our vows of poverty, chastity and obedience," said Poor Servants of the Mother of God Sister Mona Comaskey, who works at Maryfield and is a chaplain at High Point Hospital. "It think it is important to celebrate this wonderful day with the whole community."

During his homily, Father Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro and celebrant at the Mass at Maryfield, talked about the significance of recognizing these men and women religious. "How appropriate that the World Day for Consecrated Life falls on the feast day of the Presentation of Our Lord," said Father Marcaccio. "[Those in consecrated life] have helped to spread the light of Christ in what is sometimes a dark and fearful world. We have seen the heroic witness of men and women in consecrated life, which has won the recognition of the church. ..."

Acknowledgement of those who have dedicated their lives to God is significant with the unfortunate decline of men and women religious. According to statistics from the NCCB/USCC, the number of women religious in the United States has dropped by nearly 50 percent over the last 20 to 30 years with similar findings among men religious. While the number of priests has not decreased as much as that of sisters and brothers, the numbers are steadily dwindling. There are an estimated 82,000 sisters; 9,000 brothers and 14,000 priests in the United States today.

One of the visiting attendants, Missionary of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Angelica Cruz from the Philippines, said that one way of attracting more men and women to a religious life was through "the re-articulation of our way of life and spreading of the knowledge that religious life has evolved over the years. For many young men and women, I believe their notion of religious life is still what they have learned from before — the old way of living the vows. I think if we are able to convey these newer ways of living, then I think we can attract more young people to religious life.

"I want people to know that this alternative way of life allows me to — in my own small way — do things for others, show people a little hope and be there for them. This gives meaning to my life."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Poor Servants of the Mother of God Sister Lucy Hennessey, administrator of Maryfield Nursing Home, foreground, and Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious and director of diocesan lay ministry, join hands during the Our Father prayer at the Mass in celebration of the World Day for Consecrated Life at Maryfield Chapel in High Point on Feb. 2.

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CCHS students win in regional art competition

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Several framed paintings and drawings line the walls of Charlotte Catholic High School (CCHS), many with the look and polish of seasoned, professional painters. However, the artists are CCHS students, and through their talent and dedication, three of those students won recognition in a regional art contest.

The paintings of seniors Emily Walsh and Michael Stout and junior Ana Islas were among the 600 winning entries chosen out of 3,000 entries from schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area and Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston and Union Counties in the Scholastic Art Awards competition for the mid-Carolinas region, sponsored by the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport Arts and Education Office Foundation.

"This is outstanding because so many of our kids are multi-talented, and there are so many ways in which they can express themselves, especially through music and art, which doesn't always get as much recognition as sports and other activities," said Augustinian Father James Cassidy, CCHS principal. "The paintings are very expressive, and this is another deserving recognition of their obvious talent."

Islas from St. Matthew Church earned a gold award and one of the five American Visions Awards, a first for CCHS. With this award, Islas will be presented $100, and her winning painting will be entered in the National Scholastic Art Awards Competition in New York.

Stout from St. Gabriel Church and Walsh, a parishioner at St. Matthew Church, received honorable mention awards for their work, and Walsh also received a silver award. Last year, Stout and Walsh also received honorable mention awards and the Airport Arts and Education Office Purchase Awards, which meant that their entries were bought by members of the community.

"This gives me a boost of self-confidence and a real sense of appreciation for my artwork," said Stout, who may major in graphic design or landscaping architecture after graduation. "These art classes have helped me tremendously, and with the basic fundamentals I have learned here, I will be able to apply them to other skills in life in whatever career I choose."

Bill McKinney, CCHS art teacher, entered the 20 paintings from his sophomore, junior and senior classes in January of this year. The judges included art teachers, professors and professional artists from around North Carolina. The school has been involved in the competition for the 14 years that McKinney has been teaching at the high school.

"I choose the paintings that I think will be the best. I can only enter 20, so I have to make selections," said McKinney. "I think that it [entering their paintings] gives them a lot of self-confidence and also gives a lot of recognition to individual students."

The students will receive their certificates and gold and silver key awards at a ceremony later this month. The winning paintings are on display at the airport from Feb. 12-March 16.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

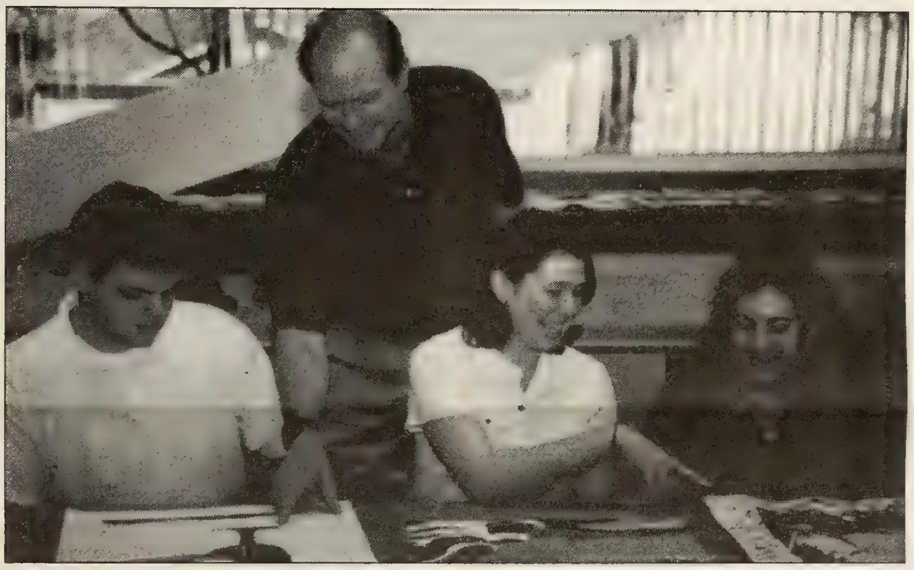

Photo by ALESHA M. PRICE

CCHS art teacher Bill McKinney discusses some of his current students' artwork. From left to right, seniors Michael Stout and Emily Walsh and junior Ana Islas received recognition for their artwork submitted to the regional Scholastic Art Awards competition.

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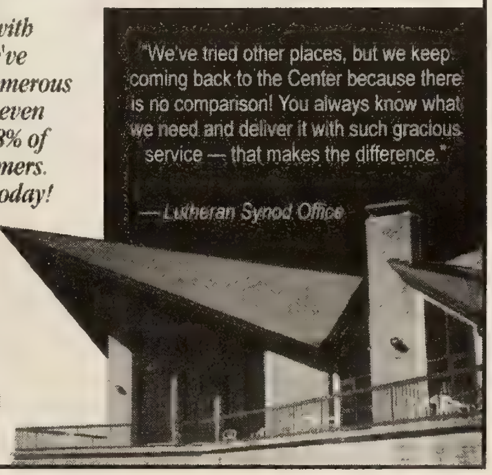

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New history of America's birth is a book for the ages

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

"Founding Brothers" by Joseph J. Ellis (Alfred A. Knopf, $26) displays a rare amalgam of literary virtues. It is informative and instructive, yet so stylistically superior that one is pleasantly entertained while absorbing the lessons of American history.

Subtitled "The Revolutionary Generation," the book rescues the key figures of the War for Independence from the myths that robbed them of their humanity, enveloping them in an aura of godliness and invincibility. In the process of showing this "band of brothers" as the mortals their contemporaries knew them to be, Ellis ably demonstrates just how fragile were the ties that bound the 13 original colonies, each fiercely protective of its own rights and lacking a sense of nationhood.

Ellis is the Ford Foundation Professor of History at Mount Holyoke College and the author of the Jefferson biography "American Sphinx," winner of the 1997 National Book Award. He explores the revolutionary generation by dissecting the frequently querulous relationships between Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, James Madison, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr.

He goes about this, however, in an uncommon fashion, approaching each at pivotal points in their lives — and in the life of the new republic — even while the shape of that republic was still being determined and was as shaky as the last leaf on a tree.

Thus, for instance, we come upon Hamilton and Burr as they are about to engage in their historic duel, not atop the New Jersey cliffs lining the Hudson but in a secluded clearing at the base of the palisades. That is the opening chapter in a book as riveting as the events of the Revolution's aftermath, when tempers and jealousies and maneuverings were set loose from the moorings of the unity forged in the struggle for independence.

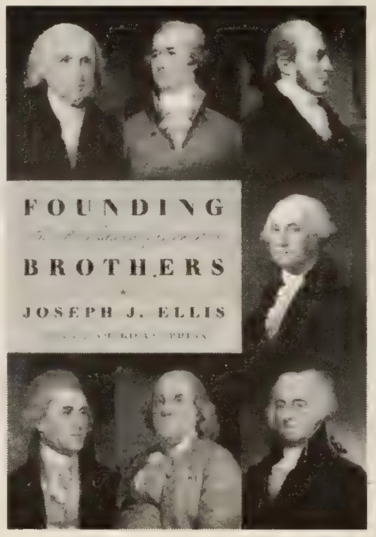
"I wanted to write," Ellis says, "a modest-sized account of a massive historical subject, wished to recover a seminal moment in American history without tripping over the dead bodies of my many scholarly predecessors, hoped to render human and accessible that generation of political leaders customarily deified and capitalized as Founding Fathers."

No easy task. But Ellis has succeeded admirably, providing a volume destined for more than catching dust on bookshelves. It's not just his novel approach and masterful synthesis of complex issues that commend "Founding Brothers" to us, but is as well his marriage of style and scholarship.

For instance, in his chapter on Washington's Farewell Address (which wasn't an address at all), he observes that by the time Washington became president, "the mythology surrounding (his) reputation had grown like ivy over a statue, effectively covering the man with an aura of omnipotence." Yet he notes that "some of the most incredible stories also happened to be true" and he documents a few of them.

Again, writing of Madison, "generally regarded as the most influential political leader in the new nation," he observes: "At five feet six and less than 140 pounds, 'little Jimmy Madison' had the frail and discernible fragile appearance of a career librarian or schoolmaster, forever lingering on the edge of some fatal ailment."

In short, because the writing sparkles, the men and the events and the country they shaped are made new again. Not only is this instructive but it remains relevant today because the old debate over federalism and the rights of the individual states, having been incorporated into the Constitution itself, still dominates political discourse. The arguments that swirled around some of President George W. Bush's Cabinet nominees gave evidence of that.



"Founding Brothers" can rightly be called a book for the ages. It is essential reading for anyone wishing to understand the spirit of compromise enshrined, sometimes ambiguously, in our basic law.

Word to Life

February 11, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:
1) Jeremiah 17:5-8
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
2) 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
3) Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

Driving into the Texas Panhandle in a midsummer drought can be a harrowing experience. Fierce heat creates a shimmering mirage on the blacktop, but it's the only sign of water there is. The sky is a bright lid for a solar oven, and everything under it — air, cattle in the fields, the occasional slow motion pump jack, buildings, people, the dusty earth — is dry to the bone. Driving the stunningly flat terrain in summer's scalding heat, rain is only a memory, and water itself — cool, life-giving water — seems beyond imagining.

On the flat highway between towns and crossroads, the monotony of the parched landscape sensitizes the traveler's eye for any change to break the visual boredom. Of the limited vertical possibilities, none is more welcome to the eye or the heart than a little stand of trees, cottonwoods mostly, breaking the horizontal plane with their green leaves and waving branches.

If the heat is bad enough and the drought has been long, these volunteer groves may be the only thing green you'll see for miles, and just the sight of them can refresh a weary spirit.

I think these little stands of vegetation make hope spring up because, in the barren heat, they give wordless testimony to the presence of water. If you pass near enough to one you inevitably will find water — a stock pond refreshed by a windmill, a little spring, a tiny creek hiding from the sun.

Sunday's first reading reminds us that to trust in the Lord, to put oneself in God's hands, is to be like a tree planted by a stream, green in the fiercest heat, fruitful when others are bare.

May God keep us close to the living water of his word, sacramental life and the community of the church.

QUESTIONS:

What is one specific way in which God "waters" me? How can I be refreshing, life-giving water for the people who make up my daily life?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 11 - 17, 2001

Sunday, Jeremiah 17:5-8, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20, Luke 6:17, 20-26; **Monday,** Genesis 4:1-15, 25, Mark 8:11-13; **Tuesday,** Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10, Mark 8:14-21; **Wednesday (Sts. Cyril & Methodius),** Genesis 8:6-13, 20-22, Mark 8:22-26; **Thursday,** Genesis 8:1-13, Mark 8:27-33; **Friday,** Genesis 11:1-9, Mark 8:34-9:1; **Saturday (Seven Servite Founders),** Hebrews 11:1-7, Mark 9:2-13

Readings for the week of Feb. 18 - 24, 2001

Sunday, 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38; **Monday,** Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday,** Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (St. Peter Damian),** Sirach 4:11-19, Mark 9:38-40; **Thursday (The Chair of St. Peter),** 1 Peter 5:1-4. Matthew 16:13-19; **Friday (St. Polycarp),** Sirach 6:5-17, Mark 10:1-12; **Saturday,** Sirach 17:1-15, Mark 10:13-16

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“Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided” to air on PBS

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The black stovepipe hat, the funny looking beard and the words “four score and seven years ago” — these are some of the sounds and images evoked when Abraham Lincoln is the subject. In his latest documentary, writer-director David Grubin goes beyond these to offer a personal and intimate portrait of the frontier farmer’s son as well as his aristocrat wife in the comprehensive and compelling “Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided.”

The three-part series presented by “The American Experience” airs Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 19-21, 9-11 p.m. EST on PBS (check local listings).

Abe and Mary Lincoln were a most unlikely couple: he, a 6-foot-4, self-educated, dirt farmer’s son determined to make something of himself; she, the petite, pampered daughter of an aristocratic family. Both had lost their mothers when they were young children, and both had suffered greatly from it, struggling with lifelong bouts of debilitating depression.

But what truly bound them together was their love of politics. Mary had used politics to get her father’s attention and affection. For Lincoln, politics was the only avenue available to break out of the impoverished life he led.

The first episode entertains with its presentation of personal details. The gangly, gawky Lincoln used self-deprecating humor to deflect his sadness. Although Mary, a learned woman, was an incredible flirt, she waited a year and a half for Lincoln to propose a second time, after he had callously broken off their initial engagement. She saw in him the dogged ambition that would lead him to be president, and she wanted to be by his side when it happened.

From his first term as president, the bloody Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation through to Lincoln’s re-election and assassination, the next two episodes emphasize the human story behind the historical facts. Archival photos and lively dramatizations as well as scenes shot in the Mary Todd Lincoln House in Kentucky and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Illinois break up the historians and biographers’ commentary.

Narrated by David McCullough, the documentary describes the tragedy and grief that had marked the life of Mary Todd Lincoln, beginning with the death of her mother and continuing with the deaths of three of her four sons. Her despair and painful grief, along with Lincoln’s often distant and distracted personality, had sunk her into many a terrible state. And the final blow — the death of her beloved husband and confidante — led the emotionally fragile Mary down the path to insanity.

During his presidency, with the nation divided and many against him, Lincoln became sallow, dangerously thin and desperately anxious, as if the devastating loss of life during the Civil War and his constant wrangling with the moral questions surrounding slavery had become a physical burden he carried on his back. Photos of Lincoln, with his hollow eyes and sunken cheeks, say more about the mental state of the president than any words could.

Parents should be aware that the documentary contains gruesome images of Civil War victims unsuitable for younger viewers. However, the program is a thorough and engaging presentation that could serve as psychological history lesson for adolescents.

Abraham and Mary Lincoln had forged an alliance of loyalty and friendship rarely seen, and Grubin captures their love and the tumultuous historical period with a compassionate, tender eye and a sharp artistic edge.

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Movie Capsules

CNS photo from Fine Line Features

SCENE FROM MOVIE “INVISIBLE CIRCUS”

Cameron Diaz and Jordana Brewster in a scene from the film “The Invisible Circus.” The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III – adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R – restricted.

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

“Hannibal” (MGM)

Repelling sequel continues the murderous cannibalism of fugitive Dr. Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) as he outsmarts an Italian cop but is ensnared by a vengeance-crazed former victim and comes face-to-face with his FBI nemesis, agent Starling (Julianne Moore). Director Ridley Scott jettisons depth of character in favor of graphic, grotesque slaughters in a trashy and uninvolving tale of human degradation. Excessive violence and gore, crude sexual references, some profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

“Head Over Heels” (Universal)

Frivolous romantic comedy in which an art restorer (Monica Potter) living with four supermodels in New York City falls for the seemingly perfect guy (Freddie Prinze Jr.), until she thinks she sees him commit murder. As directed by Mark S. Waters, the film has a few entertaining moments despite its conventional comedy-of-errors plot. Fleeting violence, a few sexual encounters, some crude humor and brief crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“The Invisible Circus” (Fine Line)

Flat drama set in the mid-1970s in which a teen-ager (Jordana Brewster) travels to Europe in search of the truth behind the mysterious suicide of the older sister (Cameron Diaz) she idolized. Flashing back over the previous six years, director Adam Brooks’ tepid film frustrates with its shallow exploration of the characters’ feelings as well as its failure to capture an impassioned era of youthful, naive idealism. Fleeting violence, a few sexual encounters, brief nudity, some drug content and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

“The Million Dollar Hotel” (Lions Gate)

A by-the-books FBI agent (Mel Gibson) investigates a possible homicide at a seedy Los Angeles hotel where most of the residents (including Jeremy Davies and Milla Jovovich) are mentally unstable indigents. Director Wim Wenders wanders in his attempts to inject humor and humanity into his characters, resulting in a bittersweet but unfocused film. Fleeting violence, some sexual innuendo, occasional profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

“Sugar & Spice” (New Line)

Senseless comedy about a pregnant cheerleader (Marley Shelton) who robs a bank with her cheering squad to have money for the baby. Director Francine McDougall’s intended farce fails to amuse with its disturbing combination of teens and guns as well as its flippant attitude toward teen-age pregnancy. Casual attitude toward violence and teen pregnancy, some menace, sporadic profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

“Two Ninas” (Castle Hill)

Formulaic romantic comedy in which a forlorn twentysomething writer (Ron Livingston) falls for two women with the same name. Nothing can save director Neil Turitz’s derivative debut from its sleep-inducing, feeble plot that wearies with its predictable situations and endless banalities. A few sexual encounters, several sexual references and recurring profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says church is sign of God's love for the world

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church is described as the bride of Christ and as a mother because the church is a sign of God's love for the world, Pope John Paul II said.

"The church is a sign raised up among the nations to witness to the intensity of divine love revealed in Christ, especially in giving his own life," the pope said Feb. 7 during his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

To describe the identity of the church, the pope said, the Bible uses feminine terms, "bride and mother, underlining in this way a dimension of love and fecundity."

As St. Paul described it, the church is to be "glorious, without stain or wrinkle or any such thing, but holy and immaculate," he said.

The love which God has poured out on the church must spread to all men and women, "reminding humanity — which frequently has the sensation of being alone and abandoned in the desolate and barren lands of history — that it will never be forgotten or deprived of the warmth of divine tenderness," the pope said.

The church, he said, is called to live its love "with the freshness of two spouses who love each other in the joy of giving without reserve and in daily generosity, both when the skies of life are spring-like and calm as well as when the night falls and the clouds of the winter of the spirit gather."

And, like a husband and wife, the church is called to make sure that its love is not restricted, but is fruitful and gives life to others through baptism, he said.

The church is called to move with hope toward Christ, he said, even though it may sense "the hostile and furious presence of another feminine figure" from the Book of Revelation, "Babylon, the great harlot, who incarnates the bestiality of hatred, death and interior sterility."

Pope John Paul prayed that the church always would be "the custodian of hope, luminous like the woman of the Apocalypse, 'clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of 12 stars.'"

Pope urges Hungarian bishops to combat high abortion rate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II urged Hungary's bishops to work to reduce the country's high abortion rate, which he called symptomatic of a "culture of death" spreading across Europe. "The abortion statistics published in recent decades in your country are alarming," said the pope, meeting with the bishops Jan. 30. "Do everything possible to encourage pregnant women to carry their pregnancies to term," he said. The Hungarian bishops were on their "ad limina" visits, which heads of dioceses are required to make every five years. About 40 percent of all Hungarian pregnancies end in a procured abortion, according to a 1999 study conducted by a Hungarian university hospital in association with the World Health Organization.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Sibling relationships are life-long

Systems Theory suggests that families are biological in nature. When one element changes, the whole organism changes. This is true not just about families but also relationships between family members, particularly siblings.

We recently witnessed theory becoming praxis when our daughter came home from college for the holidays. There was something different about her relationship with her 15-year-old brother. They seemed to honor each other in ways we hadn't seen before. Though it only took a few days for the old familiar mold to return, there still remains evidence of growth — a new maturing — in their sibling relationship.

In most families sibling rivalry persists, if only at the subconscious level, even into adulthood. Nonetheless, healthy sibling relationships grow into mutually supportive roles that are less based on gaining favor with one or both parents.

However, to develop such healthy relationships between adult siblings, there need to be healthy adult-to-adult relationships between parents and their adult children. Though we know that such relationships are attainable, we struggle to find appropriate names for them. A parent of an adult should no longer be a "parent" in that relationship. And adult children . . . well, the oxymoron is clear.

When adult siblings still live in competitive roles where they vie for parents' favor, they act like children. When parents hold on to their authoritative roles with their adult offspring, they block the necessary growth for healthy family relationships.

We recognize that our relationships with our siblings will be the longest of our lifetimes. Along the way we have had to invest in each other — in our sibling relationships — so that we have more than just a common family of origin. Our current relationships, though influenced by our childhood experiences together, should be more about our present lives.

It takes initiative to nurture adult sibling relationships. Good ones don't just happen. Whether they live minutes or thousands of miles from each other, adult siblings have to continually rediscover each other and allow new relationship scripts to take on.

Modern technology offers a variety of ways to stay connected. However, particularly during the high holidays, efforts to physically connect and spend time together feed the spiritual familial bonds in ways that cyberspace, a mere phone call or letter cant do.

Andrew's siblings have decided to have monthly dinners as a way to preserve family closeness. The reasons for these gatherings are partly because of Mom — we still want to please her — but mostly for our enduring relationships as sisters and brothers who care about and want to invest in each other.

So, today or some time this week, make a plan to make better connections with a sibling relationship. It's a relationship that is truly life-long. Make it a healthy one.

In a couple of weeks our daughter's school is having "Sibling Weekend." Her brother will spend that weekend with her. They are both excited about it. And we are amazed.

On the Light side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Better Than DeMille

There is this great scene in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" where action hero Indiana (aka Harrison Ford) finally figures out that to reach the so-called Holy Grail he must step out into what seems like thin air over a deep, seemingly endless cavern.

He literally steps off the cliff edge with no support in sight for his foot. The audience gulps as he tests his confidence and appears to be taking a long first step into oblivion.

Luckily for Harrison Ford fans, what had been an invisible bridge across the cavern appears. Indiana finds himself on firm footing.

Oddly enough, this scene brings to mind not only the devil's temptation of Jesus (Lk 4:1-13), but a delightful exchange with a dear friend as she shared about the early days of her marriage.

In terms of the devil inviting Jesus to go temple-jumping to prove God's angels would swoop down and save him, the parallel is obvious.

As a side note, I know for a fact I am not the only one in league with the devil on this Scripture passage. While wildly swilling illicit Oreos and milk during a back-yard pup-tent poker game years ago, some buddies and I admitted outloud that it would have been "beyond rad" if Jesus had in fact leaped off the temple, causing this awesome squadron of angels to dramatically swoop in and snag him mid-air. Yes!

I also strongly suspect Cecil B. DeMille would have preferred this version as well, and instead of watching Charleston Heston parting the waters of the Red Sea around Easter every year, we'd see him as Jesus gracefully gliding off the parapet of the temple to be rescued by angels.

My friend and her husband were surviving on a meager income in a tiny one-bedroom apartment. They lived far from family and friends. They had no health insurance. She became pregnant. And, she laughs now, "I was terrified."

Yet all went well, she smiles, as it has in other times of their lives when they faced what seemed like insurmountable odds.

"According to my husband," she says, "having kids and losing jobs are among the best things that can happen to a couple because these experiences can open our eyes to the fact we are neither self-sufficient nor alone. In the hearts and hands that reach out to help, we catch a glimpse of the God who cares for us."

In both Harrison Ford's stepping out into apparent oblivion and my friend's reflection on divine providence, it strikes me that we perhaps live not boldly enough too much of the time.

While Jesus clearly tells us that it is not our place to be literally or even metaphorically putting God to the test (leaping off parapets), he also underscores that our faith will sustain us and that "if God clothes in such splendor the grass of the field which grows today and is thrown on the fire tomorrow, how much more will he provide for you!"

At the same time, it seems pretty clear that you and I are asked to be the "invisible" bridge for others, keeping an eye out and a hand ready for those who might not even know we exist.

How very often this takes place in simple acts of kindness and concern — from the knitting of warm booties for a newborn to sending along our tax return check to the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society so its members can help others buy a coat or heat their home.

Eat your heart out, Cecil.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Love is Greater

It was about twenty-five years ago that I attended Colleen and Jack's wedding. I was a relatively young guy, but couldn't mistake the passionate feelings these two shared for each other. They were the couple you just know will accomplish everything. And for a while, they did. Jack was a huge success on Wall Street. Colleen was the perfect homemaker, and in short order, the perfect Mom. They had a family of five children - not surprisingly, all great kids. So here they are: rich, beautiful, strongly attracted to each other, parents of wonderful children, liked and respected by many in the community.

Then, for no reason in particular and for many reasons, Colleen and Jack start to drift apart. Work consumes him; the family consumes her. They spend less and less time focusing on each other. He takes more trips without his wife. She finds new friends with whom she shares intimate details of life. He uses alcohol as a release. Her relationships with other men goes beyond appropriate boundaries. The children watch sadly as Mom and Dad come home more angry after marriage counseling than before.

In the midst of pain and poor communications, Colleen takes a boyfriend. Jack finds out and files for a divorce. Our perfect couple now see each other very differently. To Colleen, Jack was the bully she never really liked nor respected. He drank too much. He noticed too many younger women. He dumped responsibility for the children on his wife.

Jack's viewpoint has also changed. Colleen kept a messy home and rarely cooked a decent meal. The children got away with too much. She was a permissive role model who gave them too much freedom. She tried smoking pot, even at home! And the final straw: she cheated on her husband — though he never mentioned that he'd given into temptation a few times himself.

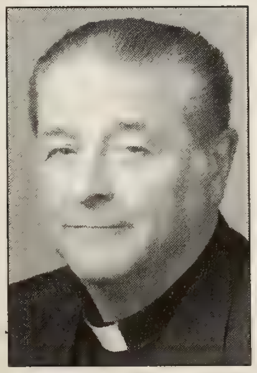
The divorce comes, ugly and painful. As Danny DeVito's character wisely admits in the film "The War of the Roses, "In divorce, there are no winners, it's only about degrees of losing." And so it was for Colleen and Jack, two scarred people who could see little good in their children's other parent.

And then it happened. The youngest child, Brendan, is in a terrible accident. He survives, but is disabled for life. Left without the use of his legs or arms, the former athlete needs his family now more than ever. Jack and Colleen, along with their other four children, respond with enthusiastic and loving support. Suddenly, the issues and mistakes that divided a home don't seem so important when measured by the love and healing given Brendan in his time of need. I saw these two divorced parents at the hospital, in follow-up therapy and many times since that awful accident. They look at each other with renewed respect and appreciation. You can almost see love again.

No, they won't be getting re-married. But they will remain friends. They will, once again, share conversations of intimacy and caring. Because Jack and Colleen have learned a valuable lesson borne of pain: that in any close relationship love may change and evolve. It may ebb and flow. Yet, there is much more to love than you see. The differences, the battles, the hurts, the betrayals are important. But nowhere as powerful as generosity and reconciliation, never more lasting than forgiveness and redemption.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist



Marriage for cohabiting couple

Q. What steps would a Catholic couple who have lived together for a long time need to take to be married in the Catholic Church? Is it possible for a priest to marry them knowing they have been cohabiting?

A. Contrary to what many Catholics seem to assume, living together is not an impediment to marriage in church law. In other words, a couple who have lived together for whatever length of time are not prohibited from marriage for this reason.

Cohabiting couples are, of course, expected to fulfill the same premarriage requirements as other couples, including attendance at marriage preparation programs, premarital inventories and so on, as required by the local bishop.

Most dioceses today also provide guidelines to priests and other pastoral staff, to help such couples bridge the gap, spiritually, intellectually and psychologically, between their present relationship and an authentic sacramental marriage.

Again, however, there is no obstacle of any kind to a marriage in the church simply because of their current situation.

On beatification

Q. Some friends were discussing the beatification of Pope John XXIII and wondered about the celebration of Mass in his honor. Is that possible now?

Also, one of our group told us that some other Christians, besides Catholics, honor John XXIII in their worship. But he did not know which ones. Is that true?

A. Beatification was formerly a way of acknowledging the sanctity of an individual Christian for the benefit of people in a particular locality. Often this was declared by the local bishop and permitted public veneration of the person, including Mass.

Canonization, on the other hand, is a declaration meant for the universal church. That geographical distinction no longer applies. Beatification, proclaiming an individual Christian blessed, is generally today a step in the process of canonization and, like canonization, is reserved to the pope.

The permission for celebration of the liturgy honoring those who are beatified remains, however. Normally, the pope grants the newly elevated blessed a Mass and Office of his or her own and a particular feast day, to be celebrated particularly, but not exclusively, in places related to his or her life.

Pope John Paul II has assigned Oct. 11 as the feast of Pope John XXIII, the date of the opening of Vatican Council II. Masses may be celebrated in his honor at the discretion of the local bishop.

To your second question, the only non-Catholic Christian denomination I have found which officially gives some sort of liturgical recognition to Pope John XXIII are Lutherans. Listed in the calendar of lesser festivals and commemorations of the official Lutheran Book of Worship we find: "June 3 — John XXIII, Bishop of Rome."

Originally printed in 1978, the Book of Worship is published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod; and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about cremation and other Catholic funeral regulations and customs is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Principles of Catholic Social Thought:

FATHER WILLIAM J. BYRON, SJ
Catholic News Service

Part X: The Principle of Association

Catholic social teaching views the human person as both sacred and social.

You will notice how most of the word "social" is lodged right there in the middle of a larger word, "association." You might also note that "association" derives from the Latin preposition "ad," meaning "to" or "toward," together with another Latin word, "socius," meaning "companion."

Association, accordingly, means "toward companionship." It implies social contact.

Association involves being with others, enjoying the companionship of others, working with others, sharing life, joy, energy and responsibility with others.

Our faith tradition recognizes that how we organize our society economically, socially, politically and legally will affect each person's capacity to be with others and to grow in community.

For any human person, it all begins with family. Our social doctrine points to family as the centerpiece of society. That is why Catholic social action always will work to promote family stability and defend the family against any potentially destructive forces.

By association with others in a family, the human person begins the process of socialization. That process continues on through school and work and all the stages of life. It continues by association with others in social institutions that foster growth, protect dignity and promote the common good.

This is how human persons achieve their fulfillment: in relationships with others, in companionship with others.

How many times have you heard the words "I (or we) don't associate with" this group or that, this person or another? In the Gospel story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn 4:5-30), the writer felt compelled to explain that Jesus was breaking new ground in meeting alone and speaking with this woman because, as is written in Verse 9, "Jews do not associate with Samaritans."

That was just one of the many divisions Jesus wanted to close. Association brings people together. By association, individuals overcome isolation. If association is denied, the path to a fuller life is foreclosed.

Phone books list all kinds of associations. Eight of the Yellow Pages in the Washington, D.C., telephone directory cover associations — literally from A to Z. They reflect an impressively broad range of human activity.

There are associations that use other labels like "league," "union," "federation," "council" or "conference." Regardless of the name, the purpose is the same: to unite people for a purpose, and at bottom the purpose is some kind of enhancement of human life and advancement of human growth.

Catholic social teaching has a nice link at this juncture with Catholic sacramental theology. Association relates to companionship, and companionship, in the Catholic view, relates to Eucharist. Eucharist is a bread-breaking ritual. Those who gather around the altar to remember their Lord "in the breaking of the bread" are indeed bread breakers. There is a Latin phrase, "cum pane," that describes what believers are about when, with bread, they give praise and thanks to God. That same phrase, "cum pane," is hidden at the heart of the more familiar word "company."

What a revolution it would be if bread-breaking believers carried the spirit of their Sunday companionship into the companies where they go to work on Monday morning! And what a denial of eucharistic unity it is if Sunday's bread breakers choose not to associate with other humans they judge to be inferior or deny access to others, for any prejudicial reason, to employment, education, housing or health care.

In brief . . .

CCHD program to debut in diocese

CHARLOTTE — "Education for Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life," a program of the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty Catholic Campaign for Human Development, will be presented in workshop-style format March 3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway in Charlotte.

This initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development connects Catholic social teaching to economic life and forces in society.

Presenters include Glenmary Father John Rausch, who writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia and is a syndicated newspaper columnist.

This event is for parish leaders, social concerns members, educators, business people and all interested persons. It is sponsored by the CCHD office of the Diocese of Charlotte.

For registration and other information, call Dr. Barney Offerman at (704) 370-3234 by Feb. 15.

PHOTO BY SUSAN DEGUZMAN

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

Bishop William G. Curlin visited Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Charlotte during Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3. Here, he shares a smile with students at St. Leo School in Winston-Salem.

Campus Ministry Office sponsors campus retreat

CHARLOTTE — The diocesan Office of Campus Ministry has announced "Living Catholic" as the theme of the 2001 college retreat Feb. 16-18 at Camp Thunderbird in Lake Wylie, S.C.

The annual retreat experience unites campus communities in the Diocese of Charlotte while encouraging students to strengthen their relationships with God, others and themselves. The retreat focuses on catholic identity, tradition and worldview.

Talks, small-group discussions, liturgy and prayer and music highlight the event.

For registration information, contact Jen Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

Faith Formation official to address L.A. Religious Education Congress

CHARLOTTE — Dr. Cris V. Villapando, the Diocese of Charlotte's director of faith formation programs, will address the Religious Education Congress sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on Feb. 15-18. The annual event drew 37,000 participants last year.

Villapando will present two lectures: "Transactional vs. Transformation Leadership" and "Culture as a Vehicle of the Gospel." Last year, he gave lectures on "Exploring an Evangelization Paradigm" and "The Seven Prime Filipino Values that Reflect the Face of God."

For details regarding this event, call Dr. Villapando at (704) 370-3246.

"Light Weigh" weight-loss program

CHARLOTTE — The Light Weigh is a 12-week Catholic spiritual growth weight-loss program designed to help deepen your relationship with Jesus while learning to eat the foods you enjoy in moderation. An orientation will be offered at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., on March 7 at 7 p.m. in the parish center in Room 102. The classes will run for the following 12 Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call Connie Tobey at (704) 541-6858 in the evening.

Annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical service

HICKORY — The Annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service will be held March 2 at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The theme is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is drawn from the biblical wisdom of Esther. Men and women of all denominations are invited, and childcare will be provided. Refreshments will also be served. Contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956 for further details.

Men's and Women's Ultryea Weekends

MAGGIE VALLEY — The 55th Men's Weekend Ultreya will take place at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, March 1-4. The 57th Women's Weekend Ultreya will take place at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., Greensboro from March 29-April 1. For details, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

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Principal, Elementary: St. Mary School, Johnson City, Tennessee, has an opening for principal beginning July 1, 2001; 200 students, K-8. Southern Association accreditation. Qualifications: practicing Catholic; leadership skills; master's in administration or willing to work on certification. Deadline: February 23rd. Letter and resume to: Kathleen Mitchell, 2211 E. Lakeview Drive, Johnson City, TN 37601.

Teacher: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School is accepting applications for certified Kindergarten Teacher starting March 2001; also, 3rd Grade teacher for August 2001. Contact or send resume to: Ed Manville, Principal. Phone: (919)570-0070; Fax: (919)570-0071; e-mail emanville@stcathsiena.org

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia (south of Atlanta), is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2001-2002 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment as well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume to John Cobis, Principal, OLMCHS, 861 Highway 270, Fairburn, GA 30213.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Diocese of Savannah seeks a qualified director for this ministry in south Georgia. Qualifications: Practicing Catholic in good standing; at least 3 years' relevant experience; master's degree or equivalent in appropriate field; suitable organizational skills; demonstrated capacity to work collegially; strong oral and written communication skills; ability to travel independently within Diocese. Spanish language ability a plus. For job description and application contact Youth Ministry Search Committee, Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 E. Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31401-5196; fax (912)238-2339; e-mail Cooper0987@aol.com

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ATHLETICS, from page 5

He says the student-athletes realize early in their careers the need for values-based participation. "They need to understand when they participate in sports that teamwork comes out," he adds. "The old saying goes, 'there's no 'i' in 'team.'"

Teamwork is one of many benefits Charlotte Catholic senior Matt McKillop has enjoyed during his time at the school. At age 17, he says he has learned the foundation of what it takes to be a good person.

"Our school takes great pride in our sportsmanship," says McKillop, a varsity basketball player and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "That is reflected in all the things that we do and the services we perform.

"Playing sports has taught me a lot about myself — about what I need to do to push myself to become a better person."

Megan Picinich, an 18-year-old Charlotte Catholic senior and a member of that championship volleyball team, says participating in sports has left her with cherished memories and lifelong values.

"It helps a lot to have faith in your team and your school," she says. "The sportsmanship is awesome. We learn a lot, and we respect other people as well as ourselves."

Coach Oddo says that in many cases in a society that promotes self-importance, playing sports adds fresh emphasis on community. "When kids get into sports, they have a tendency to step back, evaluate and say there's a larger picture here," he says.

Focusing on a larger picture has helped Charlotte Catholic senior Michelle Watts. A basketball player, Watts injured her knee last season — a devastating setback that kept her from participating this year in two other favorite sports, volleyball and track.

"Playing sports gives you a lot of determination and discipline," says Watts, 18. "It makes you want to work for something. When something like this happens, you question yourself and ask why is this happening to me at this time in my life, especially when I was right in the middle of basketball season.

"It knocked me down, but determination and wanting to make myself better really pushed me. It's a good mental and physical challenge."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org.

SISTERS, from page 1

said. "I don't know what we would have done without Father Joe and [the late] Sister Veronica. She was the administrator at St. Joseph Hospital in Asheville."

Bishop Michael Begley assisted them in getting an 8-foot-by-16-foot trailer through Catholic Extension Service. Sister Jacquie kept patient records and escorted patients to the trailer, where Sister Gretchen examined and treated them. In September 1984 they added a new ministry, taking the trailer over the mountain to Barber's Orchard in Waynesville to be used Tuesday and Thursday evenings as medical clinic for migrant farm workers. Back in Rosman, half of Sister Gretchen's bedroom (smaller than the 12-foot-by-14-foot kitchen of their clinic) became the examining room.

They had been accepted into the local community, and the house that they lived and worked in was was rapidly becoming too small as they treated more and more patients. A number of local people, including Brenda and Randall McCall, a Baptist couple, had helped them settle in. Brenda handed out flyers announcing the clinic, and the McCalls helped them find the property that became the site of the current clinic.

But before that, they had to find a house that was bigger than the one they occupied. Someone knew about some land, and someone else knew about a house that was half habitable, half termite-ridden. With help the good half of the house was moved to the new land, and parishioners from Sacred Heart helped expand and enclose the structure into a 935-foot space that included two examining rooms. The McCalls traveled to Iowa and Indiana to pick up tables that had been donated to the clinic.

With more space and a growing number of patients, the two sisters needed more help. Sister Carol Hoban, a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth of Convent Station, N.J., arrived in September 1985.

"She was a real blessing," Sister Jacquie said. "We were just so frustrated because we were seeing all these patients and we needed help."

Sister Carol is a family nurse practitioner. Lisa Searls, R.N., a Seton volunteer, and Sister Annette Byrne, a Sister of Charity, also joined the staff. The added help was welcome, but meant looking for a bigger facility. "With five of us in that place, we were stumbling over each other," Sister Jacquie said.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Sister Jacquie Dewar, RSM, handles a phone call and checks patient records at the clinic.

Sister Annette did some grant work to gather the funding needed to build the current facility, which the staff designed. They moved into the new building in April 1988. The sisters now occupy two small houses nearby.

Today, in addition to Sisters Gretchen, Jacquie and Carole, and Seton associate Lisa Searls, the clinic staff includes Sister of Charity Irene Mongrandi and Ranessa Thomas, registered nurses working there part time; Joyce Spears is the full-time certified nursing assistant. Martha Robinson works in the business office, along with Beverly Benjamin and Linda Metcher, who are part-time volunteers.

A computer hookup to Transylvania Community Hospital helps the clinic keep records updated for their patients who have been admitted to the hospital. The hospital also does X-rays and some lab work for clinic patients, and Sister Gretchen is internist-on-call at the hospital every seventh weekend.

The Frances Warde Health Service means affordable, as well as closer, care for many who would have to travel some distance to go into Brevard. Before the clinic was established, "You had to go into Brevard every time," Brenda McCall said. "That's at least a 30-minute trip from where we live in Balsam Grove."

One of Frances Warde's original patients, Brenda said, "I get the treatment that I want. They take good care of me."

Sometimes, though, it takes convincing to get patients who can't pay to come back to the clinic for further treatment. "We've had to talk some people into coming [back] because they owed us money," Sister Jacquie added. "We've said, 'We'll carry you as long as you need it. Your health is more important.' "

MEDIA, from page 3

unprecedented access to the truth, he said, and it is the church's task to make sure that the truth is what they receive.

"The world of the media can sometimes seem indifferent and even hostile to Christian faith and morality," the pope said. "This is because media culture is so deeply imbued with a typically postmodern sense that the only absolute truth is that there are no absolute truths or that, if there were, they would be inaccessible to human reason and therefore irrelevant."

At his Jan. 24 general audience, Pope John Paul marked the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists.

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One man answers the call: "Whom shall I send?"

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Called in faith, steadfast in belief, Mike Zboyovski is about to realize a dream he has had since he was 7 years old. In June, Zboyovski will be ordained as a permanent deacon of the Catholic Church.

As early as he can remember, his early inclination was to be a medical missionary. "At that time in my life, I wondered how do I preach the word of God when people are poor and sick?" Zboyovski said. "Then I thought, I was being called to be a priest."

After four years in seminary and much discernment, Zboyovski realized his gifts would be better utilized in the medical profession. Little did Zboyovski know at the time that his hands would be used in a different way.

It took his brother's near-fatal car accident to be drawn into becoming a chiropractor. So intrigued with healing, Zboyovski and his brother John enrolled in the Logan College for Chiropractic Care. Eventually, they shaped their own Back Pain Clinic of Asheville.

Busy with a growing practice, his wife Jan and their three children, Zboyovski settled into daily life. He was using his hands to heal, yet there was a restlessness and a constant prodding to do more.

"I began to hear my faith community calling me forward to begin a commitment to become a deacon," he said. "After making a Cursillo in 1986, the bishop affirmed my inner sense that something must be unfolding within me." Father Jim Solari and Father George Maloney reassured Zboyovski that he was being led. "Doors began to open to me," he said. "I felt that this was a direction I should follow."

Zboyovski wanted to jump right into the diaconate program. "I had to be patient and find silence to allow God to speak, in order for me to hear his message," he recalled. "This was the hardest part, yet I've come to know that this affirmation from God and others is an important step."

The role of a deacon is to be a minister of faith to all he serves. Empowered at ordination to proclaim the Gospel message in word and deed, Zboyovski will be able to baptize, preach, assist at the altar during Mass, and officiate at weddings and funerals.

Gifted in his ability to play several musical instruments including the hammered dulcimer, 6- and 12-string guitars, Zboyovski is a seasoned performer at wedding ceremonies. "John and I put ourselves through college by playing our music at Mass," he said.

As a permanent deacon, he will be given a chance to serve in a much-needed ministry. "I'm hoping that my talents will conform to the needs of the Catholic community," Zboyovski said. "A chaplaincy in a hospital or prison setting where there is a sense of hopelessness would allow me to bring the light of Christ to those in dire need."

"I had to break down some walls to be open to the Spirit of God," he continued. "This is a process. My spiritual director, Jos Vandermeer, former deacon at St. Eugene Church of Asheville who died suddenly last year, told me that I would have an interior sense that I will know if it is right. He was a spiritual father to me."

He added that this ministry has deepened his prayer life and blessed him with deep peace and tranquility.

Zboyovski and his brother continue to follow similar paths. John Zboyovski serves as an ordained priest in the Russian Orthodox Church, which answers to the Patriarch of Constantinople. The brothers often get a chance to play music together, and a CD recording may be in their future.

Soon Dr. Zboyovski will make the transition from helping mend bodies to healing broken souls as Rev. Mr. Michael Zboyovski. "Never losing sight of what God wants me to be," he said, "I'm looking forward to the unfolding of what's next."

The permanent diaconate program is one of the life-giving ministries funded in part by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

File photo by Jimmy Rostar

Michael Zboyovski, second from left, is one of a group of men who will be ordained as permanent deacons in June.

Schools bring peace studies into daily curriculum

By MARY ST. PIERRE
Catholic News Service

PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Jason R. Dorsey believes the solution to school violence does not rest in more security guards or metal detectors for the nation's schools.

Instead, the young founder of the Institute to End School Violence sees the solution in avoiding gossip, listening, changing behavior, forgiveness, and sharing examples of success, as well as learning to lose, empathize and apologize.

Dorsey's program — based on his book "Can Students End School Violence?" — has been adopted in five schools of the Palm Beach Diocese. Pat Cantieri, assistant superintendent of schools in the diocese, wants all the schools in the diocese to sign on.

"Instead of giving kids an assignment which would mean more homework, the teachers read part of the book, ask the students to think about it, and then have open discussions on the subject," she told The Florida Catholic, Palm Beach diocesan newspaper.

Dorsey founded the not-for-profit institute at age 21 to help students, educators and parents strengthen the social climate within their school. He speaks annually to more than 100,000 students and educators across America. His mission is to make schools and communities, both rural and urban, safer.

"Many students have a very different perspective on violence than their parents, teachers or even the media," Dorsey said. "Their biggest concern is not about being stabbed or shot in school. They are more afraid of being laughed at in class or the cafeteria during lunch."

School violence, according to Dorsey, stems from any action that negatively affects the social climate in a school. This includes how students feel about themselves, their relationship to their peers, their parents and their teachers.

"Children who often receive negative reactions by their peers, parents or teachers, begin to feel ostracized and they often act out violently on these feelings," Dorsey said.

The path that led Dorsey to peace studies was not a straight one. Raised by a single mother in a rural Texas community, he began college pre-med studies at age 16 but found that medicine was not the field for him. Through Harvard University he then became the youngest participant on an international archeological dig in Israel.

At age 18, Dorsey wrote "Graduate to Your Perfect Job" and founded his own educational publishing company, raising capital through investors, friends and family.

Realizing through conversation and education that there was a problem with violence on many levels, Dorsey began to study school violence from the perspective of students. His research led to his second book, "Can Students End School Violence?"

"The goal of my book is to really build powerful families by emphasizing the importance of strong values," Dorsey said. "To build community in schools across America we must educate students on how to better connect with each other at home, in school and on the streets."

To better understand the mind-set, problems and desires of school children, Dorsey met with more than 150,000 students nationwide before writing the book. They shared their personal insight and solutions to preventing violence.

The in-school programs, such as those in the five Palm Beach Catholic schools, were developed by Dorsey and a team of educators, students, parents and community leaders to reach students on their level. Teachers who have implemented the program have applauded the fact that it fits into an existing class instead of being an added class.

Dorsey believes that to help restore schools as safe havens, it is time for children, their peers, teachers and families to connect as a group and for every person's contribution to be valued.

"All schools have the potential to get better at creating connection and community," he said. "What it takes to prevent and end school violence will start with each one of us."

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Inside

Diocese continues quake relief ...Page 7

Priest's efforts for tigers praised ...Page 8

Local News

Youth find downhill approach to faith ...Page 5

Diocese sets plans for France pilgrimage ...Page 15

Permanent diaconate links service and church ...Page 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

> The Lord has been my strength; He has led me into freedom. He saved me because He loves me.
>
> Psalms 18: 19-20

Cheers for peers

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Katie Sullivan says that she has grown in her faith since becoming involved in a group chosen to help lead diocesan youth in the practice and realization of their faith as they grow and mature into adults of the church. She became involved in the group of dedicated teens because as a member of St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley, an area with few Catholics, she wanted to meet other young Catholics. Sullivan and other youth across the diocese are members of the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC).

The council conducted one of their monthly meetings at the St. Francis House at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory on Feb. 10 and had a visit from Bishop Curlin who lent words of encouragement and support and celebrated Mass with the group.

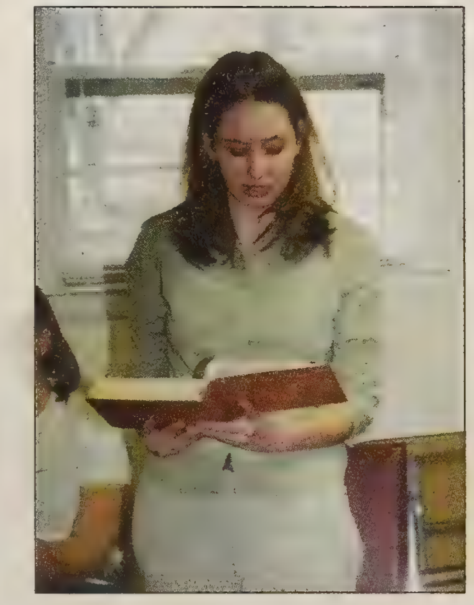
"This year, we have nine of the 10 vicariates represented with 17 teens on the council," explained Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry and the DYC advisor. "They are the voice of the youth for the diocesan office of youth ministry and are a means by which we can remain in direct contact with the needs, concerns and opinions of diocesan youth."

Council member elections are held every year with much of the input about the choices coming from the teens who help to conduct the interviews of the new junior and senior recruits. Many of the council members are elected to two-year terms during which time they are encouraged to attend the Faithful Servant Leadership Conference, a weeklong program focusing on leadership roles, communication and diversity issues.

"We try to be objective and balanced in the selection of DYC members. We have developed a point system which takes in various factors like age, gender, ethnicity, references, vicariate, parish and other factors," said Kotlowski. "The DYC are advisory to the diocesan youth office, and their decisions are honored and respected. The environment is one of shared leadership and collaboration."

With the help of Jen Rupp, DYC coordinator and the diocesan program coordinator for youth and young adult ministry; Carl and Leslie Brown, adult mentors, and Andrea Logan, consultant, the youth gather for 10 meetings a year at different host parishes and at the St. Francis House. The meeting agenda usually includes prayer services, community building exercises, speakers and discussions of upcoming events.

The idea is that these youth can share what they learn and discuss the findings with their churches. Through dialogue with youth from other parts of the diocese, they will be able to gain knowledge that may help their own parishes with youth ministry. The teens add their own insight about diocesan-sponsored youth events and volunteer their time and talents in assisting with the various events.



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Above, from left to right, DYC members Andrew McCoy, Sacred Heart in Salisbury; Erin Morrison, St. Dorothy in Lincolnton; Lucy Dillard, Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem and Katie Sullivan, St. Margaret in Maggie Valley discuss ideas for the upcoming diocesan youth conference at their monthly meeting on Feb. 10 in Hickory. Below left, Sullivan reads from Scripture, and below right, McCoy, Carl Brown, DYC adult mentor from Good Shepherd Church in King and Morrison, pray during Mass celebrated by Bishop Curlin.

"I think that learning and growing together with such a large and diverse group of youth helps me to grow spiritually," said Sullivan, 17, who has been a part of DYC for two years. "I have grown as a person being in the role of leadership, and the youth of our parish have gotten so much more involved and active within the diocese."

The main project of the DYC members is the planning and preparation of the largest diocesan youth gathering — the Diocesan Youth Conference. They also help with the middle school Spring Fling, the Lenten retreat, vicariate retreats and other youth events. The Diocesan Youth Conference is a weekend of faith sharing, activities and fellowship for the younger members of the diocese. The DYC teens help to make the weekend a rewarding and spiritually stimulating experience for all.

"Helping to plan the conference, coming up with ideas and planning something this

See PEERS, page 9

Building a church: Views on architecture aired at meeting

WORCESTER, Mass (CNS) — What should a Catholic church look like? Views are sharply divided. Behind the disagreement is the bigger question: How does what you believe about God, people and worship affect your choice of church design? Catholics with differing views gathered Jan 26-28 at Holy Cross College in Worcester. They included bishops, theologians, architects and liturgists. The gathering was the second of a two-part meeting sponsored by the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, said organizer Paul Covino. Covino is a Common Ground committee member and associate chaplain and director of liturgy at the Jesuit-run college.

Major funders of Catholics for a Free Choice not Catholic

WASHINGTON (CNS) — No foundations that have Catholic philanthropy as a focus appear in public records among the major funders of Catholics for a Free Choice, according to a Catholic foundation specialist. CFFC describes itself as an independent nonprofit Catholic organization "working in the Catholic social justice tradition." It is most noted for efforts to promote wide access to abortion, contraception and voluntary sterilization and to support dissent from official church teachings in those areas. Francis J. Butler, president of Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, wrote about CFFC's reliance on secular foundations in the January-February issue of Philanthropy, bimonthly magazine of the Philanthropy Roundtable. He said a review of recent CFFC grants recorded in the Foundation Center's grant index "shows an organization without a single major supporter whose program focus is Catholic philanthropy."

Morality in Media asks L.A. County not to abolish porn commission

NEW YORK (CNS) — Morality in Media, a New York-based group founded by a Jesuit priest, is urging clergy in the Los Angeles area to mobilize against a move to abolish the Los Angeles County Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. In a Feb. 5 open letter to members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, which is scheduled to vote on abolishing the commission Feb. 20, Morality in Media president Bob Peters said an East Coast organization had good reason to be involved in a Los Angeles County matter. "We are a national organization with members in every state, and L.A. County is a primary source of the illegal and destructive hard-core pornography pouring into communities, homes and children's minds nationwide," Peters wrote.

CNS photo by Marco Longari

Rwandan church marks centennial year

Altar servers ring bells during the consecration at a Mass marking the 100th year of the Catholic Church in Rwanda. Catholics gathered for the celebration Feb. 8 at a sports stadium in Kigali, capital of the central African nation.

Sierra Leonean church launches support program for war orphans

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Sierra Leone has launched a program to help children orphaned during the country's civil war. Since the outbreak of the war in 1991, the number of war orphans has risen to at least 6,000. The program, Operation Christmas Child, donated a consignment of school items to 4,000 children in orphanages in Freetown, the country's capital. "The essence of establishing this program is not only to motivate the children to learn, but also to instill love into children," said Father Theophillus Momoh of the cathedral in Freetown in presenting the items to the program in late January. The assorted donated items were mostly books, pens, shoes and bags.

Head of U.N. says nations must address what links them together

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Nations should not wait until they "are in the thick of conflict" to address what links them together as part of a global civilization, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Feb. 5. In a talk at Seton Hall University in South Orange, he said history continually proves that even in the world's "infinite diversity of cultures, there does exist one global civilization based on shared values of tolerance and freedom." In what was his first address on the U.N. initiative called "Dialogue Among Civilizations," he said, "Diversity is both the basis for the dialogue among nations and also the reality that makes dialogue necessary." Annan said the idea of a global civilization is one "that we are called on to defend and promote as we embark on a new century."

Church expert says Israeli voters were upset with Barak tactics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon's lopsided victory was not a vote against peace, but an expression of dissatisfaction with the tactics of Prime Minister Ehud Barak, a church expert on Israel said. "The Israelis have not voted against the peace policy carried forward by the government of Barak and that of Rabin before him. They have voted more against Barak's poor management and communication," Franciscan Father David Jaeger told the Vatican missionary news agency, Fides, Feb. 7. Father Jaeger is a member of the Holy See's Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land office in Jerusalem and was instrumental in negotiating the Vatican-Israeli agreement that led to diplomatic relations.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 18 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

February 19 — 10 a.m.
Diocesan finance council
meeting, Charlotte

February 22 — 3 p.m.
Installation of Bishop
Edward Braxton
Lake Charles, La.

February 23 — 10:30 a.m.
Mass
Sacred Heart School, Salisbury

February 24 — 7 p.m.
Charlotte Catholic High School
Benefit, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

February

22 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre is presenting Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" tonight through March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Auditions for Alfred Uhry's "The Last Night of Ballyhoo," a play about a World War II-era German-Jewish family trying to fit into Atlanta society, take place Feb. 26-27 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and other information, call (704) 825-6786 or (704) 825-6787.

23 CHARLOTTE — The Franciscan Mystery Players are presenting "Jesus, the Healer," a dramatic, multi-media, mystery-play presentation of the Passion, death and healing events in Jesus' life at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., at 7:30 p.m. The players are a group of young people who travel around the country during Lent and are sponsored by the New York Franciscan Friars. For further details about this free event, call the church office at (704) 549-1607.

24 CHARLOTTE — A Catechist Recognition Process Workshop for catechist training and certification is being held today at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd. Registration takes place from 8:30-9 a.m. followed by Mass at 9:15 a.m. Five Phase 1 modules are being offered during two sessions from 10:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. and from 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. with a new Phase II module offered in the afternoon. Any adult involved in parish ministry or seeking personal enrichment is invited to come. For more information or to register, contact Marylin Kravatz, Southern Regional Coordinator for Faith Formation, at (704) 370-3247.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Secular Franciscans are having an inquirers' meeting at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel,

Bishop William G. Curlin

joyfully announces the incardination into the Diocese of Charlotte of Father James Hawker and Father Mark Lamprich.

Father Hawker continues as Vicar for Catholic Education and Father Lamprich as pastor of Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro.

Vatican, Lutheran, Reformed churches discuss indulgences

ROME (CNS) — The abuse of indulgences contributed to the Reformation, and questions about the Catholic practice continued to raise ecumenical concerns during the Holy Year 2000. Representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Alliance of Reformed Churches met in Rome Feb. 9-10 to discuss the questions. "The purpose was to clarify historical, theological and pastoral issues related to indulgences in order to come to a better understanding of each other's traditions," said a statement from meeting participants.

Pope thanks Vatican Radio on its 70th anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the 70th anniversary of Vatican Radio, Pope John Paul II thanked the radio's directors and employees for their service to the universal church. "The pope counts greatly on your help in carry out his Petrine ministry and he asks you to daily make yourselves diffusers of the truth that sets one free," he said Feb. 13, meeting with about 450 radio staff members. He said Vatican Radio faced two great challenges: to keep up with new communications technologies and to adequately render the "richness" of the church's message in radio content.

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Rapidly growing Dallas Diocese clears lawsuit debt

DALLAS (CNS) — The Dallas Diocese, which four years ago faced the prospect of bankruptcy over a $119-million court judgment, is today a rapidly growing, bustling diocese with all its debts paid off. The number of Catholics has more than tripled since the end of 1986, when the diocesan boundaries were last redrawn. In 1997 the diocese publicly said it was considering bankruptcy after a jury ordered it to pay a record $119 million to the victims of a priest convicted of sexual abuse of minors. Under court mediation that judgment was reduced to a settlement of $30 million, of which the diocese paid about one-third and its insurance carriers paid the remainder. This January the Texas Catholic, Dallas diocesan newspaper, reported the diocese's debts were paid off at the end of December. The bulk of the debt, $11.3 million at its peak, was incurred to settle the lawsuit.

Sexual behavior increases on TV, study shows

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new study has found that sexual behavior on television has increased from levels of two years ago. The study, "Sex on TV," found that 68 percent — more than two-thirds — of programs surveyed during the 1999-2000 TV season contained sexual content, up from 56 percent during the 1997-98 season. "This study confirms that sexual messages are an increasingly frequent part of the television landscape," the study said. Commissioned by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, the study was released Feb. 6. The foundation also had issued a similar report two years ago, and plans to do a third report two years from now. The study looked at a week's worth of programming on 10 different channels: the Los Angeles affiliates of ABC, CBS, Fox, NBC, PBS and WB, plus the HBO, Lifetime, TNT and USA cable channels.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTES

Palestinian woman confronts Israeli bulldozer

Sobhiya Al-Amur, 50, confronts an Israeli bulldozer as it destroys two Palestinian houses Feb. 12 near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, while Israel's Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon was looking to forge a unity government.

Catholic official expresses surprise, hope after Israeli election

JERUSALEM (CNS) — A Catholic Church official expressed surprise at the overwhelming victory of Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon and said he hoped he would be committed to the peace process. Father Majdi al-Siryani, legal director of the Latin-rite Patriarchate of Jerusalem, said it was "alarming" that Sharon garnered 60 percent of the vote to defeat Labor Prime Minister Ehud Barak Feb. 6. "I wasn't shocked that Sharon was elected, but by the percentage with which he was elected," said Father al-Siryani. He added that while Barak and Sharon were military men, perhaps Sharon's extensive experience in the political arena would allow him to approach the peace negotiations in a more pragmatic way.

located at the corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts., this morning at 9:30 a.m. and on Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. For details, call (336) 723-8481 or (336) 591-3151.

25 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, and for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

March

1 MAGGIE VALLEY — The 55th Men's Weekend Ultreya is taking place at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, today through March 4. The 57th Women's Weekend Ultreya will take place at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., in Greensboro from March 29-April 1. For details, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, is meeting tonight and March 15 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

2 ARDEN — St. Barnabas Church, 109 Crescent Hill Dr., hosts Eucharistic adoration on the following days: Friday mornings immediately following the 9 a.m. Mass until noon, Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:15 p.m. and today and every first Friday from 9:30 a.m.-8:45 p.m. For more information, call the church at (828) 684-6098.

HICKORY — The Annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service is being held tonight at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The theme is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is drawn from the biblical wisdom of Esther. Men and women of all denominations are invited, and childcare will be provided. Refreshments are also being served. Contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956 for further details.

5 CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse meets from 6-7 p.m. tonight and March 19 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting takes place tonight and March 19 from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of the parish center's conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next mass takes place on April 7 with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., today at 10 a.m. in the parish center room 104 and at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., March 12 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center and For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Josh Goering, performer and composer

By KATHY SCHMUGGE
for The Miscellany

LEXINGTON, S.C. — By winning the SAFE KIDS music contest for the SC Buckle up Campaign 2000, Josh Goering, a parishioner at Corpus Christi Church, will serenade his peers to safety with an original musical score he wrote and performed.

His piece which he describes as "rock'n roll with a punky edge" is currently being aired now through March 3 by the Columbia, Florence, Greenville, Spartanburg, Golden Strip and Charleston Cable Systems on popular TV stations such as FOX, MTV, and USA as part of an initiative to get youth to buckle up. The contest sponsored by SAFE KIDS and the S.C. Department of Public Safety (SCDPS), was open to all middle and high school students in the state.

Goering, now a freshman at the University of South Carolina in Columbia majoring in music composition/theory, entered the competition last year as a senior at Lexington High School. His band teacher who knew that Goering wrote music urged him to compete. Even though there was no monetary reward, Goering entered the contest, seeing the project as a worthy cause.

In June of last year, Goering and another teen were told that they tied for first place and both their songs would be aired as public service announcements (PSA) some time in the coming year. Kevin Fischer from Fischer Communications, Inc., a local advertising firm hired to help with production, was so impressed when he heard the winning selections that he suggested SAFE KIDS turn the PSA's into short commercials. The once small project grew and found public and private support from SCDPS, Duke Endowment and AnMED Health Systems in Anderson, organizations who donated money towards the commercials'. production and the purchase of significant airtime.

Ree Mallison, director of SAFE KIDS was especially impressed with Goering, describing him as a very mature youth with great talent. "When I spoke to him I could have just as well been speaking to someone in their 40's. He was so unassuming, yet such a genius," she said.

When Mallison asked him why he chose the rock style of music for the contest, he said that he wanted to use a style that was popular with youth in South Carolina. Goering has some knowledge of what works since he plays lead guitar for Columbia band called "Sinator" and is a volunteer disc jockey at WUSC, the university's radio station.

Photo courtesy of The Miscellany

His parents, Daniel and Lorelei Goering, also members at Corpus Christi Church, have been very supportive in Josh's musical pursuits. They recalled how Josh, their youngest of 10 children, showed early signs of talent. While attending a small Catholic middle school in Nevada, Josh decided to try playing the music he loved. His parents suggested guitar since there was one in the house. Lorelei remembered how Josh amazed the family and teacher with his almost immediate proficiency with guitar and his ease in grasping musical theory.

"For the first three or four years, I felt as if I was the only kid in the world that played and listened to guitar music," said Josh recalling how it wasn't until high school that he found others his age who shared his passion.

His extraordinary skill as a musician did not go unnoticed. While in high school, he was selected and attended a 5-week program at Berklee School of Music in Boston. Upon graduation he was offered a full four-year scholarship to Berklee but turned it down in order to attend USC, where he received several small scholarships and some free instruction. At the university, Goering plays classical guitar, bass guitar, electronic drums and percussion, and the rare instrument called the "thermin" (an electronic box with two antennas responding to hand motions.)

When he completes his bachelor's degree, Josh said he might continue on with his education and possibly become a music professor. He is well on his way as a teacher, presently giving guitar lessons to 26 students at Music Supply in Lexington. Because he is young, he is especially popular with his younger students because he knows how to play and teach the music they love.

For Josh, the recognition by the state contest could lead him in the direction of composing more commercial spots and eventually writing musical scores for movies which is one of his goals. Although he said he did not see himself writing church music, he conveyed how his faith still impacted his work. For example he tries to write music that has meaning and a positive message likes his song, "Buckle-Up."

Winning this contest has been a way for Josh to do profound good with his musical talent. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death among teenagers in S.C and of the 121 youth who died in car accidents in 1999, 81 were not wearing seat belts. His refrain, "Buckle-up before you drive. Buckle-up, and stay alive," hopefully will save some young lives.

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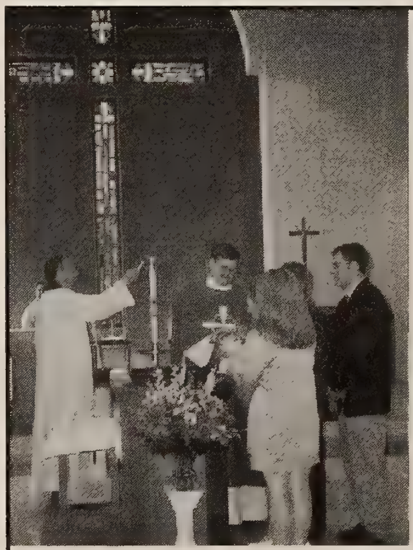

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Youth take downhill approach to faith

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

MAGGIE VALLEY — For people seeking a place for spiritual renewal in the westernmost region of the Charlotte Diocese, Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center may come to mind. For folks looking for excitement on the slopes, a jaunt down Cataloochee Ski Area may just be the (lift) ticket.

The youth of Asheville's three Catholic churches had renewal and thrills in mind Feb. 3-4 when they traveled to Maggie Valley for a ski retreat. The gathering was a celebration of faith, community and nature for the teens.

"With this event, we wanted to provide a religious experience for our youth where they could pray as well as have fun," said Elizabeth Girton, youth minister at the Basilica of St. Lawrence. "The kids really enjoyed that; they really saw a connection between their faith life and their fun life."

In addition to St. Lawrence, the other parishes represented were St. Joan of Arc and St. Eugene.

Before listening to a ski instructor give a lesson on the slopes, the youth heard from Scripture during a Liturgy of the Word at the reflection center. Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, director at the retreat center and priest in residence at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley, was on hand to celebrate Mass, facilitate a question-and-answer session about the faith and lead Benediction and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Hyland and Augustinian Father Chris Nowak, who serves at St. John Church in Waynesville, celebrated the sacrament of penance with the youth.

The opportunity for reconciliation meant a lot to Trevor Israel, a 15-year-old who attends St. Joan of Arc Church. "I liked the confession — the feeling that the priest was willing to listen to me (speaking to God)," he said. "I liked the question-and-answer, too. It gave us a lot of good information to use when people ask us about our faith."

COURTESY PHOTO

Father Terry Hyland leads a question-and-answer session about the faith during the ski retreat in Maggie Valley.

Living up to its namesake, the Living Waters Center gave the youth an opportunity for personal reflection near the creek that runs through the property. Back in the center, the retreatants discussed Scripture and made rosaries.

"I learned a lot," said Vincent Navarro, a 14-year-old parishioner from St. Eugene Church. "I wanted to enlighten myself because I felt like I needed to become more active in my faith."

Navarro said that while the skiing itself was a highlight, there were many other special moments as well. "We did a Bible study, and that taught me a lot about the books of the Bible and what they mean," he said.

Novice to experienced skiers have hit the slopes at Cataloochee Ski Area in Maggie Valley for 40 years. The resort offers night skiing, snowboarding and 10 trails.

Don Frank, youth minister at St. Joan of Arc Church, said the mountain setting was perfect for this type of gathering. "This was a celebration of faith and a celebration of youth," he said. "It's a rite of passage to build confidence, and skiing was certainly part of that. To have a retreat surrounding that was great, because adventure education in nature has so many avenues to God."

The Living Waters director said teen-agers make special retreatants.

"They were so enthusiastic," said Father Hyland, noting the center is available for a variety of retreats for various groups. "It's a discovery for them that their faith can be life-giving and adventurous — that it's not just for older people."

"To have the three parishes come as a combined group was very effective," he added. "They planned together, worked together and were wonderfully cooperative."

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Scholar, author to head Georgetown's new social justice center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Kathleen Maas Weigert, a justice and peace scholar and author, has been named the first director of the new Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching and Service at Georgetown University in Washington. The appointment of Weigert, who comes to the Jesuit-run university after a 30-year career in experiential and service learning education, was announced by Georgetown in January. Most recently, she was associate director of academic affairs and research at Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns and associate professor of American studies and a fellow at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies there. At Georgetown, Weigert will consolidate community outreach.

Retired bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph dead at 80

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — Bishop John J. Sullivan, who led the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph from 1977 to 1993, died Feb. 11 at the Jeanne Jugan Center, a care facility run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. His funeral Mass was scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, followed by burial at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Bishop Sullivan, who was 80, retired in 1993 because of the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease. He had a lifelong history of involving lay people in church ministry and service to the poor. In Kansas City, he established the Center for Pastoral Life and Ministry to provide training for parish ministry to laity, priests and religious.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Aristide sworn in as president of Haiti
Jean-Bertrand Aristide is sworn in as president of Haiti Feb. 7 in Port-au-Prince. Aristide, a former Catholic priest known to champion Haiti's poor, stands with former President Rene Preval, left, and Senate President Yvon Neptune.

No significant changes in church-state ties, says Cuban cardinal

HAVANA, Cuba (CNS) — Many Cubans have had a spiritual rebirth since Pope John Paul II's 1998 Cuban visit, but there has been no significant change in church-state relations, said Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana. Interest in Catholicism has been especially strong among young people, but Cuba has a severe priest shortage which remains unsolved because of communist government restrictions, he said. Cardinal Ortega made the comments in an interview in Havana Jan. 24 with a visiting journalist from The Peace Times Weekly, a Korean-language Catholic newspaper published in Flushing, N.Y. Another major problem the cardinal cited is lack of funds to renovate dilapidated church buildings and to purchase medical supplies for church programs.

Italian priest hopes to celebrate Masses at North, South poles

ROME (CNS) — An Italian priest says he hopes to make history this year by celebrating Mass at the North Pole on Easter and at the South Pole on Christmas. Msgr. Liberio Andreatta, who runs a pilgrimage tour organization in Rome, told the Italian news agency ANSA Feb. 7 that he planned to join two polar expeditions after undergoing special training in Italy. "This is a very emotional undertaking, one of those experiences that pushes an individual to make a wager that involves all his skills, will power, determination, persistence and faith," he said. The two Italian expeditions call for arrival at the North Pole April 15, Easter Sunday, and at the South Pole Christmas Day.

Haitian bishop calls on Aristide to address poverty, corruption

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — The president of the Haitian bishops' conference called on newly inaugurated Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to improve the lot of the country's poor majority, to fight violence and corruption, and to promote dialogue to end political crisis. "Dialogue is necessary to build reconciliation," Bishop Hubert Constant of Fort-Liberte said at a Feb. 7 Thanksgiving Mass attended by the new president and concelebrated by almost all members of Haiti's bishops' conference as well as about 60 priests. The Mass was held following the presidential swearing-in ceremony earlier that day. The Caribbean island nation has had a deepening political crisis since parliamentary and local elections in May.

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  - A. Friday Night Dialogue Session
  - B. Saturday Morning Session Providing Human Services in the Parish
  - C. Saturday Afternoon Session Doing Faith Justice (Applying Catholic Social Teaching to your Programs)
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Bishop William G. Curlin announces

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- Understand the basics of collaboration: motivation, team building and managing change.
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TRACK II Providing Human Services in the Parish and Doing Faith Justice

Part A: Dialogue Session
- Review your successes in providing human services in your parish.
- Discuss the challenges to providing human services in your parish.

TRACK II Cont.

Part B: Providing Human Services in the Parish
- The role the local church plays in providing human services for parishioners and the community at-large.

Part C: Doing Faith Justice (Applying Catholic Social Teaching to your programs)
- Seven ways to put your faith into action.

TRACK III Evangelization & Inculturation

Part A: Dialogue Session
- Review your Evangelization and Inculturation successes
- Discuss the challenges to Evangelization and Inculturation in your ministry.

Part B: Evangelization

- The Church exists to evangelize."

Part C: Inculturation
- The Church welcomes everyone. Members of the Hispanic community provide unique opportunities for parishes and the Diocese. Share and glean insights.

Second quake rumbles through El Salvador; Charlotte Diocese continues to offer relief

EL SALVADOR — One month to the day after El Salvador experienced a 7.9 magnitude earthquake, on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at approximately 8:30 a.m., the entire country experienced another earthquake with a magnitude of 6.6 to 6.9.

The epicenter has been reported to be in the town of San Pedro Nonualco, Department of La Paz, about 45 miles southeast of San Salvador. Most of the major damage has been reported in the town of San Vicente and its outlying communities, located in the Department of San Vicente and in Cojutepeque, Department of Cuscatlán. In San Vicente, all phone lines, electricity and water are down.

These affected areas are actually areas that were less affected by the first earthquake. Therefore, this second quake has spread the destruction throughout the country and means that relief efforts will have to expand their focus to many more communities.

In the urban area of the municipality of San Vicente, unofficial preliminary figures report that 50 percent to 80 percent of houses have been completely destroyed, and three local churches and the city offices destroyed. The only hospital in town has been receiving the wounded.

In the other severely hit area, the municipality of Cojutepeque, Department of Cuscatlán, a Catholic school was totally destroyed and unofficial reports indicate that as many as 5 children between the ages of 4 and 6 may have been killed.

Wednesday's estimates for the entire country after this second quake are around 200 dead.

Several Catholic Relief Services staff were traveling in the San Vicente area at the time of the earthquake. They immediately mobilized and reached San Vicente to collect information on the damage, and initiated coordination activities between CRS, Caritas and local priests.

In addition, CRS staff were accompanying two truckloads of food donated by the World Food Program (WFP) when the second earthquake hit. CRS immediately redirected the approximately 12 metric tons of rice, beans, and cooking oil to affected families in San Vicente.

Catholic Relief Services had already been developing plans for temporary housing reconstruction in response to the January 13 quake. The hundreds of thousands of people left homeless by the two quakes will need temporary shelter before the rainy season begins in May.

Catholic Relief Services and Caritas/El Salvador will now incorporate the communities affected by the second earthquake into its immediate emergency response and long-term interventions.

Specifically, beyond the immediate distributions of food, household items, and temporary shelter materials needed to save lives, CRS will focus on restoring the livelihoods of those affected by these two natural disasters, addressing the mental health needs of the population, and coordinating with the Catholic Church in El Salvador to strengthen civil society.

Want to help?

The Diocese of Charlotte, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is responding to the immediate human needs of the people of El Salvador for food, plastic sheeting, blankets, tents, mats and other non-food items. CRS is the U.S. Catholic Church's international development and relief organization and is committed to helping the people of El Salvador recover from this tragedy and rebuild their communities.

This call for your generous response to the needs of the people in El Salvador follows upon the Diocese of Charlotte's recent appeals for assistance to aid the people of India and El Salvador, who experienced two quakes within the past month.

If you wish to donate funds to support the earthquake relief efforts of CRS in El Salvador and/or India, please send a contribution to your parish office. Make your checks out to your parish marked clearly for CRS Relief: El Salvador or CRS Relief: India. Alternately, you may make your donation check out to the Diocese of Charlotte, mailing your check to the following address: Diocese of Charlotte, CRS Earthquake Relief, 1123 South Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203. Contributions will be forwarded to CRS. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A young man recovers belongings, including a statue of Christ, from his ruined home in the village of San Vicente in El Salvador Feb. 13. A second earthquake in the country in a month's time killed at least 170 people and flattened homes, businesses, schools and churches.

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Indian officials praise priest's effort to save tigers

By **CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE**

VALMIKINAGAR, India (CNS) — A priest in eastern India has won admirers even among Hindu government officials for persuading tribals not to illegally hunt tigers.

"The priest has done what we could not do with state power and resources," said Ashok Prasad, a senior forest conservator in Valmikinagar, Bihar state, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

Father Hilarius Kujur of Bettiah Diocese has persuaded Tharu and Oraon tribals not to poach tigers and to become the wild. animals' guardians instead, the officer said.

Prasad told UCA News that they received no reports of tigers being killed after the 65-year-old priest launched his "save the tiger" campaign among tribals who live near the forests on the Indo-Nepal border, a traditional habitat of Royal Bengal tigers.

Two decades ago, the forest housed some 1,000 tigers, but their number came down to 20 just before the priest's campaign.

Since then, the tiger population has gone up to 32, and Prasad predicts it will hit 200 in a decade if the trend continues.

Father Kujur, an Oraon tribal priest, told UCA News that he wanted to save the tigers because many of his parishioners lost their crops to wild grazing animals.

According to agronomist Ramakant Mishra, tigers are the "the most reliable guards" since they prowl around fields for wild animals that destroy the crops.

Sitaram Mishra, a forest ranger, said that until the priest intervened, the government spent some 500 million rupees (about US$10.8 million) for tiger conservation in the area — without results.

In 1990, the government declared the forests a protected sanctuary for tigers and made poaching them a crime. However, poaching was not brought to the attention of authorities since it involved big money, Father Kujur said.

Lakshman Kazi, 70, chief of Domath Tharu tribal village, told UCA News he saw tigers roam like ordinary cats during his childhood.

He said he went with his father and uncles on tiger safaris as a bravery sport. He later regretted killing tigers indiscriminately as a commercial venture.

Father Kujur said he taught some 200,000 Tharu and Oraon that poaching tigers went against their respect for nature and harmed the forests they revered.

He also convinced an assembly of elected headmen and village tribal clan chiefs that they could save their crops if they let tigers live.

On the priest's proposal, the elders met at Valmikinagar, some 600 miles east of New Delhi, and pledged not to kill tigers, a vow that bound all tribals in the area.

The priest said the chiefs formed a tiger protection force comprising 10 people for every village.

Sister Prasana, 56, who tours villages to carry out literacy and health programs, helped with Father Kujur's campaign. The Daughters of St. Anne nun said people obeyed the elders readily since they were suffering from an ecological imbalance created by poaching.

According to a study by the nongovernmental Indo-Nepal Friendship Association, wild animals destroyed some 2 billion rupees' (US$43 million) worth of crops grown in the area.

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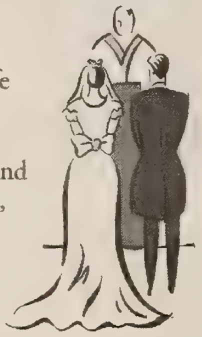

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On March 31 and September 15, the diocesan Family Life Program will offer one-day remarriage workshops for engaged couples in which at least one of the two partners was previously married. Couples come to better understand themselves, their partners, and the relationship they share, through small and large group activities, presentations, journaling, and private partner-to-partner discussions.
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PEERS, from page 1

big has been rewarding for me," said Sullivan.

Seventeen-year-old Erin Morrison, a parishioner at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton, said that being on the DYC for the past two years has helped her to become a part of a history-making event with last year's World Youth Day. Kotlowski led a group of youth to Rome to witness the festivities first-hand. "DYC has opened my eyes to a lot of things and has given me a chance to meet Catholics just like me, not only here, but all over the world. I think youth can bring life, energy and new perspectives to the church."

Kotlowski agreed that through the DYC and youth ministry that diocesan youth are provided with a continuous means of evangelization and catechization. "Providing diocesan-wise youth events is crucial for young people growing up in the Diocese of Charlotte who make up only three percent of the diocese. The diocesan youth office with its programs and opportunities for ministry for youth and adults is an ongoing means of providing opportunities for fellowship, worship and growth in Jesus Christ in a Catholic tradition."

Youth ministry is one of the life-giving ministries funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Community Mass Held in Elkin

ELKIN — A community Mass was recently held at the Elkin armory. St. Stephen Church of Elkin joined with Cristo Rey of Yadkinville and Sagrado Corazon de Jesus of Dobson in a bi-lingual Mass attended by over 450 people.

The celebrants of the Mass were Father Michael T. Kottar and Father Ricardo Sanchez.

The three parishes came together in prayer and fellowship in anticipation of a united future parish in Boonville.

Each parish provided an array of lively music for the Mass. After the Mass, tables laden with bountiful amounts of a variety of food provided an ample feast for all.

This is the first co-operative effort for the Surry and Yadkin county parishes.

It was a wonderful spirit of togetherness and the promise of many more festivities in the future.

A diocesan-based
training of the
Catholic Campaign for
Human Development

Education for Solidarity Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life

March 3, 2001

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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Office of CCHD,
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Fr. John Rausch of Glenmary will present the church's teaching on the economy.

An interactive session led by Michael James, economics trainer, combines presentations with group participation.

Afternoon sessions include workshops on the three national community organizing and economic development programs funded by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in the Diocese of Charlotte. Descriptions and discussion of these programs will put a human face on CCHD efforts to empower the poor and involve them as partners in their own development. In addition, representatives of justice ministries will present avenues for engaging in action.

Resource materials will be provided for parishes to integrate the teaching into parish life and as a conference follow-up.

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Book Review

Book by Bernardin brings bounty of personal reflections

REVIEWED BY LOU PANARALE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In August 1996 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago was told the pancreatic cancer doctors removed a year earlier was recurring in his liver and was inoperable. After learning he likely had only a few months to live, he corresponded, visited and prayed with ailing people and their families from around the country.

"Many people have asked me why I'm at peace, or how I can be at peace," the cardinal remarked.

***"The Journey to Peace: Reflections on Faith, Embracing Suffering and Finding New Life,"* by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin; edited by Father Alphonse P. Spilly and Jeremy Langford. Doubleday (New York, 2001). 151 pp. $26.95.**

"First, you have to put yourself totally in the hands of the Lord. Secondly, you have to begin seeing death not so much as an enemy but as a friend. And thirdly, you have to begin letting go. And if you can do those three things, then you experience peace."

The cardinal was asked by friends to consider compiling some of his major texts for future publication. The subject came up again and again before he died in November of that year.

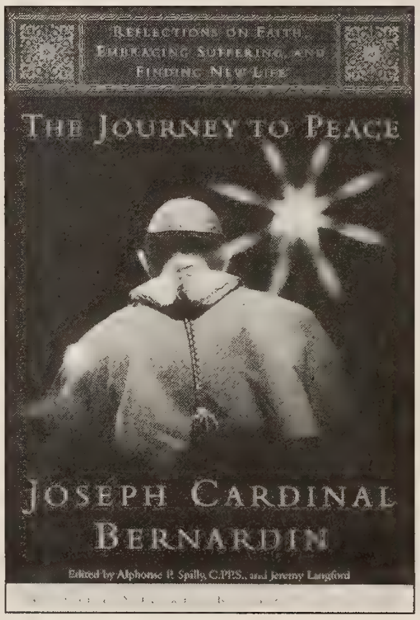
"Al, you'll have to do that for me," he told Precious Blood Father Alphonse Spilly, who had been the cardinal's special assistant for 12 years. Father Spilly described the cardinal's request as "a very emotional thing for me."

In the final months before he died, Cardinal Bernardin shared his personal reflections with Father Spilly on faith, suffering and facing death. Those meetings resulted in "The Gift of Peace," which made The New York Times best-seller list.

Now comes the newly released follow-up, "Journey to Peace," a collection of Cardinal Bernardin's previously unpublished reflections, again compiled and edited by Father Spilly and Jeremy Langford. Using the Stations of the Cross as a framework, the book reveals Cardinal Bernardin's extraordinary faith, wisdom and compassion.

The editors say "The Journey to Peace" was designed to help readers understand the relevance of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection to their own lives, inviting all to join the journey that leads to peace. The book was in the making for nearly four years.

Father Spilly and Langford point out that while Cardinal Bernardin did not preach and write precisely about the Stations themselves, his words often illuminated aspects of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection in new and timely ways.


Reflections on Faith, Embracing Suffering, and Finding New Life
The Journey to Peace
Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
Edited by Alphonse P. Spilly, C.PP.S., and Jeremy Langford

The editors invite readers of "The Journey to Peace" to stop and meditate at each Station on "all that it tells you about Jesus and about yourself as one of his followers."

"Our prayer and hope is that as you read this book in portions throughout the year, you will accept Cardinal Bernardin's invitation to enter more deeply into the mystery of Jesus' passion and resurrection and find yourself further along the road on your journey to peace."

Panarale is book review editor at Catholic News Service.

Word to Life

February 18, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B Readings:
1) 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23
Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13
2) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
3) Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Each morning across the country experts abound to help us determine how to lose weight, fight cancer, raise our children and invest wisely before we race out the door.

I confess my own morning drill is not unique. Coffee in hand, I spend time praying with the Scriptures and my journal before I get ready for work. Once groomed, I pour that second cup of coffee and eat my instant oatmeal while I catch news, traffic and weather reports. Occasionally I have time to watch an interview with an authority on some noteworthy societal or health issue before I enter the I-30 Grand Prix once again.

On one such morning not long ago, the lead-in for a segment on the problems of adult children of aging parents caught my attention. Not only do these people have the burden of care for their infirm parents, they also have children and sometimes grandchildren who depend on them for both financial and emotional support.

During the conversation between news anchor and expert, I learned that this is one of the challenges presented to us by an aging population. But the intriguing part of the interview was watching two people talk about life-and-death issues without mentioning the words "old age" and "dying."

Finally, the news anchor asked the expert, in the most politically correct manner, how one discusses the topic with one's own parent of moving into an assisted living facility, nursing home or hospice. At this point in the conversation, the anchor seemed to be looking for a formula; the expert tried valiantly to provide one.

Initially, it sounded as if they were discussing trapping an unsuspecting animal. Then the most amazing thing happened. The expert leaned forward and spoke simply from her heart. "The best advice I can give," she said, "is to think about how you would feel if the circumstances were reversed. How would you wish to be treated?"

I smiled, clicked the remote and thought, "Now there's an expert who really does use an expert's advice!"

QUESTION:

Beverly indicates she wears two hats as she faces our busy world, one as a consumer of useful information and one as a Christian who must screen that information carefully to see how it lines up with her Christian view of the world. Do you wear two such hats?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 18 - 24, 2001

Sunday, 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49, Luke 6:27-38; **Monday,** Sirach 1:1-10, Mark 9:14-29; **Tuesday,** Sirach 2:1-11, Mark 9:30-37; **Wednesday (St. Peter Damian),** Sirach 4:11-19, Mark 9:38-40; **Thursday (The Chair of St. Peter),** 1 Peter 5:1-4. Matthew 16:13-19; **Friday (St. Polycarp),** Sirach 6:5-17, Mark 10:1-12; **Saturday,** Sirach 17:1-15, Mark 10:13-16

Readings for the week of Feb. 25 - Mar. 3, 2001

Sunday, Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45; **Monday,** Sirach 17:19-27, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday,** Sirach 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31; **Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday,** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday,** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (St. Katherine Drexel),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

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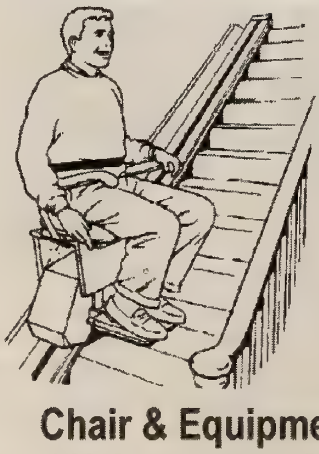

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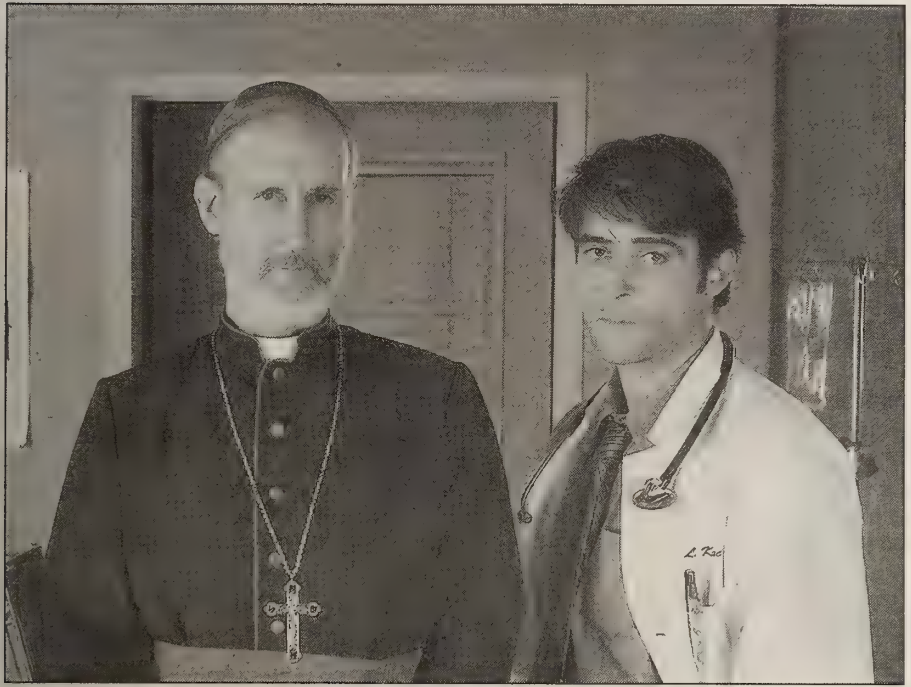
Actor Cromwell plays another kind of shepherd on 'ER'



CNS PHOTO FROM NBC

Actor Cromwell playes bishop in 'ER' series

Actor James Cromwell stars as Bishop Stewart in an episode of NBC-TV's popular prime-time drama "ER." Cromwell's character counsels a tormented Dr. Luka Kovac (right), played by Goran Visnjic.

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In five years, actor James Cromwell's career has gone from playing a sheep herder to playing a shepherd.

Cromwell received an Oscar nomination for his role as Farmer Hoggett in the 1995 movie "Babe," the story of a pig who wanted to be a sheepdog.

This winter, Cromwell has been a guest star on the NBC drama "ER," portraying Bishop Stewart, a revered but fictitious Catholic bishop in Chicago who shepherds souls — in this case the brooding Dr. Luka Kovac (Goran Visnjic) — while dealing with his own mortality. The guest appearances end with the Feb. 22 episode.

In a Feb. 6 conference call with TV writers, Cromwell noted he was aware of the highly public struggle of Chicago Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin with the cancer that ultimately claimed his life in 1996, but said he did not base the Bishop Stewart character on Cardinal Bernardin.

Cromwell said "ER" executive producer John Wells, himself the son of an Episcopal priest, sought the actor's input in shaping the character.

Cromwell said he thought it would be interesting if a man of such religious stature had a crisis of faith — "not in his church, but in himself" — as death seemed near.

"None of us knows what happens at that instant (of death)," Cromwell said. "When you die, will your faith and will your self-control sustain you, or will you fall to pieces?"

He likened it to author C.S. Lewis' experiences as recounted in the movie "Shadowlands," in which Lewis had well-established notions of religious faith, belief and practice, and how his subsequent marriage challenged and transformed those long-held views.

In the midst of Bishop Stewart's own battle for health and serenity, he ministers to other patients in the emergency room.

He also has taken an interest in Kovac, a Croatian native who lost his family in the secession war with Yugoslavia, and who more recently beat to death a mugger who had attacked him and tried to take girlfriend Abby Lockhart's (Maura Tierney) purse. Kovac's sullen demeanor has thus far posed a hard nut for the bishop to crack.

Cromwell said TV is a more intimate medium than film.

"You come home from a long day at work, and you're very vulnerable," he added. "ER," which he called "a very provocative, engaging and very thoughtful" show, "forces people to confront things," yet not in a "doctrinaire, good-bad, right-wrong" way, he said. "It has a lot of subtleties."

Instead, Cromwell said, viewers can see what's happening in a fictional character's life on the show and then ask themselves, "How would I handle that if it happened to me?"

"That's the way we move forward as a culture," he added.

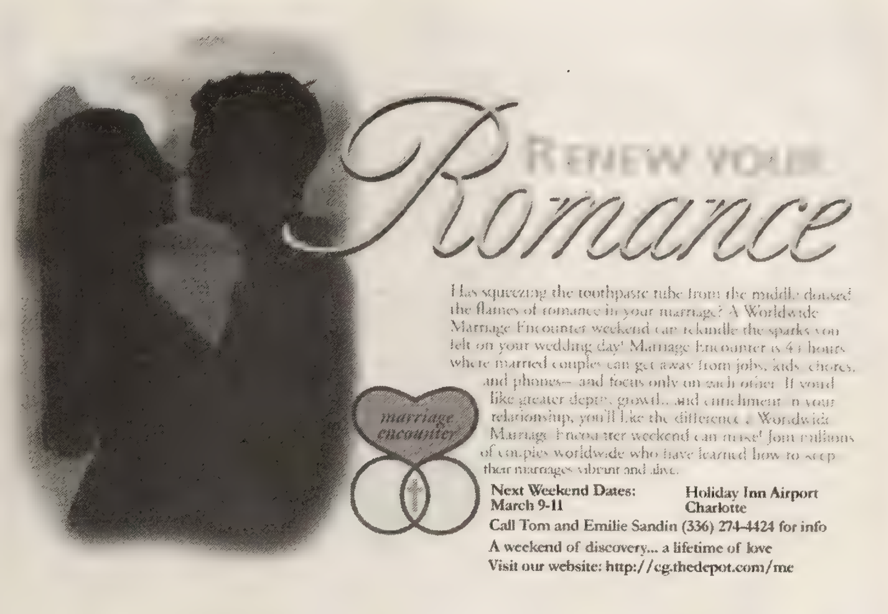
Cromwell, who is not a Catholic, said he got help with the religious nuances of his role from Jesuit Fathers John LeVecke and Jim Epps at Blessed Sacrament Church in Los Angeles, where taping of some scenes occurred for his "ER" role. He also had help from Deacon Jack Coplen and layman Peter Thompson at St. Francis de Sales Church in Sherman Oaks, Calif., near his home.

In one scene, the script had Bishop Stewart saying, "In nomine Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sancti."

"It all sounded very nice," Cromwell noted, except "they don't say that anymore," with sacraments today celebrated in the vernacular. The dialogue was changed.

At another point, Cromwell as the bishop was saying his prayers and realized he had forgotten to make the sign of the cross.

When the actor related this to Thompson afterward, he said he was told: "Don't sweat the small stuff. The form isn't what matters. It's what's in your heart that counts."



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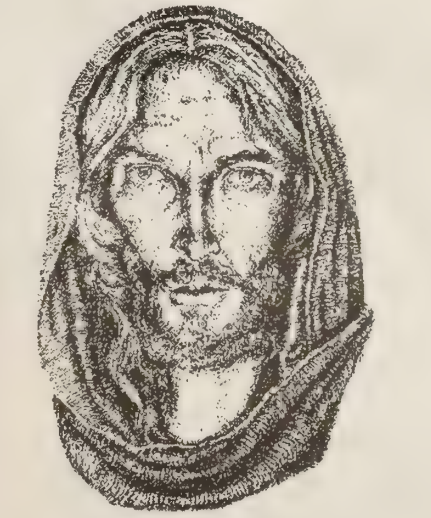

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Forgiveness is only way to peace, pope says in Lenten message

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked Christians to radically embrace the Gospel command to love one's enemy, saying forgiveness was the only way to peace between peoples and nations.

"In our times, forgiveness appears more and more as a necessary dimension for an authentic social renewal and for the strengthening of peace in the world," he said in his annual message for Lent.

The 1,600-word message, centering on the scriptural phrase, "Love is not resentful," was presented at a Vatican press conference Feb. 9.

The pope said Lent, a traditional time of reconciling with God, should prompt believers to re-examine whether their lives conform to Christ's command to "love your enemies (and) do good to those who hate you."

"They are words that, if taken seriously, demand a radical conversion," he said.

In addition to asking forgiveness for wrongs committed, "the Christian must make peace even when feeling as the victim of one who has unjustly offended and struck," he said.

He said only interior conversion and "humble obedience to the command of Jesus" could enable believers to resist "the psychological mechanisms of self-pity and revenge."

He particularly emphasized the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation, saying the experience of receiving God's forgiveness "encourages us to live in love, considering the other not as enemy but as a brother."

In addition to its spiritual fruits, forgiveness brings peace between peoples and opens individuals to the material needs of others, he said.

Especially in places where conflict has left enduring animosity among peoples, accepting and offering forgiveness interrupts "the spiral of hatred and revenge, and breaks the chains of evil which bind the hearts of rivals," he said.

"For nations in search of reconciliation and for those hoping for peaceful coexistence among individuals and peoples, there is no other way than forgiveness received and offered," he said.

He said spiritual reconciliation also predisposes individuals to see and respond to the material needs of others, because "a heart reconciled with God and with neighbor is a generous heart."

When done with a reconciled heart, the traditional Lenten practice of almsgiving "assumes a deeper meaning, because it is not just giving something from the surplus to relieve one's conscience, but to truly take upon one's self the misery present in the world," he said.

At the press conference, Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, president of the Vatican aid agency "Cor Unum," unveiled a new papal charity project to assist AIDS orphans in Uganda over the next two years.

Funded by a gift to the pope of about $500,000 from the northern Italian city of Milan, local Ugandan Catholic organizations hope to care for some 2,000 children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS in and around the capital, Kampala.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Mary of history, mother of faith

I had to smile once when a Catholic teen-ager referred to the mother of Jesus as "Mary Superstar." Actually I thought that was a good description of this amazing woman who has been given more titles than, I wager, most of us could recount.

Not surprising to me was my immediate curiosity when I picked up a new book called "Your One-Step Guide to Mary" (Charis, Servant Publications), that opened with this question: "Is there any other woman in the history of Western civilization who has had as great an impact as Mary, the mother of Jesus?"

Then, based on detailed research, we get this answer: "The Virgin Mary has been more of an inspiration to more people than any other woman who has ever lived. And she remains so as we enter the 21st century, despite its being conventionally regarded as secularistic by contrast with previous so called ages of faith."

With this introduction, author Mitch Finley puts a magnifying glass on Mary's story, from her introduction to us in the Bible to the present day. He ends as he began, with a question: "How might devotion to Mary fits into Catholic spirituality for a new millennium?"

In all honesty, I've read so much about Mary that I didn't think I would find much that would be new to me. Nor did I think it would affect my own personal devotion to this woman who has been my inspiring guide as I journeyed through a difficult life as a Catholic mother raising children alone and outliving sons.

I was wrong on both counts. I didn't know, for example, that the first Marian hymn dates back to Christian worship services during the second century. Nor did I know that the earliest portrayal of Mary was in A.D. 150 — a fresco painted in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome.

Most of us have no doubt wondered about Mary's early life, her parents, the turmoil in the family when it was discovered that this unmarried Jewish maiden was pregnant. Finley relates the stories about Mary's childhood told in the apocryphal "Protoevangelium Jacobi" ("Gospel of James"). This may be an apocryphal document, but it is plausible fiction, filling a void in the Gospels when it comes to information about Mary.

No doubt these legends about Mary proliferated in the centuries that followed, when, Finley says, "the Christian imagination, it seems, could not get enough of Mary."

Finley presents a smorgasbord of facts to show Mary's increasing importance, starting with the early decades of the Christian era. Hundreds of legends about Mary developed during the Middle Ages, all depicting her as kind, a helper of the poor, the oppressed and sinners.

This merciful mother never holds back on love for us earthly ones. No wonder she remains supreme in our hearts.

Above all, Mary is our model for faith — faith that "abandons the self in complete trust that, whatever happens, God's loving kindness will be there. It is this faith that Mary teaches us yesterday, today and forever."

Economy of Faith

GLENMARY FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Crime and justice

When the Catholic chaplain brings Communion to an inmate at a supermax prison in southwest Virginia, he leaves the Eucharist on a chair, exits the room, then waits for the prisoner to enter and receive Holy Communion by himself. The rules deny any physical contact. Religious services appear an imposition on prison order. Located in a rural area at the extreme end of the state, the prison routinely uses isolation of inmates for up to 23 hours a day in a cell measuring 6 by 12 feet. Although sweeping vistas with crenulated mountain ranges surround the facility, inmates never glimpse the beauty — another calculated punishment by sensory privation.

Across the state line in Kentucky, an inmate serving one year for a parole violation contracted tuberculosis in a crowded jail cell. The regional jail represents a source of revenue for the county by housing state prisoners with more temporary county offenders. The prison has no exercise yard, few amenities and a library consisting of a roll-around book cart.

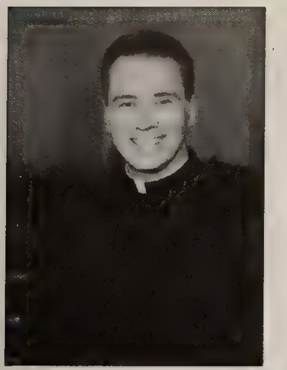
In November 2000, the U.S. Catholic bishops issued a pastoral letter about a Catholic perspective on crime and criminal justice, "Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration." The pastoral addresses the state of criminal justice in the U.S. today and offers directions for reform based on Church teaching. "How can we protect and rebuild communities, confront crime without vengeance, and defend life without taking life?" it asks. It sees crime not simply as a violation of law, but a threat to community. It rejects punishment for its own sake, emphasizing rather its constructive and redemptive purpose.

By affirming the principles of human dignity and community the pastoral bucks the fashionable political trends in corrections. It dismisses "three strikes and you're out" and "zero-tolerance" for drug offenders as too simplistic and a major cause for the rapid growth of the U.S. prison population, now at two million. It rejects trying a juvenile as an adult, and it deplores the expanded use of isolation units. It calls for the sensible regulation of handguns and the abolition of the death penalty for the violence it inflicts on society. Ultimately, the bishops seek a criminal justice system that tempers justice with mercy.

Looking at the major causes of crime, the bishops recognize the link with poverty for spawning gangs, violence and substance addiction. In their words: "Fighting poverty, educating children, and supporting families are essential anti-crime strategies." Drug-related crimes account for at least one third of all convictions, but treatment programs in prisons have been diminishing. Yet, a finding by the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs indicates that every dollar spent on treating substance abuse problems saves seven dollars through reductions in crime and hospitalization. Simply put, society will need fewer prisons with more crime prevention, addiction treatment programs and poverty reduction.

Prophetically, the bishops encourage the spiritual healing of both victim and perpetrator of crime through restorative justice. The process calls the offender to face the victims and the community for his crime. When a criminal meets the person he robbed, the offender begins to realize the consequences of his actions, accept responsibility, make reparation and finally rebuild his life. The victim most times experiences a greater sense of peace and closure to the personal violation. Restorative justice heals by putting a human face on the process.

The bishops want the $35 billion spent annually on corrections to be reconsidered. Rather than building prisons to warehouse more people, the bishops ask to address the root causes of crime and build a healthier society.



Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Happy (Early) Mother's Day!

A few years ago, my mother underwent heart surgery. It was a tough operation. After they rolled her into the operating room, a sensible old doctor came out and told us to go home. He'd call us when she came out of surgery. My father insisted on staying at the hospital. But my sisters and I decided to listen to the doctor.

When you're waiting for someone you love to come through major surgery, time seems endless. With nothing to do but worry, my sisters and I started paging through old photo albums. And there, dating back to the 1940s and 1950s, were pictures of our parents. They looked great. My mother was beautiful and in terrific shape. We don't usually think of our parents as good-looking because they are, after all, our moms and dads. But in page after page of the albums, we saw people of youth and zest and beauty.

Hours later, the phone rang. Mom was out of surgery, and we could go to Intensive Care to visit with her for a few moments. When I saw her, she looked awful, really beaten up. And the sound of the respirator drawing her breath in and out ran right through me. As I stood by her bedside, my mind was drawn back to those earlier photographs. And I wondered: what had happened to that young and lovely woman?

* Was it the burden of having children?

* Was it staying up all night with those children through measles, mumps, fevers, chicken pox, and all the other assorted ailments which plague youngsters?

* Was it the thousands of wash loads in an age before disposable diapers?

* Was it waiting for us to come home from dates, when our curfew was midnight but excuses always brought us in after 1 a.m.?

* Was it the people we dated who sometimes turned out to be every bit as bad as our parents had predicted?

* Was it the glassy eyes we averted or the alcohol on our breath (no matter how many mints we used to cover our drinking)?

* Was it our silly acts of rebellion when we rejected all authority (including our parents) as outdated and stupid and out of touch?

* Was it the vacation they didn't take because there were too many bills to cover?

* Was it all of those awful parent-teacher meetings, when teachers chided her children for unrealized "potential," but only Mom really believed that promise was there?

* Was it the times when her brothers and parents died, but there was so little time to grieve because we were children who needed to be raised?

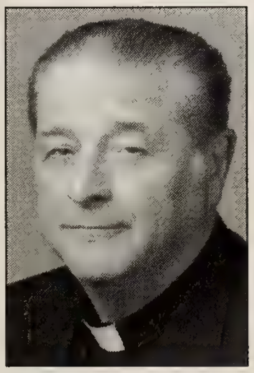
* Was it going without so that we would have more?

* Was it the struggle to juggle the vocation of being a mother with the vocation of being a spouse?

* Was it the pain of letting go when we grew up, the challenge of loving us enough to let us be free?

Our parents give us so much, and it costs them. Our appreciation of our moms should not be limited to one day, Mother's Day. Our mothers are givers and, from time to time, we need to let them know that in a world sometimes devoid of heroes they continue to give heroic witness.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Holy Trinity: Who is Creator?

Q. I've read your column for years and now have a question about the Holy Trinity. Which person in the Trinity is the Creator?

St. Paul writes about Jesus, "In him were created all things in heaven and on earth" (Col 1:16). Yet in the creed we say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Then in the hymn to the Holy Spirit we sing, "Come Holy Ghost, creator blest." Are they all "creators"? How do we explain this?

A. We must realize first of all that we do not have — and as limited creatures, could not possibly have — a thorough "explanation" of the nature or the works of the Holy Trinity. The reason, of course, is that we are dealing here with the greatest, and central, mystery of the Christian faith.

Practically everything we know of the Trinity has come from the church's theological and spiritual reflection on two sources: how Jesus talked about the interrelationships between himself and the Father and the Holy Spirit; and how Christians, individually and collectively, experience the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in their lives.

Jesus, for example, speaks of sending the Spirit. In numerous passages we read how the very early Christians are quite conscious that their actions are undertaken under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 10:44, 11:12, 13:2 among many other examples.)

Very gradually, in somewhat different ways in the East and West, the church began to explore the connections between the Trinity's life and actions "ad intra" as they are sometimes called, God's inner life, and God's actions "ad extra," what God does outside himself, in creation.

This brings us closer to the answer to your question, insofar as we can have one. While they relate in some mysterious ways with each other as "persons," the Father, the begotten Son and the Spirit who proceeds from both share equally the one divine nature.

Each is distinct, but each is truly God.

From this perspective, every action of God that involves creation, including creation itself, is coequally the action of all three persons. Since there is only one God-substance, none of the three act independently. Whatever is done outside of their co-existent relationship, all do.

Thus, it is proper and necessary to say that the Father, Son and Spirit are involved in the work of creation and in all that sustains and affects that creation.

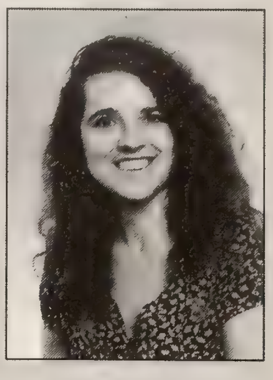
At the same time, as God reveals himself in the Scriptures, specific divine actions are attributed to one or another of the three persons. External actions of God are seen as appropriate (thus the term appropriation) to a particular person in view of that person's "place" in the inner life of the Trinity.

The Son is seen as the Word generated from eternity, not as a creature, but as sharing the God-nature with the Father. To him is attributed qualities such as orderliness and filial love of the Father. In him, as the Word made flesh, the kingdom of God is revealed as present in our human existence.

While only the Son took on our human nature and entered eternal glory through the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection, all three persons were, and are, involved and active in the entire saving life and work of Jesus.

It is impossible here to give extensive biblical references to all these truths. But a little serious looking up of passages in the Old and New Testaments will yield a multitude of examples of these ways of speaking about the one God and the internal communal life and external actions of the Holy Trinity.

Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Who is really smart?

This is a message to all the smart kids:

Watch out. You're nowhere near as smart as you think you are.

Take it from a former so-called smart kid who, as a teacher, hung out around plenty of smart kids: If there's one thing I've learned, it's that smart kids have the most uncanny habit of making the dumbest choices and biggest mistakes.

Let me explain. You probably already understand that there are lots of ways of being "smart." There's book smart and street smart. There are also people who are very diligent workers, spend hours hitting the books and get no grades less than an A, but who, when you get down to it, aren't that intelligent at all. Sure, they're smart enough to figure out what they have to do to succeed, but beyond that they're really just good memorizers rather than good thinkers, right?

No, when I talk about the smart kids, I'm not necessarily talking about the honor roll. I'm talking about the kids, no matter what grades they pull or how engaged they are in school, who are just intelligent: No matter what their specific strengths, they have a quick understanding, they're able to see the connections between details, and they can analyze.

You're probably pretty smart yourself. I'm tempted to declare that if you're reading this, you're a proven genius, but I won't. We'll just acknowledge that you know you're not stupid, and you probably think you're smarter than some of the people around you, particularly the adults.

As I said, watch out. Here's why.

I can't tell you how many smart kids I've known who've ended up their late teens dependent on alcohol. Or how many were involved in pregnancies before marriage, both boys and girls. Or how many got involved in truly idiotic acts of vandalism, harassment or theft. Or how many smart kids were just plain mean.

How can anyone with even the least bit of intelligence be brought down by such self-destructive activities?

Here's how it works: If you are a generally intelligent person and are constantly told as much, you're at risk of forgetting one important reality: You are still human, you can still be blinded by emotion and need, and you can make huge mistakes.

You know how to make good grades. You know how to balance school and extracurriculars. You have a pretty good understanding of the world. Surely any personal decision you make will be bathed in the same glow of success as your report card, right?

Not exactly.

So sure, thank God for whatever gifts you have, but beware all the same. After all, scour the Gospels for days, and one thing you won't find is Jesus declaring, "Blessed are the honor students ..." He seems to indicate that there's something beyond intelligence that brings peace.

So put that brain to good use. Try to figure out what that "something" might be.

In Brief...

Lift High the Cross

"Lift High the Cross" COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, supreme chaplain; Robert J. Singer, state deputy for North Carolina; and Carl A. Anderson, newly elected Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus celebrate the Knights' theme for 2001: "Lift High the Cross." The Knights of Columbus is a family service organization and is nationally headquartered in New Haven, Conn.

Summer religion camp

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park during the weeks of July 8-14 and July 15-21. Boys and girls under 12, entering grades 2-6 in Sept., can apply for consideration. Those 16 and older wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application. Application deadline is June 11. For further information and application, write to: Oratorian Father William F. Pentis, camp coordinator; the Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C., 29731-1586; or call (803) 327-2097.

Catholic praise musician to give concert

CHARLOTTE — Popular contemporary praise musician Greg Walton will perform live in concert for youth and adults Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., in Charlotte. Walton, a Catholic, is a former high school music teacher who worked in suburban Chicago. He began his music career by spending two years on the road with Christian group, Polarboy. He then formed his own band and now performs as a solo artist. Based in Nashville, he tours throughout the United States and abroad, playing at Christian music concerts, festivals and worship events. He also leads worship music for conferences and retreats. The concert is free, and free-will offerings will be accepted. For further information, contact Scott Walters at (704) 519-0786 or e-mail carolinaevents@e3mil.com.

OLG adult education program

GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the activity center. Wanda Smith, a recent convert to the Catholic faith, is presenting "What Do I Say," a session concerning how to answer questions from Protestants about the Catholic faith. Join the group for a potluck at 5:45 p.m. in the cafeteria. For further details, call the parish religious education office at (336) 274-0415.

Belmont Abbey play season continues

BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre's production of the Kander and Ebb musical revue "The World Goes 'Round" takes place March 15-23 at 7:30 p.m. The play; taking place in the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd.; features songs from Broadway hits such as "Cabaret," "Chicago," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and others. For tickets and other information, call (704) 825-6786 or (704) 825-6787.

Annual St. Patrick's Day parade

CHARLOTTE — The Mecklenburg County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America in cooperation with Dyer-Hart Productions is presenting Charlotte's 5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade steps off at noon on March 17 from the corner of Tryon and Stonewall Sts. The parade travels down Tryon past St. Peter Catholic Church and through uptown to 5th St. After the parade, there will be a separate Irish festival at the First Union Atrium on Tryon St. For more information or to join in the parade, call Tim Lawson at (704) 522-9728 or NCAOH@aol.com.

St. Peter Church 150th anniversary

CHARLOTTE — The sesquicentennial celebration of St. Peter Church, 507 S. Tryon St., starts on March 18 and continues through Jan. 29, 2002. The church history committee is still looking for former parishioners who would like to share stories or facts about the church's history. This information is being used for the ongoing celebration and possibly for a published church history. Contact the parish office at (704) 332-2901, Ext. 12, with your name, phone number and time to call.

"Light Weigh" weight-loss program

CHARLOTTE — The Light Weigh is a 12-week Catholic spiritual growth weight-loss program designed to help deepen your relationship with Jesus while learning to eat the foods you enjoy in moderation. An orientation will be offered at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., beginning on March 7 at 7 p.m. in the parish center in Room 102. The classes will run for the following 12 Wednesdays at 7 p.m. For details, call Connie Tobey at (704) 541-6858 in the evening.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/ administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Adult Faith Formation: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a parish community of 500 families, seeks a Pastoral Associate to be responsible for RCIA/RCIC, sacramental preparation, adult faith formation, and act as a resource person to staff, youth and teen ministers, and parish committees. M.A. in religious Education/Theology required. Send resume, references and salary requirements to: Search Committee, 700 Carnegie St., Fayetteville, NC 28311.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 700 families near Raleigh, North Carolina is building new church and desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have a BA in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time salary of 35K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by February 28 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Principal, Elementary: Catholic Elementary School, north Atlanta. Candidate must be Catholic with M. Ed. in Administration. Seeking enthusiastic, spiritual and progressive leader, dedicated to academic excellence and parish community involvement. 500-student enrollment in grades K-8; on the leading edge of technology and curriculum development. Application deadline: March 5; start date: July 1. Resumes to: Principal Search Committee, St. Jude the Apostle School, 7171 Glenridge Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30328. www.saintjude.net

Teacher: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School is accepting applications for certified Kindergarten Teacher starting March 2001; also, 3rd Grade teacher for August 2001. Contact or send resume to: Ed Manville, Principal. Phone: (919)570-0070; Fax: (919)570-0071; e-mail emanville@stcathsiena.org

Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School is now accepting applications for the following positions for the 2001-2002 school year: English, Guidance, part-time Health/PE, Mathematics, Science, part-time Science, Religion, and Spanish. Applicants should be certified. Please direct questions to Steve Carpenter at (704)543-1127.

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, located in Fairburn, Georgia (south of Atlanta), is seeking teachers in all disciplines for the 2001-2002 school year. Mercy offers an excellent teaching environment as well as competitive salary and benefits. Interested individuals should send a cover letter and resume to John Cobis, Principal, OLMCHS, 861 Highway 270, Fairburn, GA 30213.

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Pilgrimage plans set for Marian Shrines of France

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte has announced plans for an October pilgrimage to France and extends an invitation to join together on this journey to Marian shrines.

This is an 11-day pilgrimage with an itinerary including Lisieux, Rouen, Chartres, Nevers and Lourdes. Participants will also spend time on the beach at Normandy, along with several days in Paris before returning stateside.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vice chancellor and vicar for African American Affairs, along with Msgr. William Pharr, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul parish in Charlotte, will accompany pilgrims on this fascinating trip, going off the beaten pilgrimage-track to visit significant but not always visited locales in France. A stop in Ars will see the incorrupt body of St. John Vianny, patron of parish priests. A side trip to Normandy will take participants to the Military Cemetery at Omaha Beach and the Museum of the D-Day Invasion.

Beginning with a stop in Rouen, travelers will visit the modern church of St. Joan of Arc, built on the site where the British burned her at the stake. It will be on to Lisieux, home of the Carmelite Convent containing the relics of St. Therese of the Little Flower.

A visit to the magnificent cathedral in Chartre will provide a breathtaking view of one of France's most beautiful cathedrals. Stained glass dates from the 12th and 13th centuries and is considered one of the greatest collections of preserved stained glass.

In Nevers, the Convent of St. Gildard where St. Bernadette spent the last 13 years of her life will reveal the incorrupt body of St. Bernadette. At the age of 13, Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes received 18 visions from the Blessed Mother.

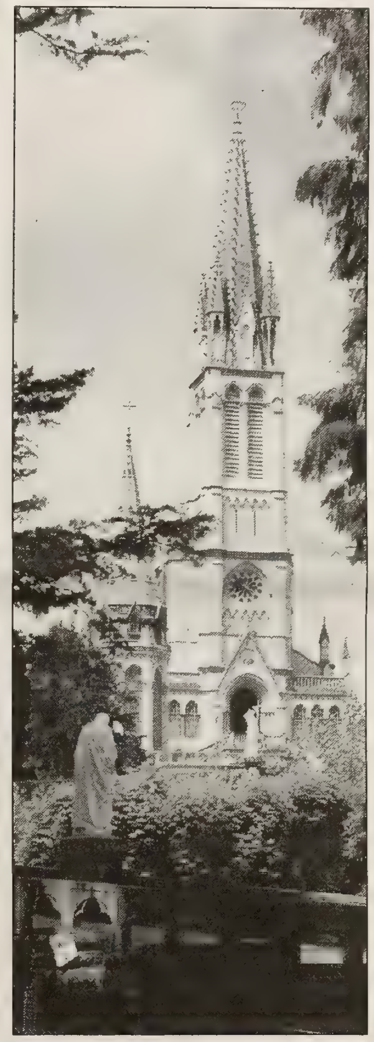

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Every year, more than five million pilgrims — from around the world — visit the sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. The church was built above the grotto of Massabielle where Bernadette heard the Blessed Mother proclaim, "I am the Immaculate Conception." From the grotto flow healing waters attributed to 65 miracles with nearly five thousand additional inexplicable miracles have also occurred. Pilgrims from the Diocese of Charlotte will spend two days in Lourdes during the October pilgrimage to shrines of France.

In Lourdes, ample time is allocated for collective and individual prayer. The group will join pilgrims from around the world to pray the rosary during the candlelight procession.

Departing from the Southwest village of Lourdes, travelers will board a high speed train to Paris. For the remaining three days, pilgrims will have an opportunity to visit some of the true highlights, which make Paris, the City of Lights. In Notre Dame, pilgrims will have an opportunity to see precious relics from the Crown of Thorns and the True Cross.

While in Paris, the group will visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal on Rue du Bac, where Our Lady appeared to Catherine Laboure in 1830. From this apparition, came the Miraculous Medal. The incorrupt body of St. Catherine is within this church.

The trip includes a guided museum tour of the Louvre Gallery. Built as a medieval fortress in 1546, it became a residence to the royal family. Under the French Republic, it became the museum and home to a massive art collection, and now contains artifacts and works dating from the beginning of civilization up to the 19th century.

At a price of $2,399 per person, the pilgrimage includes round-trip airfare from Charlotte to Paris via direct flight on US Airways. Nine breakfasts and eight dinners are included, as are all tips, taxes and gratuities. Pilgrims will travel via motorcoach and the French rail system. An English-speaking guide will accompany the group for the duration of the pilgrimage.

For a brochure and more information, contact Joann Keane, (704) 370-3336, or email jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Pope encourages Catholics to welcome non-Christians

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics are called to share the Gospel with non-Christians both in what were traditionally considered missionary territories as well as in their own neighborhoods, Pope John Paul II said.

The growing presence of non-Christian immigrants in predominantly Christian countries calls the church to be welcoming, to provide concrete assistance and to open avenues of dialogue, the pope said in his message for World Migration Day.

The Vatican released the pope's message Feb. 13. World Migration Day is observed on different dates in different countries.

In many countries, the pope said, the church's attitude toward non-Christian newcomers already resembles church workers' activity in mission lands: "They take care of the sick, the poor, the illiterate."

Christians, he said, must respond to the physical and material needs of the poor, but motivated by the Gospel they do so in a way that ultimately aims at sharing the Good News of salvation in Christ.

"Some people fear that doing charity in view of evangelization could expose them to the accusation of proselytism," the pope said.

However, he said, Catholics must remember, "the mission of the church today is exactly that of giving every human being, regardless of culture or race, the concrete possibility of meeting Christ."

Pope John Paul said another essential element of the church's mission is to defend the dignity and the human rights of all people, including their rights to preserve their heritage and to practice their religion.

People also have a right to leave their own country and enter another nation, although the right must be regulated to protect the common good of the people in the receiving country, he said.

The increased mobility of the world's people offers possibilities for dialogue among members of different races and cultures, the pope said. At the same time, it may increase a "sense of temporariness" and relativism, leading to a decreased practice of the faith and a relaxing of moral values.

However, in the church's pastoral care of Catholic migrants, the primary concern is not that their faith may be in danger, he said.

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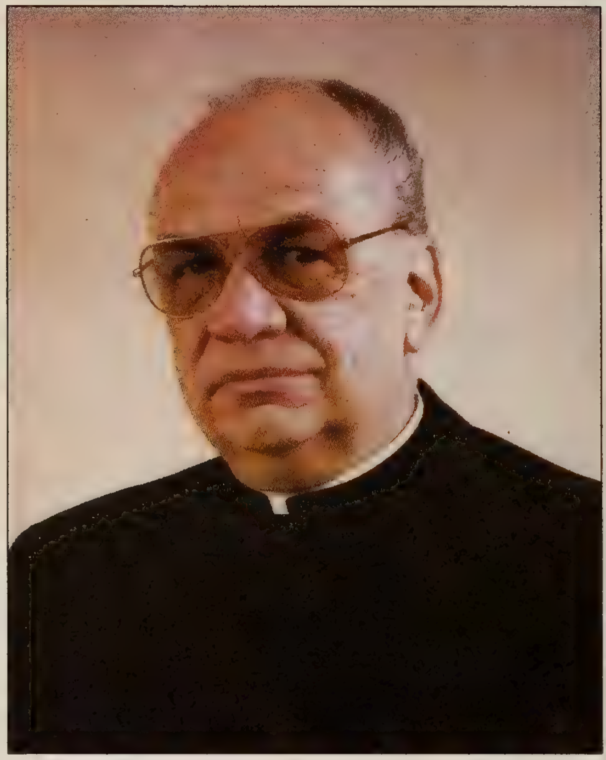
Permanent diaconate links service and the church

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer



CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning has a grocery list of appointments and meetings scheduled every day usually from morning until evening. He is a part of many people's lives from their own personal sunrises to sunsets; births, marriages, spiritual awakenings, deaths and other major events become incorporated into his world. Such is the life of a man of the permanent diaconate, a ministry that walks the line between the laity and consecrated life.

Permanent deacons are ordained ministers of the church; they can perform most of the sacramental duties of the church except consecration of the Eucharist, anointing of the sick and hearing confessions. One may find these servants of the church performing baptisms, marriages, assisting on the altar at Mass, serving as RCIA and marriage preparation teachers, serving on parish councils and in various other parish and diocesan duties.

Pope Paul VI led the Second Vatican Council to re-establish the permanent diaconate within the hierarchy of the Latin Church. Originally, the diaconate was the stage before men became priests, which is what the transitional diaconate is today. However, the permanent diaconate became a vocation all its own.

Rev. Mr. Wenning's schedule is an example of the myriad of ministries that a deacon performs. Over two days in one week, he assisted at morning and weekend Masses at St. Gabriel Church, his home parish; visited a hospital patient; presided at two wake services, had meetings, discussed marriage preparation with two couples and left for Hickory to assist with the formation of men who will become deacons for the diocese.

There are 65 permanent deacons in the Diocese of Charlotte with eight that will be ordained this summer. Of the 13,000 deacons in the United States, over 85 percent are married and have families, including Rev. Mr. Wenning, who has been married to his wife Dot — his high school sweetheart — for 44 years. Together, they have five children and 12 grandchildren, all of whom live in Charlotte, and Rev. Mr. Wenning must craftily divide his time between family and his ministry. He also serves as the diocesan diaconate administrator, along with Rev. Mr. Louis Pais, and as the business manager of St. Gabriel Church.

"You have to be absolutely willing to be very supportive, and you really don't know how it will be until they actually get into the job of the permanent diaconate," said Dot Wenning. "It has a huge impact; for example, you never sit together in church again. It [a solid marriage] doesn't come easily; you just have to work together." Mrs. Wenning is periodically reminded that it was she who introduced her husband to volunteerism and ministerial and community work. "So, I guess I have myself to blame," she added with a laugh.

The position does not come without its sacrifices. Even though a deacon is the only ordained man allowed to be married, if a deacon's wife passes away, he is not allowed to remarry. Also, if a man is single, he is not allowed to marry after ordination. In this diocese, the men must go though approximately six-and-a-half years of diaconate formation, including academic work, spiritual formation, and lay ministry.

"It [the diaconate] became a second career for me. I had no idea I would be St. Gabriel's business manager or the diocesan diaconate adminstator," said Rev. Mr. Wenning, who has served as a deacon for 13 years. "This diocese and those around the country have come a long way with permanent deacons. We have gained respect."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Up, Up and Away

Airports and planes have always fascinated Rev. Mr. Wenning. Throughout his life, he has found ways to incorporate aeronautics in some way into his career. He first learned about planes while serving in the Navy, which led him to a career as an air traffic controller and later, an airport tower deputy chief. While working, he was approached about becoming a permanent deacon and dove nose first into his ministry, which led him to becoming an airport chaplain.

"I thought I would be a retired deacon who simply hung out in the airport," joked Rev. Mr. Wenning, who has served as the chaplain at the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport for 13 years. The airport chaplaincy was established while he was in diaconate formation and still working as the deputy chief of the airport tower. He was asked to be the associate chaplain, and later, chaplain.

Airport chaplains were originally military chaplains who came back from World War II with no parish homes to which they could return. So, bishops created these positions for them. Rev. Mr. Wenning's position is an ecumenical one in that he ministers to airport employees and passengers of various denominations and faiths. He supervises his 12 volunteers and maintains the office and chapel open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

"You are a kind of public servant," he said. "You help people deal with emergencies, deaths, lost luggage, illnesses, baby showers, anything you can think of."

The airport chaplaincy and the permanent diaconate keep Rev. Mr. Wenning in touch with the public, something that he has always loved. "This makes me feel good because it allows me to work with people in a more intense way. As a deacon, you have the opportunity to work with people on an emotional and spiritual level. You see facets of people's lives that you normally don't see. Doors open for me and for them."

—*Alesha M. Price*

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

February 23, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 24

Inside

Artists try to capture the face of Jesus ...PAGE 7

Catholic Church seeks Hispanics' loyalty ...PAGE 8

Local News

Operation Rice Bowl opens with Lent ...PAGE 4

Whom Shall I Send? Franciscan reaches out to Hickory Vicariate ...PAGE 9

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you.

Matthew 6: 14

College students share faith, friendship; find fellowship at weekend retreat

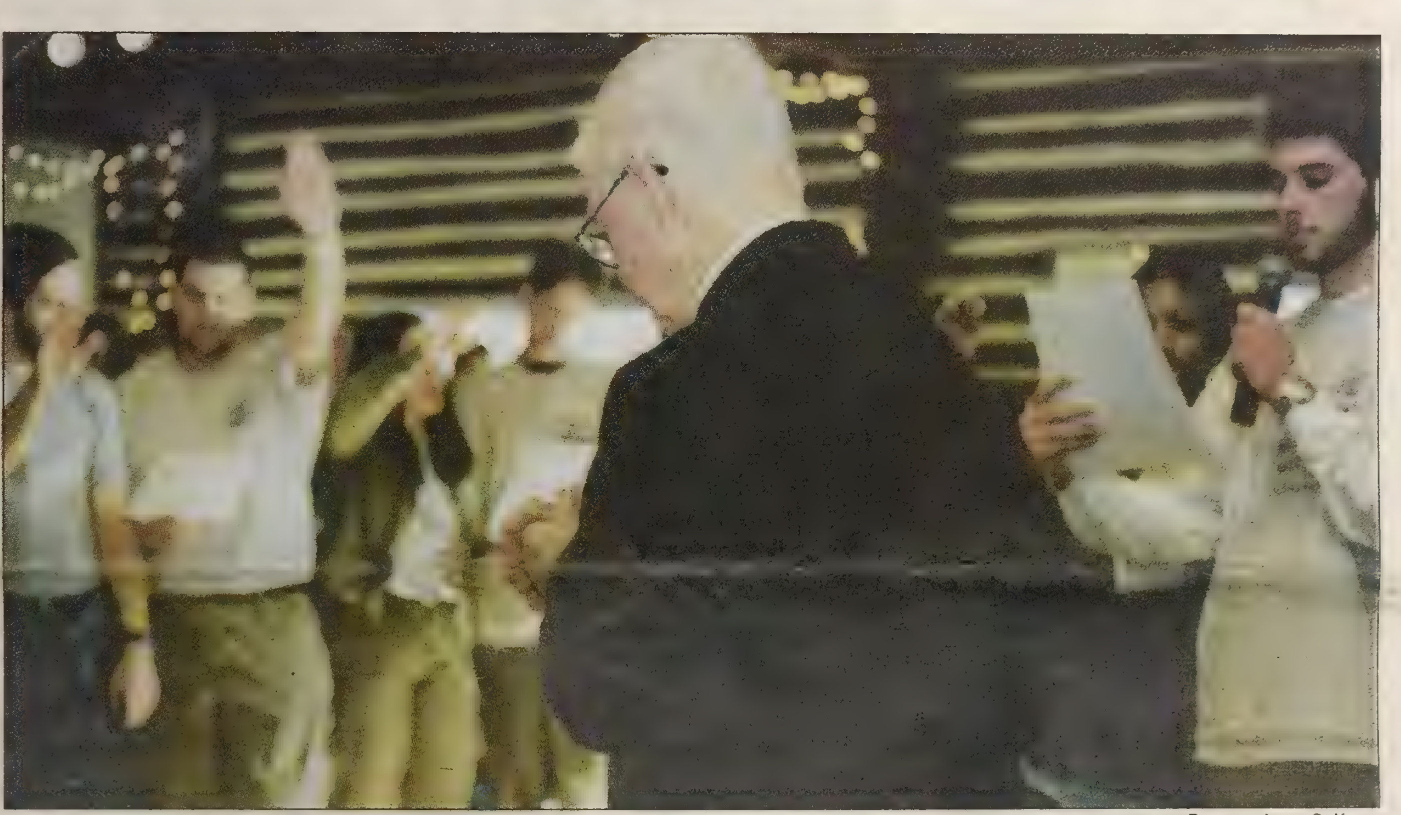

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

College students impose a blessing on Bishop William G. Curlin during the annual campus ministry retreat at Camp Thunderbird on Lake Wylie. During a Saturday afternoon dialogue, the bishop challenged the students to see Jesus Christ alive in one another and in all those they meet. "I hope that as you leave this retreat, Jesus goes with you, that you realize that in whomever you meet, you see the face of God in that individual." When that happens, "your life will be different from that day on."

BY JOANN S. KEANE
EDITOR

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. — Maura Proulx doesn't mince words when it comes to her faith. "I love being Catholic." Standing before a hundred of her peers, Proulx tells of her identity defined by her Catholicism. "There are aspects of the Catholic faith that have helped me develop into the person I am today, and challenge me to be a better person."

To wit, Proulx emphatically shared her devotion during a group discussion on "Living Catholic," one of many presentations during the annual diocesan college retreat.

Proulx told of faith challenges during her freshman year at Wake Forest, when she felt alone and incomplete. In retrospect, she knows it was a community in faith that got her through that tumultuous freshman year. "Difficulties made me want to grow further in my Catholic faith, to learn more and to be the example of love to which Christ calls all of us." Prophetic words from a college student.

This year, student and campus ministry leaders selected "Living Catholic" as the theme, providing the framework for layer upon layer of stories of faith and the opportunity for teaching moments.

"While college students sometimes feel disconnected from organized religion, they have an authentic spiritual life," says Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry. "They seek a deeper relationship with God, often in non-traditional settings, and respond to the invitation to explore their faith. And flexible formation that respects their searching faith and affirms their spirituality is critical. The students may not have the language to express their faith, but there is no question, they do have faith."

Moreover, McDermott calls retreats an opportunity for empowerment. "The church should discover, recognize, develop and share the gifts of young adults for the mission of Christ in the family, community, workplace, church and the world."

An organized retreat weekend is the perfect vehicle for inspiring faith expression. With lakeside serenity as a backdrop, ample opportunity exists for students to contemplate not only their faith, but also the natural beauty of their weekend home-away-from-home, Camp Thunderbird. Diocesan groups frequently use Camp Thunderbird for overnight retreats. The YMCA property provides an environment conducive for students of all ages.

"The [retreat] experience served as a reminder of what — as a member of the Catholic community worldwide — we're called and asked to do," says Wake Forest junior Brad Sherry, who served as one of the "team coordinators" for the weekend. A returning retreatant from last year, Sherry traded his participating stature to one of helping others find their way on the weekend journey.

As for a specific recollection of the weekend, Sherry felt it unfair to single out any specific moment. "But," he says, "the presence of the Holy Spirit was so powerful amongst everyone that was there, it's impossible for anyone to suggest otherwise."

During a Saturday afternoon dialogue, Bishop William G. Curlin challenged the students to see Jesus Christ alive in one another and in all those they meet. "I hope that as you leave this retreat, Jesus goes with you, that you realize that in whomever you meet, you see the face of God in that individual." When that happens, "your life will be different from that day on."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336, or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Worldwide student organization to focus on bioethics issues

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Undergraduates from the University of Notre Dame, Boston University and the University of Toronto have founded a worldwide student organization focusing on the full spectrum of bioethics issues. The International Student Bioethics Initiative was scheduled to hold its first meeting March 3 on the Notre Dame campus in conjunction with the third annual National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference March 1-4. The goal of the new organization is to encourage and enhance education, awareness, dialogue and involvement in topics such as the Human Genome Project, stem-cell research, cloning, beginning- and end-of-life issues, AIDS and health care.

Pope marks 1,700th anniversary of Armenian Christianity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Persecution and bloodshed have marked the history of Armenia, but they never erased the Christian faith which the Armenian people embraced 1,700 years ago, Pope John Paul II said. Presiding Feb. 18 at the celebration of an Armenian divine liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope prayed that the anniversary of Armenian Christianity would be an occasion to strengthen the faith and to work toward unity with Armenia's Oriental Orthodox church. Pope John Paul also issued an apostolic letter marking the anniversary of the "birth of the new identity of the people, which became a constitutive and inseparable part of being Armenian."

Church, social workers in Pakistan seek to end child labor

TOBA TEK SINGH, Pakistan (CNS) — Church and social workers in Pakistan say that child labor is a serious problem that can be eradicated only if tackled at its roots. The government has promulgated laws to curb child labor, but the economic conditions of the people — forcing so many children to work as factory workers, cleaners and in other occupations — render the laws ineffective. Ayub Anjum, a worker of the church-led Human Development Center in Toba Tek Singh, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that even collecting information about child labor is difficult. Parents are often uncooperative, he said, for fear that they might lose their source of income.

CNS photo from Reuters

Iraqi demonstration against air strikes against Baghdad

A child holds up a toy pistol during a demonstration Feb. 17 against the Feb. 16 air strike at targets near Baghdad. The British- and U.S.-led bombing raid was targeted at facilities near the city.

Bishop Hughes of Baton Rouge named coadjutor of New Orleans

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Bishop Alfred C. Hughes of Baton Rouge, La., as coadjutor archbishop of New Orleans. The appointment was announced in Washington Feb. 16 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Hughes, 68, will assist Archbishop Francis B. Schulte in the governance of the archdiocese, the second-oldest diocese in the United States, and will succeed him as the 18th leader of the archdiocese when Archbishop Schulte steps down. "Life is full of surprises!" Archbishop Hughes said at a news conference at the Notre Dame Seminary chapel. "I thought that after Baton Rouge there was only heaven!"

Cohabitation a challenging issue for church leaders

ERIE, Pa. (CNS) — When engaged couples send applications to the family ministries' office in the Erie Diocese to attend marriage preparation programs, Mary Maxwell has noticed a disturbing trend. A growing number of engaged men and woman share the same address. Maxwell, director of the diocesan Office of Family Ministries of Catholic Charities, said there has been a 45-percent rise in couples cohabiting, without being married, since 1970. Marriage, she added, does not have the central place it once had in our society. "It's such a pervasive phenomenon. It's an anti-marriage kind of a climate out there," she said in an interview with the Lake Shore Visitor, Erie's diocesan newspaper.

Bishops of Americas discuss greater ties on migration issues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishops from the Americas, meeting Feb. 12-14, pledged greater cooperation on migration issues and asked government leaders to solve economic problems that cause massive migrations. Closer cooperation is needed to find pastoral responses to the causes and effects of migration,

K OF C

Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of March

Rev. John Huston	*1976*
Rev. Francis Gorham	*1981*
Rev. Robert A. Gibson	*1987*
Rev. Justin J.Pechulis	*1983*

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

February 24 — 7 p.m.
Charlotte Catholic High School
Benefit Retreat, Charlotte

February 25 — 7:30 p.m.
Hispanic retreat
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte

March 2 — 7:30 a.m.
Mass with Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte

10:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart School Mass
Salisbury

March 3 — 9:30 a.m.
Social justice session
St. Matthew, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

March

1 HENDERSONVILLE —Immaculata School, 711 Buncombe St., is hosting an open house for the 2001-2002 school year today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Parent volunteers are available for tours and questions, and parents may register children in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade. For more information, call William Meehan, principal, at (828) 693-3277.

MAGGIE VALLEY — The 55th Men's Weekend Ultreya is taking place at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, today through March 4. The 57th Women's Weekend Ultreya will take place at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., in Greensboro from March 29-April 1. For details, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

2 HICKORY — The Annual World Day of Prayer ecumenical worship service is being held tonight at 7 p.m. in the chapel of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The theme is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action" and is drawn from the biblical wisdom of Esther. Men and women of all denominations are invited, and childcare will be provided. Refreshments are also being served. Contact Carole Marmorato at (828) 256-8956 for further details.

WINSTON-SALEM — The St. Leo The Great Church Children's Clothing and Toy Sale has been rescheduled for this weekend through March 3. All are invited to sell gently used children's books, games, puzzles, furniture, baby equipment and spring and summer clothing. Call Teresa Whalen at (336) 924-9118 to schedule a shift and for more information.

5 CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse meets from 6-7 p.m. tonight and March 19 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew said the bishops from Latin America, Canada and the United States. More than 20 bishops representing the Latin American bishops' council, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of the United States met in Clearwater, Fla., to talk about migration in the Americas. Government leaders need "to humanize economic globalization by taking more fully into account the challenges of migration," they said in a closing statement.

Coming Home Network supports former Protestants who join church

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — An international organization that supports Protestant clergy and lay people who become Catholics has moved its headquarters to the Columbus Diocese. Now based in Zanesville, the Coming Home Network International was founded in Steubenville in 1993 by former Presbyterian pastor Marcus Grodi. Grodi is now a parishioner at St. Thomas in Zanesville. It provides fellowship, encouragement and support for Protestant pastors and laity who are on the journey to join the Catholic Church or have already joined it. Grodi, who had served in Presbyterian churches in Newark and Hanover, Ohio, started the network after he and his wife, Marilyn, became Catholics in 1992. The couple has three sons, ages 13, 9 and 5.

N.Y. deacons discuss their calling with Irish priests, lay people

NEW YORK (CNS) — The permanent diaconate in the United States has been a great success and will become more important in years to come, a group of deacons in New York told priests and lay people in Ireland via a trans-Atlantic teleconference Feb. 9. The Irish bishops are working on establishing the permanent diaconate in their country, and the teleconference allowed the Irish audience to learn about the U.S. church's experience with the diaconate since it was instituted in this country almost 30 years ago. The U.S. deacons reported that it has enriched parish life, expanded outreach ministries and enlivened lay Catholics in their baptismal vows. "There has been a widespread and enthusiastic acceptance of deacons in the parishes," said Deacon Gerard Wilson, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for the Diaconate, who spoke at Fordham University in the Bronx through a hookup to a religious conference of 150 people in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY SISTERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

St. Katharine Memorial

Mother Katharine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, dedicated her life to helping poor African-Americans and Native Americans. Her canonization last Oct. 1 by Pope John Paul II made her the second American-born saint.

Court to consider what after-school groups are 'too religious'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a case being heard late in February, the Supreme Court will consider whether a public school can exclude a club from using classrooms after hours because its activities are "too religious." In Good News Club vs. Milford Central School, the court on Feb. 28 will hear oral arguments about the disagreement. The Good News Club is a community youth group sponsored by the national missionary organization Child Evangelism Fellowship. After the Milford, N.Y., school district ended bus service to a church where the club met, the organization asked to meet on school property. The district rejected the request on the grounds that, unlike other outside organizations using the school, the Good News Club's activities were "the equivalent of religious worship ... rather than the expression of religious views or values on a secular subject matter." Eventually, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the district's decision.

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

February 23, 2001

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The coming celebration of the Memorial of Saint Katharine Drexel on March third is an occasion of great joy for us in the Diocese of Charlotte and for the entire Church. Canonized on October 1, 2000, by Pope John Paul II, our newest American saint has had a profound impact on the life of our Diocese.

Saint Katharine's great generosity provided essential funding for the construction of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Belmont Abbey; Saint Peter in Charlotte; and Saint Michael in Gastonia.

Her travel diaries for 1904 reveal that she personally visited these churches, and reflect her deep, personal concern for the spiritual and material welfare of the people whom she met there, most especially those who were African American.

It is my fervent hope that the celebration of Saint Katharine's Memorial on March 3 will be joyfully celebrated by the people of our Diocese.

May Saint Katharine's love for the Eucharist and her tireless commitment to justice continue to inspire our lives.

Begging God's blessing upon you, I am

Prayerfully in the Lord,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting takes place tonight and March 19 from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of the parish center's conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next Mass takes place on April 7 with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

7 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., this morning and every first Wednesday at 10 a.m. in room 104 of the parish center and St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on March 12 at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library tonight only because of the upcoming parish mission. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., continues tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the activity center. Wanda Smith, a recent convert to the Catholic faith, is presenting "What Do I Say," a session concerning how to answer questions from Protestants about the Catholic faith. Join the group for a potluck at 5:45 p.m. in the cafeteria. For further details, call the parish religious education office at (336) 274-0415.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Twilight evenings of reflection; involving dinner, a Lenten conference and faith sharing; are taking place this evening and on March 21 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. The retreat concludes with a Eucharistic celebration at St. Margaret Church, 1422 Soco Rd. For details, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

9 MAGGIE VALLEY — The Knights of Columbus Father Michael Murphy Council of Maggie Valley and Waynesville are having a K of C weekend retreat presented by the Augustinian Friars this weekend through March 11. The event is open to all Knights of Columbus, both individual and council groups. For further information, call (828) 926-3833.

10 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting "A Day Set Aside: Preparing for First Eucharist" today from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This day; led by Diane Sepsy and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, director; is for parents and their children who are preparing for First Communion and serves as an opportunity for parents and children to deepen their understanding and experience of the Eucharist. The session includes quiet time for parents and children, lunch and a closing liturgy at 4 p.m. To register by March 1 and for more information, call (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

17 GASTONIA — The Knights of Columbus Council 6700 of Gastonia is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Dance tonight at the St. Michael Church parish center, 708 St. Michael Lane, at 6:30 p.m. Dinner includes corned beef and cabbage with Irish tea and coffee, and dancing lasts from 7:30-11:30 p.m. including a performance from eight Irish dancers. The deadline for purchasing tickets is March 5. Contact Joe Delaney at (704) 865-0008 or Frank Pilieci at (704) 864-9409 for tickets and other information.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Operation Rice Bowl supports disadvantaged worldwide, throughout diocese

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The season of Lent brings to mind images of sacrifice, prayer and a pledge to keep Jesus' life at the forefront. Dioceses around the country are participating in a yearly Lenten program geared toward helping men, women and children who lack some of life's simple necessities and aiding them in becoming more self-reliant.

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), one of the programs of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), is an educational program that sends collected money from the familiar cardboard rice bowls for projects benefiting the most needy people in the world. The Operation Rice Bowl slogan — pray, fast, learn, give — reflects the season of Lent and is expressed in the activity calendar that accompanies the rice bowl for money collection.

"As we prepare for Easter, ORB invites us to enter into solidarity with our neighbors throughout the world," said Joe Purello, diocesan director of the Justice and Peace Office. "ORB is a fund-raising arm of CRS, and the funds go toward developing programs to empower those who are poor to bring about positive changes in the community and families."

The calender, rice bowl and other information will be available for every family through the parish and school coordinators. The calendar includes activities and reflections for every day of the season of Lent, including recipes, biblical passages and focuses for prayer for family participation in coordination with this year's theme "Who is your neighbor?"

> **"The main thrust of Operation Rice Bowl is to educate people and to help them identify with those who are poor, their experiences and their daily lives..."**
>
> *—Terri Jarina*

"The main thrust of Operation Rice Bowl is to educate people and to help them identify with those who are poor, their experiences and their daily lives," said Terri Jarina, diocesan Operation Rice Bowl coordinator. "Individuals may also take part with the envelopes provided and available for contributions through the parish."

Seventy-five percent of the money collected from Operation Rice Bowl goes to the national CRS office for micro-enterprise efforts in Third World countries. Women primarily receive the money, anywhere from $30 to $500, to start their own small businesses.

Twenty-five percent of the collected money remains within the diocese to fund mini-grants for $500 and over. Catholic parishes, schools and other organizations may apply for the grants, which can be used for any program or service with an immigrant or migrant focus, said Jarina. Many parishes sponsor a sister parish in another country, and there is much work with immigrants and migrants in various local areas around the diocese. "The primary focus of the mini-grants is to help bridge cultures, and one key aspect is to help immigrants and people from other cultures to become part of a parish family."

Thirteen parishes received the mini-grants awarded in the summer for their efforts with people from other countries for the year 2000. St. Aloysius Church received a grant to begin providing materials and to have parishioners available for the Lahu community in the Hickory area to improve their English language skills.

"We see the need to do anything we can to help people become part of the greater community," said Joyce Corbett, CRS parish coordinator and CCHD coordinator for St. Aloysius Church. "There is no way that you cannot see the obvious needs, and the fact that some of the money stays in the diocese is a positive thing to keep in mind."

Members of the Korean community in Arden at St. Barnabas Church have benefited from efforts of some of their fellow parishioners. The church received a grant, included in the 1999 group of mini-grant awardees, to begin English as a second language classes with adults, and some of the American parishioners are still learning basic Korean to be able to better communicate.

"We wanted to make sure they knew that they were a part of our community because they enrich the parish," said Cheryl Peyton, director of religious education at St. Barnabas. "We not only try to teach the Koreans about our culture but it also gives us the opportunity to learn about their culture."

CRS was established in 1943 by U.S. Catholic bishops to aid the poor and disadvantaged worldwide. ORB, started in 1976, operates in more than 80 countries, and nearly 14,000 schools, parishes and other organizations participate in the fund-raising program.

For free ORB materials and other information, call Terri Jarina at (704) 370-3231 or email justicepeace@charlottediocese.org or call Catholic Relief Services at 1-800-222-0025, Ext. 800 or check their webpage at www.catholicrelief.org.

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Part B: Providing Human Services in the Parish
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Part C: Doing Faith Justice (Applying Catholic Social Teaching to your programs)
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TRACK III Evangelization & Inculturation

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Grace Award bestowed to 'Father Mo'

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Each February, Belmont Abbey College presents an award to someone who, through their actions and example, contributes to and inspires the community. This year's honoree, Father Mauricio W. "Mo" West, said his life's work is a journey led by God and shared with others.

"All that I am able to do for the community is because of God's grace and the support of people like you who are present tonight," said Father West, the Diocese of Charlotte's vicar general and chancellor. "And I am so happy to share this award with you."

The Grace Award is presented by the Belmont Abbey College Associates and the college's board of advisors. It is named for Charles L. Grace, president of Cummins Atlantic, Inc., a longtime supporter of Belmont Abbey College who is a current member and past chair of the college's board of trustees.

An annual fund-raiser, the award dinner provides scholarship funding for Belmont Abbey College, the only Catholic college in the Carolinas.

Mauricio W. West was ordained as a Benedictine monk in 1979. He held a variety of administrative and educational roles during his time in the monastic community, including as vice president of Belmont Abbey College, vice president for student affairs and an instructor of theology, business and computer science. He served as associate pastor and business manager at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

Father West was incardinated into the Charlotte Diocese in the winter of 1994, eight months after Bishop William G. Curlin was installed as Charlotte's third bishop. Bishop Curlin appointed Father West as chancellor in December 1994, and Father West's additional appointment as vicar general came shortly thereafter.

During more than 20 years in the priesthood, Father West has shared his ministry and talents with the church, civic, human services and business communities in western North Carolina.

As vicar general of the diocese, Father West is the bishop's "alter ego," a role that entails mutual support with the bishop in the daily overseeing of an ever-growing community of faith. He is the bishop's chief deputy — an administrator and a priest who has much of the authority and privileges the bishop himself has.

The chancellor's primary responsibility is to keep the official records of the diocese. By nature of the role, he or she automatically becomes secretary of the diocese's central administration and is an authorized notary.

During the award ceremony Feb. 15, Bishop Curlin praised Father West as a gifted leader, a caring confidant and, above all else, a dedicated servant of God.

"When I first came here, I was his bishop," said Bishop Curlin. "Later on, technically and canonically, I became his boss. But after seven years, I consider Father Mo one of the best friends in my life — a real brother in Christ."

Bishop Curlin thanked Father West for the service he brings to the diocese and his ability to bring God to countless others.

"He has so much to offer," the bishop said. "What he offers you is a priestly heart — his patience, his

See FATHER MO, page 15

Photo by JoAnn S. Keane

Pictured from left: Dr. Robert A. Preston, president of Belmont Abbey College; Abbot Placid Solari, a Benedictine monk and the abbot of Belmont Abbey; Bynum Carter, chairman of Belmont Abbey College Associates; Father Mauricio W. "Mo" West; Bishop William G. Curlin; Harding Stowe, chairman of the Belmont Abbey College Board of Advisors; and Charles Grace, president of Cummins Atlantic, Inc., and the Grace Award's namesake. The Grace Award is presented by the Belmont Abbey College Associates and the Board of Advisors. It is presented to an outstanding individual whose contributions and commitments have significantly improved the quality of life throughout the region and whose life serves as an example to others.

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Bishop asks Bush for U.S. support of East Timorese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The bishop of Dili, East Timor, called on President Bush to support the international peacekeeping mission in East Timor and to help the population rebuild from 1999 violence by Indonesian troops. Congratulating Bush on his inauguration, Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, apostolic administrator of Dili, said in a Feb. 12 letter that he wanted to "make a few suggestions about the way in which the power and prestige of the United States may be directed that would be of great help to my people in East Timor." He urged Bush to support the presence of the international peacekeeping force under U.N. leadership, saying it would be "badly needed in East Timor for the foreseeable future" to protect against attacks by militias and Indonesian forces.

Priest says Pius XII knew Rome institutions sheltered Jews

ROME (CNS) — The Catholic convents, parishes and institutions in Rome that hid and saved more than 4,400 Jews from the Nazis would not have taken such a risk without the approval of Pope Pius XII, said Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel. The priest, who is working on Pope Pius' cause for beatification, said the stories of Jews sheltered by Catholic priests and religious in Rome have been "unknown or purposefully ignored" in discussions about the pope's actions during the war. Within one of the most "barbaric periods of history, there were lights of humanity, courageous actions by a wide variety of people, including Pius XII in an exceptional way," he said. Father Gumpel spoke Feb. 16 during the presentation of an Italian language book, "The Jews Saved by Pius XII" by Antonio Gaspari.

Son of late priest claims right of residence in parish house

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The son of a deceased priest in Ireland has refused to leave his father's former parish house, claiming right of residence. In the early 1990s, it was learned that Father Michael Cleary, one of Ireland's best-known priests, had fathered two sons by Phyllis Hamilton, his housekeeper, whom he met in 1967 when she was 17 and he was 34. News of their relationship was made public only after Father Cleary's death, because Hamilton feared she would be evicted from the parochial house where they had lived. She remained in the house, with parish clergy living elsewhere. But before her death this year, Hamilton's younger son, Ross, moved into the house, and now the 24-year-old claims right of residence. Father Cleary's former parish is not unusual in having six different home addresses for the parish's six priests.

COURTESY PHOTO

Seminarian installed to ministry of reader

James Ebright, a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte, was installed to the ministry of reader by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington Feb. 5. The son of Mabel Ebright of Mocksville, Ebright is a pre-theology student at Theological College in Washington, D.C. The office of the reader, or lector, is primarily to read the word of God, except the Gospel, during the liturgy. The lector may also recite the psalm between readings and the intentions during the prayers of the faithful. The ministry of reader is one of the preparatory ministries a seminarian enters on his journey to receiving holy orders.

Pope presides over biggest consistory in history

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II presided over the biggest consistory in the church's history, creating a record 44 new cardinals during three days of ceremonies at the Vatican. Many of the cardinals brought hundreds or even thousands of guests, so the scale of the celebrations is unprecedented. The main events were held in St. Peter's Square, the only place big enough to accommodate the crowds. At a Liturgy of the Word Feb. 21, the pope held the consistory proper, formally inducting the new members into the College of Cardinals. On Feb. 22, the pope returned to St. Peter's Square to concelebrate a morning Mass with the new cardinals. On Feb. 23, he was to greet the new cardinals and their families in a final audience.

New HUD secretary honored as Legatus 'ambassador'

NAPLES, Fla. (CNS) — Even before they knew President Bush would name Mel Martinez the new U.S. secretary of housing and urban development, members of a national Catholic association of business executives had decided Martinez was their "ambassador." Thomas Monaghan, a Michigan businessman and founder of the Domino's Pizza chain, said, "Our honoree is the model of an ambassador for Christ and his church; he has lived the Gospel in his daily life, and has used his success in business and his position in the community to glorify the power and goodness of God." On Feb. 10, Monaghan presented Martinez with the Ambassador of the Year award on behalf of Legatus, a network of Catholic business executives Monaghan established more than 10 years ago. More than 500 members and Legatus chaplains from 36 of the organization's 40 chapters met Feb. 8-10 in Naples.

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What did Jesus look like? No one knows; still, artists try

By MIKE LATONA
Catholic News Service

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — Over the centuries, artists have created thousands upon thousands of images depicting Jesus Christ in his human form.

And yet, according to a retired art professor from Nazareth College in Rochester, few of these images — if any — offer a completely authentic representation of Christ.

"Nobody knows what he looked like," Roger Adams said. "We don't have any indication that Jesus was thin, fat, tall or short."

The face of Jesus and the effort expended by artists through the centuries to depict him is the focus of a new Catholic Communication Campaign-funded feature, "The Face: Jesus in Art." The film will debut March 31 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City, and will be available to PBS affiliates nationwide surrounding the Easter and Christmas feasts this year.

After artist Deborah Zeller of Glen Ellyn, Ill., painted "I Am the Resurrection," she discovered many people have definite ideas about what Jesus would have — or would not have — looked like.

Her depiction of Jesus does not show him with the traditional, solemn expression. She has sold about 3,000 prints of her painting, but said there has been a strong outcry against it because it is a nontraditional portrayal.

"Even in my family ... they think I've become almost like a Jesus freak. It's like a forbidden area you don't touch," Zeller told the Catholic Courier, Rochester's diocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview from her residence in Illinois.

One of Zeller's champions is Cal Samra of the Fellowship of Merry Christians, which once featured "I Am the Resurrection" in an issue of its newsletter.

"The artists are reaching out and searching for something besides depressive and stern representations of Jesus," Samra told the Courier.

The earliest images known to have survived are from the years 240-260, based on Jewish art that was discovered when the ancient Syrian city of Dura-Europos was excavated in the 1920s and '30s.

— Roger Adams

He asked whether "a gory and grotesque image" really represents "the Lord."

Some U.S. Catholics would be surprised — and even offended — by images that fail to show Jesus with light skin, brown hair, a beard and a solemn expression. Yet, depictions of Christ have varied greatly in different time periods and cultures.

According to Adams, the widely accepted portrayal of Jesus in the United States and Europe became standard in the 11th century.

But can a light-skinned Jesus be considered the real thing? Not according to Father Michael Upson, administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Rochester.

"What we have in the States is a Jesus who has become very European, very 'Anglocized,'" he said.

Artistic depictions of a black Jesus began to show up throughout the United States during the 1960s — including a mural at Immaculate Conception, a predominantly African-American parish in Rochester.

It displays a black Jesus with short, curly hair. Immaculate Conception parishioners "just like it," Father Upson said. "I have never heard of a problem."

Jesus' actual background was that of a Middle Eastern Jew who likely resembled modern-day Palestinians with dark hair and olive skin.

Adams asserts Americans would have a hard time accepting the possibility that Jesus' likeness is linked with a culture often torn by war.

"In our society, can you imagine if Jesus looked like one of those Arab terrorists?" he remarked. "But that's probably closer to what he looked like."

Since Jewish culture disapproved of religious imagery, there are no known representations of Christ from the first years of Christianity.

The earliest images known to have survived, Adams said, are from the years 240-260, based on Jewish art that was discovered when the ancient Syrian city of Dura-Europos was excavated in the 1920s and '30s.

But the two-centuries time lapse lends doubt to the possibility that the Dura-Europos works can be regarded as Christ's true image, Adams said.

Christian art became openly established in the early fourth century when the Edict of Milan officially recognized Christianity. "In the fourth and fifth centuries, he was an emperor," a parallel to Christianity's rise, Adams said.

In the West, early paintings of Jesus depicted him with short, blond hair and no beard — and as the Good Shepherd or a miracle worker, not as a crucified or resurrected Christ.

Art from the Byzantine Empire of the sixth through 15th centuries portrayed Jesus as a "ruler of the world, stern and strong," Adams said. But Western art focused on the crucified Jesus, depicting him as "pathetic, suffering, broken in body and spirit."

Adams said current images of him may also be derived from the supposed image of the crucified and entombed Christ on the Shroud of Turin, which turned up in the 16th century and is held by some to be the actual burial cloth of Jesus.

Maria Jauodi, formerly an assistant professor of religion at Nazareth College, suggested that the 20th-century cheerful images of Jesus may be a response to a world torn by war, hunger and poverty.

"People are trying to keep that childlike dimension. Today there's so little innocence," she said.

Most artists have presented Christ without physical imperfections. "What if we did have a real portrait of Jesus and it turned out he was homely or had moles, or a weak chin, or a hooked nose?" Adams wondered.

Whatever the time period or culture, Father Upson suggested any artistic portrayal of Jesus should appeal strongly to its intended audience.

"In your own environment, it's important to be able to look up to people who look like you, who you can identify with," he said. "It's important to be able to relate to the image of God."

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Catholic Church needs loyalty of Hispanics, says speaker

By KEVIN LUPERCHIO
Catholic News Service

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — Without the loyalty of Hispanics, the Catholic Church's role as the country's largest faith denomination will erode, Ana Maria Diaz-Stevens told a Worcester audience.

The future of the U.S. church depends on the religious identity of the Latino people, according to the professor of church and society from Union Theological Seminary.

She and her husband, Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo, delivered the 12th annual Bishop Bernard A. Flanagan Lecture on Religion and Public aAffairs Feb. 8. Sponsored by the school's Center for Religion, Ethics and Culture, the talk drew about 35 people.

Diaz-Stevens quoted estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau showing that by the year 2020 more Latinos will be added each year to the U.S. population than African-Americans, Asian-Americans or Native Americans combined.

Without "the presence and input of the Hispanics," the church's well being, and even its survival, may be threatened, she said.

Diaz-Stevens pointed out, however, that the church's attempts to attract Latinos may be hindered by decreasing numbers of clergy. As it stands today, she said, a way must be found to open the church to Latinos without "abundant clergy or religious personnel."

The solution, she explained, lies in a resource that has been largely ignored: the ever-expanding Latino laity.

Latino laity, she said, can teach other Catholics "how to nourish their faith even in the midst of religious and priest shortages and decreasing material resources."

As an example, Diaz-Stevens pointed to Encuentro 2000, a gathering of 5,000 people held last July in Los Angeles, which she said presented a new Catholic Church model and "a vivid experience of unity in diversity."

Previous Encuentros, in 1972, 1977 and 1985, focused on Hispanic Catholic identity and priorities in ministry and evangelization, but for Encuentro 2000 the Hispanic Catholic community invited all Catholics to come together to promote unity and solidarity among the peoples of the church.

Encuentro 2000 did not stress "the assimilation of each ethnic and regional tradition into a single Americanized stew but the cultural uniqueness of many groups," she said.

She also talked about the role of the Catholic Hispanic woman, or Latina, in the United States as "an extension of her role in her country of origin."

In their homelands, Latinas do not hold official positions in the church's hierarchy, she said, but they serve as the "matriarchal core" of religion in their communities.

When, through immigration to the United States, Latinas are afforded the opportunity to develop a more substantial role in the church, their experience as mediators, between church and community and even church and family, will serve them well, Diaz-Stevens said.

Father Jose A. Rodriguez, associate pastor at St. Peter's Church, said he felt Diaz-Stevens overdramatized Latino Catholics' make-or-break status in the future of the U.S. church.

However, Latinos "will definitely have a big impact," Father Rodriguez said. "We're not just an appendix or a side part, we are key players in the growth of the church."

Father Rodriguez agreed with Diaz-Stevens' point about Latinas' leadership role in the church. He has seen Latinas take on bigger community and diocesan roles in the Worcester Diocese, he said.

In Webster, Mass., Father Rodriguez noted, the Latino community survived for several years without its own priest. A priest came to celebrate weekly Mass, he explained, but organizing the Catholic community fell on the able shoulders of a schoolteacher who was married and had two children, he added.

Stevens-Arroyo, professor of Puerto Rican and Latino studies at Brooklyn (N.Y.) College, delivered the second half of the lecture. He said the emerging importance of Latino Catholics calls for a re-examination of their historical role and their contribution to church history.

He sketched a brief history of the U.S. church from a Latino perspective, discussing several influential Latino Catholics he said have been largely overlooked by historians.

These included: Jos de Diego, a member of the Puerto Rican parliament who earned the title "mystical patriot" for his defense of the Catholic soul; Jesuit Bishop Antulio Parrilla Bonilla, who preached the message of Catholic nationalism in Puerto Rico throughout the 1960s; and Pedro Albizu Campos, who launched a "crusade to form a Puerto Rican republic to be governed by the principles of papal social encyclicals."

Those three men helped ensure "the survival of Catholicism in this country," he explained.

Stevens-Arroyo's lecture "gave a real sense of the Hispanic roots in our country," said Worcester Auxiliary Bishop George E. Rueger.

In the future, the bishop added, people will look back on important Latino figures and recognize their contribution to the church.

Following the lecture, Diaz-Stevens and Stevens-Arroyo took some questions. One man asked what percentage of the U.S. Catholic population consisted of Latinos.

Saying it was difficult to estimate, Diaz-Stevens said she figured that Latinos comprised 35 to 40 percent of the general U.S. population, though that percentage would vary depending on the region of the country.

The man then asked what response Catholic colleges could offer to the growing numbers of U.S. Latinos.

Stevens-Arroyo said he hoped to see a higher percentage of Latino students at Holy Cross, a Jesuit-run college. However, the high tuition prices of Catholic colleges such as Holy Cross render such an education impossible for many Latino families, he explained.

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Sister spreads joy in Hispanic community

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

LENOIR — Sister Andrea Inkrott decided to enter a convent in the 1960s, but she still had to choose the order that she would join.

She felt drawn to the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Tiffin, Ohio, because of "the joy and simplicity I found in the sisters that I knew, and then later, the story of St. Francis," she said.

She made her decision, though, when she visited another religious community that she was considering. This community was newer and had marble floors, while the first had wooden floors. "They were old and like home," she said.

The decision she made eventually took her far away from home, and started her on the path to her current position as coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the Hickory Vicariate.

The Sisters of St. Francis have been working with the Hispanic people since the 1940s, said Sister Andrea. While she was with them in Ohio, the sisters went out weekly to visit the farm workers in the camps in northwest and central Ohio. In 1969, the sisters started a mission in Chiapas, Mexico. Sister Andrea spent seven years there in the late 1970s and the early 1980s until an illness forced her to return to the United States.

She spent some time at St. Peter and Paul Churches in Toledo, Ohio, and then relocated to San Antonio, Texas, to get her master's degree through the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) and Incarnate Word College.

She met Father John Pagel when he came to the MACC for a time to study Spanish. At lunch one day, Sister Andrea told him that she hoped to continue working with the Hispanic people once she completed her degree. Father Pagel suggested that she come to North Carolina, and he put her in touch with Father Joe Waters, administrator at Holy Trinity Church in Taylorsville, who was working with Hispanics in this area.

Sister Andrea came to work for the Diocese of Charlotte in August of 1990 as the director of the Hispanic Center in Yadkinville and then moved to her current position in February of 1999.

Sister Andrea works with the parishes in the Hickory Vicariate to help them to be effective in their rapidly growing Hispanic ministries. St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, for example, has 300 to 400 people attending the Spanish Mass held there each Sunday, and the numbers are increasing.

She works to foster collaboration and communication between the Hispanic community and other communities in each parish and within the vicariate. She does this by working with the pastors, parish councils, Hispanic volunteers, outreach ministries, youth groups, faith formation and other programs to make sure that the Hispanic community is represented and included.

"I think there's a real desire to welcome and make the Hispanic community feel at home," said Sister Andrea.

See SISTERS, page 15

File photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

In her ministry to Hispanics in the Hickory Vicariate, Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott is sensitive to the spiritual, cultural and material needs of a rapidly growing community. Her involvement in last December's Our Lady of Guadalupe procession in Taylorsville helped bring dozens of Hispanics together for a high-visibility pilgrimage honoring Mary.

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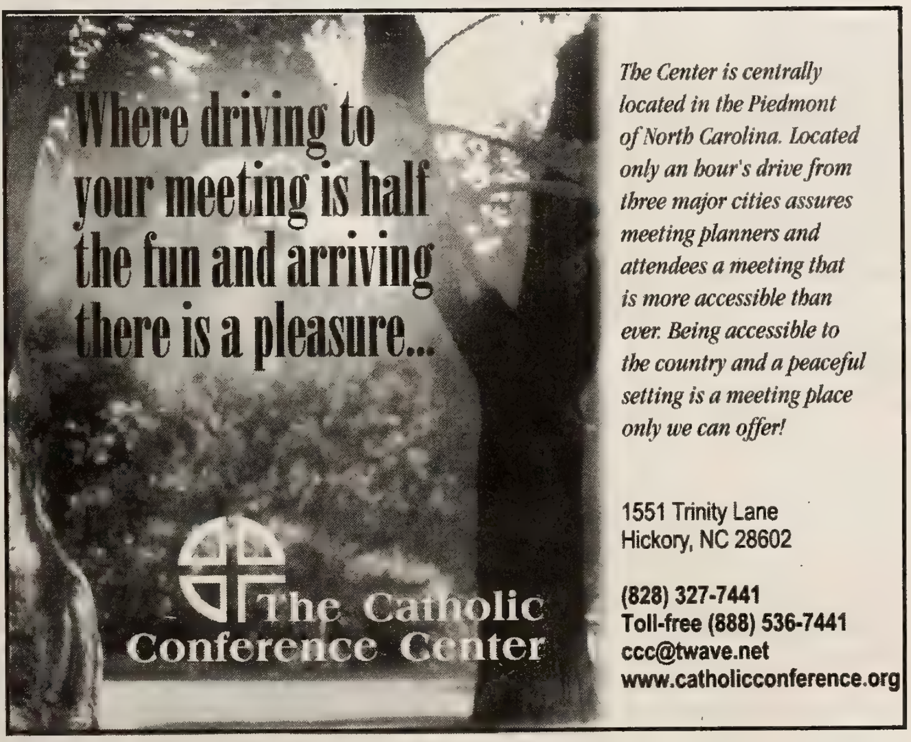

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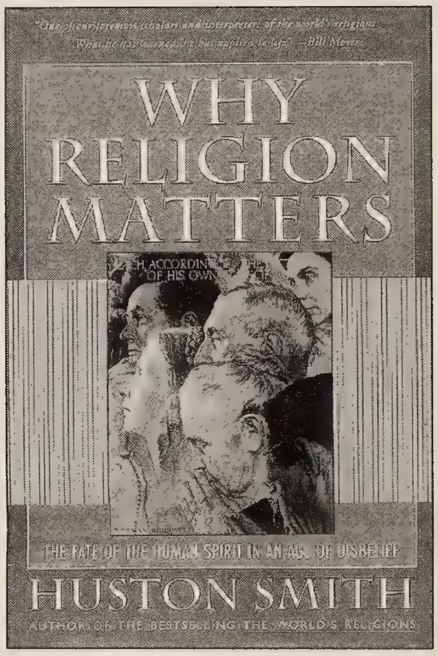
Book Review

WHY RELIGION MATTERS

Reviewed by MARK LOMBARD
Catholic News Service

The importance and contributions of science in our lives cannot be underestimated.

And yet, breakthroughs in medical research, technological advances and our understanding of the physical world and universe have had unintended and profound consequences that threaten our humanity.


WHY RELIGION MATTERS
H, ACCORDIN OF HIS OWN
THE FATE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN AN AGE OF DISBELIEF
HUSTON SMITH
AUTHOR OF THE BESTSELLING THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

WHY RELIGION MATTERS: THE FAITH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN AN AGE OF DISBELIEF, by Huston Smith. HarperCollins Publishers (San Francisco, 2001). 290 pp. $25.00.

That is the assertion of Huston Smith, internationally known scholar in the field of religious studies and author of the best-selling book, "The World's Religions."

In his most recent work, "Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief," Smith challenges Western society at large in a critique that takes aim at — among other targets — modernism, postmodernism, naturalism, secularism, relativism and determinism.

In the book's well-reasoned, compelling first part, he traces history's traditional, modern and postmodern periods, highlighting the achievements and deficiencies of each.

While noting the modern era's successes in advancing democratic and personal freedoms, ecological awareness and scientific and technological breakthroughs, Smith argues that humankind has afflicted itself with tunnel vision, a blindness that is leading it in the 21st century to a purposeless, valueless, ego-dominated, individualistic, disoriented, deconstructed, disconnected existence.

He describes the tunnel that has being constructed with scientism as its foundation, higher education and the law as its walls and the media as its roof, all working to marginalize and trivialize the role religion plays in the life of the culture.

Smith offers a withering criticism of scientism (as distinct from modern science) as a worldview that presents its base assumptions — "first, that science is our best window onto the world and, second, that matter is the foundation of everything that exists" — as facts, thereby diminishing other worldviews of traditional religions.

"Science has erased transcendence from our reality map," Smith writes. "We have turned science into a sacred cow and are suffering the consequences idolatry invariable exacts."

In part two, "The Light at the Tunnel's End," Smith appeals for intensifying a dialogue between the sacred, faith-oriented world and the profane, mundane world, noting that "science can prove nothing about God, because God lies outside its province."

If humankind is truly interested in an accurate description of reality and a search for the truth about existence, then "binocular vision" which accepts both religious and secular perspectives is necessary, he says. "The gulf that separates this faith-oriented projection of religion's future from the worldly one that was described is vast; but we live in the uni-verse, so in some way we must try to bring the two together."

While he is most effective in identifying the problem and in pointing society in the right direction, Smith is less successful in indicating how science will "share the knowledge project equitably with other ways of knowing." He does suggest that scientists and "religionists" need to stick to their own disciplines, unless it is to correct oversteps of the other, and the creation of an organization or organizations to watch and report when and "where science modulates into scientism."

The average reader might be caught up in the variety of "isms" and disciplines explored, but Smith, ever the patient teacher, works to make them understandable and applicable.

"Why Religion Matters" ultimately offers the reader what Smith's lifework has attempted to reveal — the existence of the transcendent and the importance of its "forgotten truth" in modern society.

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Word to Life

February 25, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Sirach 27:4-7
Psalm 92:2-3, 13-16
2) 1 Corinthians 15:54-58
3) Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

By BOZENA CLOUTIER
Catholic News Service

It felt as if I had been kicked in the stomach. I walked the remaining few yards back to our house and there, behind closed doors, I wept. That was 30 years ago, and the memory is so vivid that I can still remember the clothes and shoes I was wearing.

What was it that assaulted me so violently in my own peaceful neighborhood? Words. Words spoken in a pleasant enough tone by a neighbor on a military base where we were stationed. Her name was Sarah. Her husband had just been listed as up for promotion to full colonel, and soon the entire family would be moving from our neighborhood into "bird colonel" quarters.

Seeing Sarah, I had stopped to offer congratulations. She thanked me, and then after a slight pause and a penetrating look she said, "I hear that you too might be moving soon." The comment was innocuous enough, but not really. The meaning was coded.

Her upcoming move was a source of justifiable pride to her. Our story was very different. My husband had just been notified that because his last two efficiency reports were less than superlative and because the military was drastically downsizing after the Vietnam War, he was being forced out of the Army.

Over the years this incident has been significant in my spiritual life, chiefly as I have faced the hardness of my own heart and struggled with issues of forgiveness.

On this last Sunday in Ordinary Time as we prepare to enter Lent, I have thought of it again in the light of the Scripture readings, which raise questions about the words we speak, how we speak them and about finding fault with our neighbor while failing to recognize it in ourselves.

As people who have been graced and saved by the Word that dwells among us, we are challenged to make our words the best they can be. The words we use have repercussions and go on for a long time, not just for 30 years but maybe even for eternity.

In a culture glutted with words that are spoken, sung, printed and e-mailed, we have become careless with ours and need to use that sieve of which the prophet Sirach speaks to sift out the husks in both what we say and what we listen to.

When Sarah spoke those few words to me, I was so quick to see the splinter in her eye and to impute malice to her. I know I could have reacted differently and perhaps been left with very different memories. But God's word is ever active and fruitful. It has redeemed that incident and brought me slowly to a point where I can now risk looking at the beam in my own eye.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Feb. 25 - Mar. 3, 2001

Sunday, Sirach 27:4-7, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58, Luke 6:39-45; **Monday,** Sirach 17:19-27, Mark 10:17-27; **Tuesday,** Sirach 35:1-12, Mark 10:28-31; **Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence),** Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday,** Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Luke 9:22-25; **Friday (Abstinence),** Isaiah 58:1-9, Matthew 9:14-15; **Saturday (St. Katherine Drexel),** Isaiah 58:9-14, Luke 5:27-32

Readings for the week of Mar. 4 - 10, 2001

First Sunday of Lent, Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Roman 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13; **Monday,** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Sts. Perpetua & Felicity),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (St. John of God),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17, Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (St. Frances of Rome),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday,** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

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"Oprah Winfrey Presents: Amy and Isabelle" March 4 on ABC

By ANNE NAVARRO
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — A widowed mother and her daughter struggle through personal shame, growing pains and some disturbing events in the moving "Oprah Winfrey Presents: Amy and Isabelle." The film, which is based on a novel by Elizabeth Strout, airs Sunday, March 4, 9-11 p.m. EST on ABC.

Set in 1971, "Amy and Isabelle" is a provocative yet tender story which observes the strange mixture of love and loathing sometimes found in a mother-daughter relationship. The tale unfolds at a deliberately slow pace, allowing the viewer to become acquainted with the characters and soak in the stifling atmosphere of the small New England mill town in which it is set.

With her hair tied in a low, severe bun, Elizabeth Shue is Isabelle Goodrow, the very proper, lonely and hard-working mother of Amy (Hanna Hall). Isabelle, whose voice-over narration fills in some story gaps, has built her life around a safe routine to conceal her own shameful past.

Each day she reports for work at the mill's accounting office, where she quietly fantasizes about having a life with her oblivious, married boss (James Rebhorn). She keeps her distance from the gossiping ladies in the office, thinking these working-class women are beneath her. But her careful, protected way of life has made her blind to her daughter's present isolation, which is leading Amy to trouble.

For Amy, an awkward, shy teen-ager, the attention paid to her by charismatic new math teacher Mr. Robertson (Martin Donovan) is both thrilling and dangerous — an irresistible combination for the loner teen. But when girlish infatuation turns into adult passion, Isabelle must confront her child and face down some of her own past demons.

The oppressive summer heat which envelopes their town of Shirley Falls is as readily felt as the desperation and sadness in the hearts of Amy and Isabelle. Yet while the character-driven story is compassionately told, some of the events are unsettling. However, at its core, "Amy and Isabelle" is about redemption, forgiveness and growth.

The finely wrought performances attest to the strength of the human spirit and the determination and unconditional love of a mother. But while the first hour-and-a-half of the film is developed leisurely, the conclusion is rushed. Family secrets hinted at earlier are divulged in a fast and furious pace. And the ending's happy spin doesn't do justice to troubles the two characters have faced.

The film's mature content, including some strong sexual innuendo, makes it adult fare.

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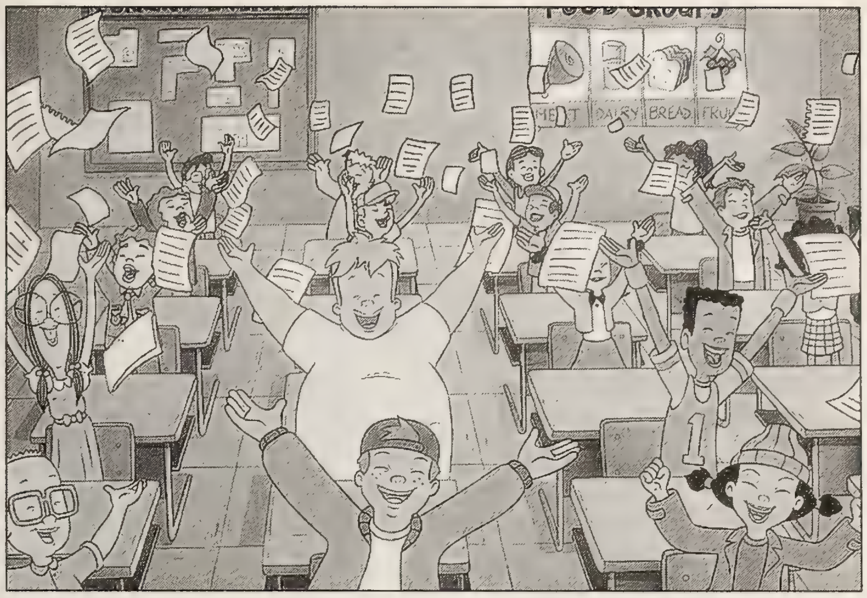

CNS PHOTO FROM WALT DISNEY PICTURES

Scene from feature 'Recess: School's Out'

'Miss Grotke's fourth grade class celebrates the end of the school year in the animated feature "Recess: School's Out." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I -- general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G -- general audiences.

Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Bless the Child" (2000)

Absorbing thriller in which a psychiatric nurse (Kim Basinger) suspects that her 6-year-old niece (Holliston Coleman) is being targeted by members of a Satanic sect planning to misuse the child's extraordinary powers to fulfill a biblical prophecy. As directed by Chuck Russell, the familiar good vs. evil premise has a convincingly spooky edge with a refreshing emphasis on the selflessness of love, but is marred by a cheesy ending. Recurring violence with some gore, occult theme, brief drug use and minimal rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Paramount)

"Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2" (2000)

Putrid sequel in which four young people and their local guide go into the woods where a previous group supposedly vanished only to experience similar paranoia and murderous violence. Director Joe Berlinger's crass attempt to further a "Blair Witch" movie and merchandising franchise is a debasing film whose cop-out ending should disgust anyone unfortunate enough to endure this shrill, pointless mess. Recurring stabbings, sexually violent situations, recreational substance abuse, intermittent nudity and constant rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Artisan)

"Digimon: The Movie" (2000)

Virtually unwatchable Japanese animated muddle aimed at children in which youngsters witness constant hostility between Digimon creatures, such as a giant monster who inflicts much mayhem before being destroyed. Based on a Fox TV series, three directors can't make sense of their cobbled-together shorts so settle for chaotic action scenes stressing aggressive behavior. Frequent angry confrontations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Fox)

"Get Carter" (2000)

Ineffectual remake of a 1971 British thriller in which vicious Las Vegas hit man Sylvester Stallone seeks revenge against the thugs who murdered his brother. Director Stephen Kay's gimmicky camera work and stylized visuals fail to disguise a nonsensical plot, atrocious performances and senseless violence. Much gratuitous violence, brief drug content, fleeting lesbian sexual encounters, recurring rough language and brief profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Warner Home Video)

"Goodnight Mister Tom" (1999)

Engrossing drama set in a World War II English village where a curmudgeonly senior (John Thaw) is transformed when forced to take in a 9-year-old London boy (Nick Robinson) who has suffered much at the hands of a mentally ill mother (Annabelle Apsion). Handsomely directed by Jack Gold, the sentimental story uplifts with its charming depiction of community, caring and tolerance. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Pic-

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope warns peace prospects diminishing in Middle East

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II lamented the increase of Palestinian-Israeli violence and said the prospects for peace were growing dim.

Speaking at a Sunday blessing Feb. 18, he appealed for both sides to resume negotiations and reach a just settlement in the region.

The pope's remarks came four days after a Palestinian rammed his bus into a crowd of Israelis near Tel Aviv, killing eight of them. Earlier in the week, Israeli helicopter gunships attackeda and killed a high-ranking Palestinian security official.

"Unfortunately, violence continues to rage in the Middle East," the pope told several thousand people from his apartment window above St. Peter's Square.

"We learn with sorrow every day that more human lives are being sacrificed to the logic of hatred and revenge, while the prospects for peace grow more distant," he said.

"Let us pray that the spiral of violence which has been particularly atrocious in recent days will give way to the search for trust and mutual respect, so that the way of dialogue can be taken up again with determination and can finally reach peace in justice," he said.

Meanwhile, the Vatican nuncio to Israel, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, has urged pilgrims not to abandon Jerusalem and the Holy Land. In a statement Feb. 16 to the Vatican missionary news agency, Fides, he said pilgrims can be "an army of peace" in the region.

"Pilgrims come to pray, they come with respect and charity for all the other communities here. They can be a courageous sign of hope and a seed of peace," he said.

"It is time to break down the barrier built by alarming media reports according to which the Holy Land is drowned in terror. Precautions must be taken, but this will not affect pilgrims," he said.

He said the eventual solution to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute will rest on mutual respect, justice and listening by both sides.

Franciscan spirituality can meet modern hunger, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II told Franciscans to offer their "simple and intense" prayer life to modern men and women, who he said were in search of authentic spirituality.

"Our time shows ever more evident signs of a profound thirst for values, paths and goals of the spirit," he said Feb. 17 to participants in the general chapter of Conventual Franciscans.

The pope said this renewed spiritual desire should find "a valid and fruitful response" from the Franciscans, who have traditionally emphasized a simple and direct approach to the Gospel.

"You will thus respond to the requests that come to you in different ways from the men and women of our time and you will be able to effectively draw souls to the paths of spiritual growth and rediscovered interior vitality," he said.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

The Story of a Family's Love

Sometimes, if you open a door to a modest home, you encounter a tale of incredible nobility.

In the years when we lived close by, I knew Irene Oickle as a friend. We had so much in common, especially that we were both Catholic mothers with the same number of children, seven.

In March 1994, Irene died in a way she never wanted. It was a lingering, painful exodus, lasting seven years. But in those years she was so well cared for by her extraordinary family, with their faithful presence continually lightening the sadness, that her long illness became an unbroken demonstration of family love.

He husband Al's caretaking role began in 1987 when Irene suffered a strokelike attack that left her paralyzed on the right side of her body. Feisty and independent, she held off revealing other physical problems until 1993, when she had no choice. The diagnosis then was colon cancer, already advanced beyond the possibility of cure.

Al then took on the demanding physical care tasks required as Irene's condition worsened, never complaining.

Now Al Oickle has written about this incredible phase of a family's life in what I can only call a love story, "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep, A Husband's Journal of Unconquered Fear, Cancer and Death" (LSP, Box 69, Everett, Mass. 02149).

It takes a skilled writer to make you care about what goes on day by day as a loved one is dying. But whether he's talking about bed messes or drug reactions, moments when joyful times from the past are shared in intimate conversations, outbursts of anger from Irene or his own fatigue, the bottom line is love.

This family — which by now included 18 grandchildren — never faltered in their devotion.

Al's reflections, as well as many recollections from their children, are poignant. I was especially moved when he told how Irene cried frequently, the sound like "a long, uninterrupted soprano note that neither wavers nor breaks for breath — the saddest of distress calls."

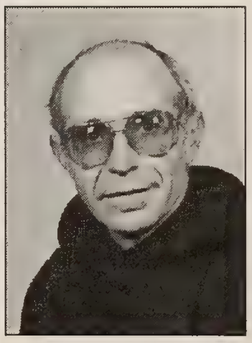
Then there was Christmas, with the tree too big, needing branches cut. Was it a lesson? Al wondered: "Like the tree's free-growing limbs, our dreams often need to be cut to fit into one's life." I felt his mourning in those words.

What deeply touched me were the words of the Oickle children — now grown, most with children of their own. Their devotion was so well expressed by Marilyn: "It is my mother's living that I remember and the love that held us together."

Sadly, the colon cancer problems resurfaced, striking two of the children. Kerry recovered, Scott died of this cancer in 1998 at age 40. Once again, Al's words about Irene applied: "the harsh, hollow feeling of an irreplaceable loss, and I realize we can never be fully prepared for such events."

This book, for me, is an ode to Christian marriage. Irene's illness ended physical love, "yet," he writes, "our mutual understanding and caring, our interdependence, have given real meaning to the sharing of two lives in love."

And this 48-year union gave him a special knowledge, "that life must be lived with joy and enthusiasm."



Guest Column

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM CAP.
GUEST COLUMNIST

Do we live out of our fears or our faith?

The fact is that we all have fears that have great power in greater or lesser degrees over us. Some fears are unfounded; some are unhealthy. Fears have the power to cripple or paralyze us and keep us from being what we want to be or God wants us to be.

When we read prayerfully and carefully Psalm 23, we also understand that there is no room for fears in the lives of true believers. What makes us, then, so fearful?

Some are fearful because, deep down, they feel they are not worthy. Some fears are generated by the turmoil of change as we move through life. We become less secure when everything nailed down starts coming loose, when community or church change for the better, when we realize we are growing older.

The deepest fear, however, is the fear of the unknown — what is going to happen to our marriage, our job, our health.

There are remedies for curing the sickness called fear. I wish to mention two of them, which are powerful and effective. The first one is we must realize that fear and faith cannot both rule under the same roof. Therefore, we must choose either fear or faith. Building a deep relationship with God makes fears disappear. As it worked for St. Paul, St. Peter, St. Francis, St. Teresa, Mother Teresa and Padre Pio, so it works for us.

The second one is to make a commitment to a great purpose bigger than our fears. Jesus came into this world saying, "Fear not ... you can even walk on water." In the year 2001, it's time to destroy the temple of Phobos built in Sparta before Christ. Yet today, we still speak of phobias, which invade our lives on a daily basis — hydrophobia, claustrophobia, gamophobia, thanatophobia, and the list goes on.

I remember the story a friend of mine shared with me about the "toilet phobia" of a lovely and gentle lady, who could not possibly say or write the word toilet. I presume she was going to the toilet ... hopefully! However, she was planning a vacation in Florida, so she wrote to a campground owner and asked for a reservation. She wanted to make sure that toilets were available, but she could not write it. After much consideration, she came up with "Bathroom Commode," which she abbreviated B.C.

Finally, she wrote: "Does the campground have its B.C.?" The campground owner tried very hard to figure out the meaning of B.C., but in vain. He thought B.C. meant Baptist Church, and he answered:

"Dear Madam, I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take the pleasure of informing you that a B.C. is located nine miles north of the campground, and is capable of seating 250 people at one time. I admit it is quite a distance away, if you are in the habit of going regularly, but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches along and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late. The last time my wife and I went was 6 years ago, and it was so crowded that we had to stand up the whole time we were there. I would like to say that it pains me very much not to be able to go more regularly, but it surely is no lack of desire on my part; as we grow older, it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in winter time. If you decide to come down to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time you go, sit with you and introduce you to all the other folks. Remember, this is a friendly community."

I wish to say to the readers of The Catholic News & Herald: Give your fear to Christ, and he will change it into faith.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
Guest Columnist

The ultimate search

When the end-of-the-year commemorative magazines focused on the notable passing of people last year, most gave special attention to comic/TV host/author Steve Allen. They highlighted his role as the original host of "The Tonight Show," among many impressive television firsts. By way of praise, commentary called him the forefather of the Johnny Carsons, the David Lettermans, the Jay Lenos and the Conan O'Briens. In fact, he was much, much more than that.

Shortly before Steve Allen died, I did an interview with him about faith, about values and about the life to come. His words now seem so ironic, spoken as he was so close to the end of his own earthly journey.

The most striking image I have of our time together was his humility. When words like "legend," "icon" or "important figure" were used, he'd dismiss them quickly. In his mind, important people were those who actually saved lives, people of heroism in action. He told me about an event he attended to reward people who unselfishly put themselves in harm's way. The dinner at which these folks were celebrated was built around Steve Allen as the celebrity host. Allen mentioned that he felt hopelessly insignificant next to the concrete ways these unknown individuals had made a difference for the good: They were firefighters, police officers and regular folks who bothered to get involved. Allen said that they, not TV personalities, were the people we should be bringing to our children and grandchildren's attention.

Beyond humility, I was also impressed with the important theological speculation Allen sorted through for many years. Raised in a Catholic home, he had felt estranged from the Church after a divorce from his first wife and a marriage to actress Jayne Meadows. This self-imposed exile also caused him to think long and hard about the existence of God and the afterlife. His conclusions, voiced so soon before his death, were telling.

He called himself a Christian agnostic. He'd often question the existence of God, but felt that if God exists, he most likely took the form of Jesus Christ. His belief in the reality of an afterlife was intimately tied to the injustices of this world. Steve Allen came to speculate that little in this life was just or fair. But heaven would correct all that. He said: "I can't find any justice in the world. That's why there has to be an afterlife. There's got to be justice in an afterlife, because there sure isn't any justice here."

Steve Allen, a man who made his public legacy primarily through television, acknowledged that some would view his criticism of the current state of TV entertainment as "biting the hand that feeds you." Nonetheless, he offered a stinging rebuke of those who feed the public a diet of base and disrespectful programming. This intellectual funnyman offered a final warning. Said Allen: "We have talent and brains. We should be able to bring about laughter and entertainment without sinking into a lack of reverence for decency and sexuality. We're better than that as a people, and the TV industry should reflect the best of our human condition and not the worst." Steve Allen, greatly gifted, humble person, searcher of faith, man who made a difference for the good: I hope he has found all he longed for.

Rest in peace.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Love those monster trucks!

A recent Saturday night I went with my friend to the Monster Truck Derby at the local stadium. I wasn't all that interested — after all, I'm more of a jazz-concert type than a truck-racing fan. Still, my friend thought it would be fun, and I agreed, mostly to be a good sport.

Monster Trucks are actually giant dune buggies with 6-foot-tall balloon tires, 500-horsepower racing engines and, up on top, a tiny little pick-up truck body. They're painted in outlandish colors, with names like Airborn Ranger, Wrenchhead and Grave Digger, and the sound of their motors is a cross between a jet plane taking off and a gigantic chain saw, a rumbling snarling roar.

They look and sound like motorized dinosaurs. They do not really race so much as take turns flying over huge bumps and lines of parked cars and old vans.

I went expecting not to like it. I figured the stadium would be full of angry loudmouths and drunks, two of my least favorite types of human company. Imagine my surprise when I climbed to my seat and found the stadium was full of kids and their parents!

My guess is that two-thirds of the audience — and there were at least 30,000 people there — were elementary school children out for an evening with their parents.

I did not hear a single drunk fan yelling obscenities at a referee. There were no fights in the stands. Thirty-thousand people shouted their approval at the highest jumps and cheered for their favorite drivers.

It was an evening of thrills and chills, with a present sense of danger, but nobody got hurt, and I imagine hardly anybody does. The occasional Monster Trucks tipped over and rolled, but the drivers came out and waved to the crowd every time.

There was an occasional boo when a driver backed off a stunt that might have smashed his $150,000 truck into very expensive bits of shiny metal. But all in all, the entire audience was amazingly well behaved. More than anything else, it reminded me of going to the circus with my own parents when I was little.

What I liked most about my evening at the Monster Truck Derby were those thousands of families spending the evening together, away from the television. They were there for a single purpose — to have fun together.

When the family is going on an outing, teen-agers often try to avoid going along. Whether it's Monster Trucks, a sports event, a picnic in the mountains or an afternoon of swimming at the lake, teens sometimes act as though family activities are beneath them. Much more fun, some think, to stay home and play video games or watch television.

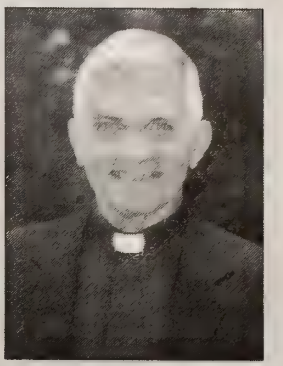
Later on, the same teens say that their parents do not understand them, that they do not listen, that there is no warmth in their relationship.

Maybe your dad does work too much. Maybe your mom does not like your friends or your taste in music. But a relationship — any relationship — is a two-way street. Your part may be as simple as agreeing to participate in family activities and outings. Just going along and being pleasant can do a lot toward opening up communication with your folks.

Like me, you could end up having fun. I didn't want to go, after all, since I'm such a sophisticated type. I would have missed a great time. Monster Trucks are pretty cool.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Lenten Reflection



FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Guest Columnist

Ash Wednesday: The call to conversion and commitment

As kids, one of the memorable moments of the year was when we visited our parish church, the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, on Ash Wednesday. There would be Father Manning, a friend to all, waiting for us to wend our way up that seemingly endless aisle to the altar. Then, standing before him, like angels with dirty faces, we welcomed with excitement the dab of ashes. Each of us hoped that he'd "got us good" so that when we returned to the streets, everyone would know we were Catholic. Although we really weren't sure what all that meant, there was little doubt that we had a sense of wonder in our hearts when that sacred symbol of our faith touched both our bodies and our souls.

As adults the symbol of the ashes reminds us of our fragility and mortality. They stress, at least implicitly, that no one of us is totally independent and self-sufficient. Then too, they are a sensible reminder of the truth that we are related, dependent and responsible. We are related to God, because of Whom, we live and move and have our very being. We are dependent upon the One who nurtures and nourishes, strengthens and supports us. We are responsible as persons called to wonder, worship and witness. When we are signed with the seal of the ashes, the words of the priest should reverberate to the depths of our being as he proclaims, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

On this Ash Wednesday, we hear once again the ineffable call to repentance, conversion and transformation. We are challenged to reflect upon our identity as God's children and to commit ourselves to becoming in spirit who we are in truth. We are urged to open our minds and hearts, indeed our very souls, to the Person and message of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer.

During the forty days of Lent, the Lord will continue to speak to us in Scripture and Sacraments. He will reach out to us in compassion and mercy while inviting us to place our hands in His. As the rhythm of life swirls around and within us, the signs and symbols of salvation's call will beckon us to be evermore aware and appreciative of Jesus' wondrous invitation to be His friends, disciples and witnesses.

In recalling the multi-faceted experiences of my youth, I shall never forget those Ash Wednesday visits to my parish church. Only gradually, however, have I come to understand more completely the depth of meaning of the ashes within our tradition and lives. I'm grateful for the gift of greater insight into the privileged demands of being a Catholic.

Let's pray that during this Lenten season we shall cultivate our identity with greater intensity and fulfill our mission with exemplary integrity. In doing so, you and I will manifest that we have appropriated, assimilated and acted upon those truly timely words: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

Father James Hawker is the vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Ladies guild wraps children with love in blanket project

Submitted by STEVE BEATTY
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

DENVER — The Ladies Guild at Holy Spirit Church has taken on a unique project: They have volunteered to make blankets for the Charlotte Chapter of Project Linus.

Soon to be called Blanket Patch, Project Linus has more than 400 chapters in the United States, Canada, Australia, Mexico, England and the Philippines. Originally targeting pediatric cancer patients, Project Linus has broadened its focus aiming toward seriously ill or traumatized children — children in need of a big hug.

To date, the project has delivered over 250,000 security blankets to children around the world.

The blankets comfort the children who are alone at night in hospitals. People all over the country who love to make blankets have come together to share their passion and make a difference. Parents see immediate changes in their children after receiving the blankets, and doctors have seen firsthand the impact these blankets have on these children and their health. The blankets act as a form of comforting therapy.

Margaret Carpenter heard about the project and contacted the Charlotte Chapter to gain more information and find out how she could help. She presented the idea to her parish's Ladies Guild, and the rest is history.

Since last May the group has made more than 140 blankets, which are provided to the Charlotte Chapter. The chapter distributes them to children in the Charlotte area.

The group meets at Holy Spirit on the second and fourth Tuesday mornings of each month to work on blankets without any quotas or deadlines. Some of the ladies, referred to as blanketeers, work at home and then bring the finished blankets to the church.

All of the blankets are washable, handmade and in child-friendly colors. The caring put into the blanket's production matters as much as the blanket itself. The blankets can be knitted, crocheted, embroidered, quilted or tied with yarn.

The Ladies Guild has received donations of brightly colored acrylic yarn, fabric and monetary donations from parishioners to support the efforts of the blanketeers.

Organizations in the Charlotte area receiving blankets are Holy Angels, The Shelter for Battered Women, The Summit House, American Red Cross, Leukemia Society of America, Carolinas Medical Center's Pediatric and Neo-natal, Hemby Children Hospital at Presbyterian Hospital, Florence Crittendon Services, Gaston Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, Charlie Division of Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department and Belarussian Children through Baptist Ministries.

If you know of any organization that could benefit from receiving blankets, or to obtain information on becoming a blanketeer, contact Charlotte Chapter coordinator Debra Gilreath-Morgan at (704) 531-7653 or e-mail dhunnypot@aol.com.

COURTESY PHOTO

Holy Spirit Church Ladies Guild blanketeers Escilia Packey and Dolly Green work on a Project Linus blanket.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Account Representatives: Providence House/e3mil.com, a nationwide Catholic direct sales, marketing and internet corporation, is seeking Account Representatives at its Fort Mill, SC location (10 miles south of Charlotte, NC). Qualified candidates will have had some general sales experience. Send resume to: Tony Gagliardo, Director of Advertising, Providence House/e3mil.com, PO Box 1589, Fort Mill, SC 29716. Fax: (803)802-4367; Tgagliardo@Providencehouse.net

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Child Care Provider: Room At The Inn, a Catholic maternity home for single, pregnant mothers located in Charlotte, needs a full-time Child Care Provider. Experience preferred. Call Trish for more information: (704)525-4673.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Music Ministry: Part-time position for growing 800-member parish. St. Mary's Church, Shelby and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain is seeking qualified person proficient in organ and with vocal ability to work with cantors and choir. Responsibilities include one Saturday evening service and two Sunday services (one in Kings Mountain and one in Shelby). Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to: St. Mary's Music Search Committee, 818 McGowan Rd., Shelby NC 28150 or Fax: (704)487-0187. For more information on our parish, visit www.rc.net/charlotte/stmaryshelby

Music Minister: Rapidly growing parish of 700 families near Raleigh, North Carolina is building new church and desires qualified person knowledgeable in Roman Catholic liturgy. Candidate will have a BA in music and keyboard proficiency. Full-time salary of 35K with benefits. Job description on request. Send inquiries/resume by February 28 to: Search Committee, St. Ann Church, 113 N. 7th St., Smithfield, NC 27577.

Principal, Elementary: We are seeking a principal for our new Catholic School, grades Pre-K - 8, to begin July 1, 2001. The successful candidate will be a practicing Catholic with at least 3 years elementary school teaching experience and hold or be eligible to hold a North Carolina Principal's certificate. Administrative experience or an advanced certificate preferred. Send letter of interest, current resume and salary requirements to: Search Committee, c/o Rev. John Parish, St. Matthew Church, 1001 Mason Road, Durham, NC 27721. EOE.

Principal, Elementary: Catholic Elementary School, north Atlanta. Candidate must be Catholic with M. Ed. in Administration. Seeking enthusiastic, spiritual and progressive leader, dedicated to academic excellence and parish community involvement. 500-student enrollment in grades K-8; on the leading edge of technology and curriculum development. Application deadline: March 5; start date: July 1. Resumes to: Principal Search Committee, St. Jude the Apostle School, 7171 Glenridge Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30328. www.saintjude.net

Teacher: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School is accepting applications for certified Kindergarten Teacher starting March 2001; also, 3rd Grade teacher for August 2001. Contact or send resume to: Ed Manville, Principal. Phone: (919)570-0070; Fax: (919)570-0071; e-mail emanville@stcathsiena.org

Teachers: Charlotte Catholic High School is now accepting applications for the following positions for the 2001-2002 school year: English, Guidance, part-time Health/PE, Mathematics, Science, part-time Science, Religion, and Spanish. Applicants should be certified. Please direct questions to Steve Carpenter at (704)543-1127.

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FATHER MO,
from page 5

kindness, his generosity. Even when he has to make a hard decision ... there's always that serenity. He always has that same, marvelous spirit."

Abbot Placid Solari, the Benedictine monk elected abbot in November 1999 who entered monastic life with Father West over two decades ago, said the gathering was a fitting tribute to a man whose foundation for service to the greater church in western North Carolina was built in the tradition of St. Benedict.

"Benedictine life is a beautiful way of life," said Abbot Placid. "It sets very high ideals. But at the same time, it realizes that each person has to reach those in his or her own way, and it sets up a system to bring us all together to the kingdom of God in a way that each can follow and move along — and help one another along."

"I've never met a more skillful administrator," Abbot Placid added, recalling Father West's roles at Belmont Abbey as well as his present diocesan duties.

During closing comments, Grace announced the establishment of The Mauricio W. West Scholarship, which will benefit future students in need.

Just as he was praised for his outreach to others, Father West urged all present to seek ways of bringing God's love to the world.

"In accepting this award, I am deeply mindful of our Lord's command to 'love one another as I have loved you,' 'to live in my love,'" he said. "There is so much more all of us can do to make our world a better place. Let us accept the challenge of sharing God's love and kindness in every situation and circumstance."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlotte.org.

SISTERS,
from page 9

"The language barrier is a problem, though, as well as cultural barriers. I would like to see further breaking down of prejudices that are present on all sides."

"I also think there's a lot of good will — people wanting to learn about cultures other than their own," she said.

Sister Andrea said that she also would like to see more people in the parishes trying to learn each other's languages. In Lenoir, she said, two men who want to improve their Spanish meet weekly with a Hispanic man who wants to improve his English, and they help each other.

"I find the Hispanic people are very vibrant," said Sister Andrea. "There's a lot of life in them. When opportunities are offered to them and encouragement is given, they are very generous and giving people."

Sister Andrea says that she plans to emphasize faith formation courses this year and is planning some retreats. She and several of the other women religious in the area are planning a vocation day on Saturday, March 17 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir for Hispanic women 16 or older who are interested in learning about religious life.

Sister Andrea also directs a team of 12 people from parishes in the area who plan and carry out a weekly radio program called "Pueblo Hispano, Despertad" ("Hispanic People, Wake Up") that is broadcast each Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. on 1170 AM. The program includes the Scripture readings for that Sunday, as well as announcements of upcoming events, special features that tie in with the church calendar year, prayers, hymns, health tips and other topics of interest.

Even though the parishes in the Hickory Vicariate are spread out — she has at least a 20 - to 25-mile drive when she goes from one to the next — Sister Andrea goes to at least two Spanish Masses each Sunday. "She tries all she can to be present with them," said Father Ed Sheridan of St. Aloysius Church. "It is a big job. Sister Andrea is a great help to us."

"She is an immensely hard worker who truly has given her life for the well-being of our Hispanic friends," said Father Michael Buttner of St. Francis of Assisi Chirch. "Sister Andrea always keeps a positive attitude and Christ-like joy."

Hispanic Ministry is one of the life-giving ministries partially funded by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

Diocesan Support Appeal 2001

In brief . . .

Young adult retreat

MAGGIE VALLEY — A retreat for young adults, ages 21-45, is being held at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, March 9-11. The idea for the retreat was derived from discussions and fellowship from the Theology on Tap young adult gatherings held in the fall and being held again this spring. For further details and to make reservations by March 1, call Katie Walter at (704) 367-2427.

Secular Franciscan Order Meeting

CHARLOTTE — For those interested in finding out more about St. Francis of Assisi and the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO), the St. Maximillian Kolbe Fraternity invites everyone to attend the regular monthly meeting at 2 p.m. on March 4 at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. For more information, call Skyler Harvey at (704) 573-4299.

St. Patrick's Day Party

ASHEVILLE — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Cross and Shamrock Division #1 N.C., will host its 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Party on March 10 with a 7 p.m. social hour and 7:30 p.m. dinner. A traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner is being served along with soft drinks and other beverages. Classic Irish tunes and retro dance music are being provided by Scott Cowan. Door prizes will be awarded, and tickets are limited. For tickets and other information, call Jim O'Hare, publicity chairman, at (828) 298-2715.

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Booklet reviews 30 years of Methodist-Catholic dialogues

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new booklet on 30 years of Methodist-Catholic dialogues says that those dialogues "have yielded amazing areas of agreement."

"Were Roman Catholics and Methodists to learn about one another in light of this material over the next quarter of a century, the whole ecumenical climate in the United States would undoubtedly be revolutionized," it says.

The 34-page booklet is titled "Methodist-Catholic Dialogues: Thirty Years of Mission and Witness."

It was published jointly in February by the U.S. Catholic Conference and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church.

The booklet is an introductory resource to the results of international and U.S. Catholic-Methodist theological dialogues of the past three decades.

It also serves as a complement to another recent joint publication aimed at fostering U.S. Catholic-Methodist ecumenism at the grass-roots level.

That publication — "Yearning to Be One: Spiritual Dialogue Between Catholics and United Methodists" — was released last September.

A six-session study guide with easily reproducible resource materials, "Yearning to Be One" seeks to enable Catholics and Methodists in local communities throughout the country to learn more about one another and improve their collaboration in prayer, witness and service.

The international Catholic-Methodist dialogue, which first met in 1967, is cosponsored by the World Methodist Council and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. It has covered a wide range of issues, from doctrinal, moral and pastoral questions to sacraments, structures of church ministry and authority and paths to unity.

The U.S. dialogue, which began a year earlier, has addressed doctrinal issues as well, but it is perhaps most notable for its emphasis on important ethical and relational issues. It is co-sponsored by the United Methodists' General Commission on Church Unity and Interreligious Concerns and the Catholic bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

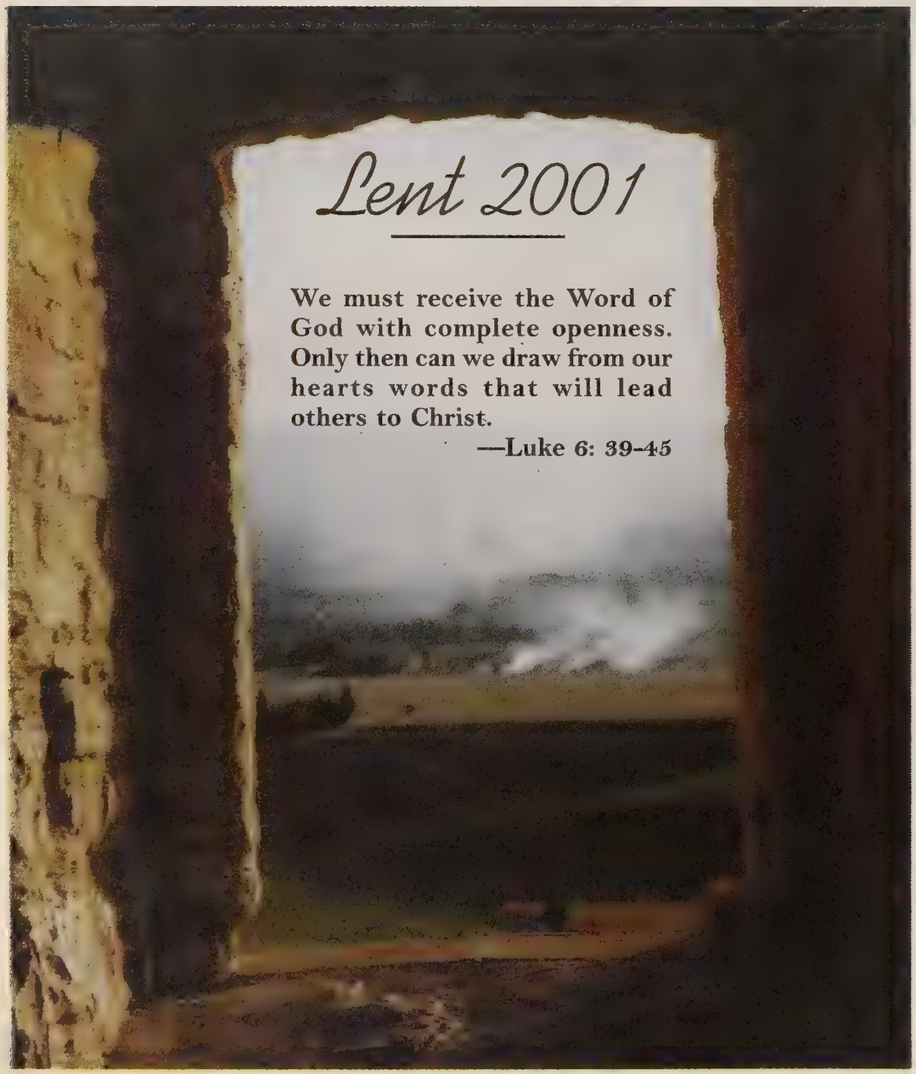
The booklet says that American Catholics and United Methodists "have been in common mission together for many years" at various levels, including the local level.

"Methodists and Catholics recognize that by their baptism, their confession of the Christian faith as attested in the Scriptures and their common calling to mission, what binds them together is far greater than what divides them," it says.

It says that the theological dialogues described and summarized in the booklet are intended to serve the "unity we experience in spirituality and mission on the local level."

"The dialogues are an occasion to appreciate the gifts of our traditions," it says.

Conversion to Christ's call and prayer for unity is central to the ecumenical quest, it says, and "this conversion entails getting to know and appreciate one another and one another's churches, recognizing the challenges to unity and attempting to resolve them."



Lent 2001

We must receive the Word of God with complete openness. Only then can we draw from our hearts words that will lead others to Christ.

—Luke 6: 39-45

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Deacon's life path directed by God's word

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd's affiliation with the Catholic Church is one of faith and commitment, chance and happenstance. His life has been one of an ecumenical nature with experiences with various religions, but in the end, a deeply embedded dedication to Catholicism led him back to the church, and eventually, to the permanent diaconate.

"I call myself a convert to Catholicism." Baptized Catholic, he was influenced by his Catholic mother and Episcopalian father and attended both churches. Attendance at a boarding school led him to join the Lutheran faith because of the instruction he received through religion classes. "I received the first formal instruction in religion and Scripture that I had ever had, and I felt that something was missing from my life. So, I joined the Lutheran Church."

Family circumvented his desire to attend law school after graduating from North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro as a sociology/ social welfare major, and he began teaching English and social studies. He received his first exposure to government employment with a job in urban renewal for the Redevelopment Commission of Winston-Salem. He moved on to the Social Security Administration, and then, to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd and his daughter Ashlee.

After leaving the Lutheran Church, Rev. Mr. Todd began researching other churches and found what he was looking for in Catholicism. "Through my own study, I found that the Catholic Church was the only one I could trace straight back to Jesus." Life events prompted him to leave the Catholic Church; however, the feelings of something lacking in his life led him back to the Catholic Church again — this time to stay.

Rev. Mr. Todd cannot easily explain the events leading him to the permanent diaconate at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, but he believes that his steps were guided by God. He says that events in his life simply followed a larger plan with an order and design not of his own.

In the 1980s, he was living in South Carolina and had begun attending Mass at the Oratory in Rock Hill. While driving to Rock Hill one Sunday morning, he noticed the Morehead Street exit off of Interstate 77. He said that he did not realize that he had driven past his exit all the way to Charlotte and cannot explain what happened. He remembered that Our Lady of Consolation had an 11 a.m. Mass, and that Mass changed his life.

"It was like I was in a vacuum or void, totally timeless and spaceless, until the realization hit me that I was in Charlotte. After going that Sunday, I never stopped going. I felt 'at home' in the black parish with a black priest," explained Rev. Mr. Todd.

That priest, Father Wilbur Thomas, now pastor of St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville, became Rev. Mr. Todd's "unofficial" spiritual director. After many talks and discussions, Father Thomas suggested the permanent diaconate to Rev. Mr. Todd. After inquiring more about it, Rev. Mr. Todd applied to be included in the diocese's second class of men who wanted to serve the diocese as deacons.

Around that same time, after moving up the ladder with the EEOC in the managerial track, Rev. Mr. Todd was offered a job in Milwaukee as a district director. It was a professional dream come true for him. However, with another goal in mind and convinced that he would be accepted into the diaconate, he turned down the offer.

He was, in fact, ordained in 1988 and was assigned to Our Lady of Consolation, the parish that led him to the diaconate in the first place. After a few years, he began to feel that he wanted to do more. So, he inquired about a position with the diocese but had no luck. It was at this time that another one of life's coincidences occurred.

The EEOC offered an early retirement program to any government worker who had a certain number of years experience and was of a certain age. Concurrently, a position in the diocese opened. Rev. Mr. Todd retired after 25 years of government service, and in 1993, Bishop John F. Donoghue, now archbishop of Atlanta, named Rev. Mr. Todd vice chancellor of the diocese. "One thing happened right after another, and spiritually speaking, I was convinced that God was calling me."

Rev. Mr. Todd feels that the events in his life happened for a divine reason and that he was meant to be a permanent deacon. "The diaconate is a ministry of service that can be traced back to Scripture, to Acts of the Apostles. It has always been a part of the hierarchal structure of the church."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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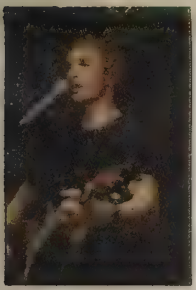
Inside

Nussbaum funeral standing room only ...PAGE 4

Capuchin sees lesson in Earnhardt tragedy ...PAGE 5

Local News



Christian musician reaches out in song ...PAGE 7

Deacon's ministry supported by wife ...PAGE 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you."
Matthew 7: 7

Belmont nurse recognized for community work

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT—Cheryl Fleming is often reminded of the "Andy Griffith Show" as she works in the town of Belmont. She compares herself to the Aunt Bee character in that she feels like a fixture in the town's everyday life. Even as a Northern transplant, she says that the citizens have treated her as one of their own, and she and her neighbors have grown to respect and admire one another for the gifts all have to offer. It is because of her dedication as a parish nurse to the health and wellness of her adopted community that she was honored as the Belmont citizen of the year.

For more than 30 years, the Belmont Chamber of Commerce has chosen a person who "has contributed to the well-being of the Belmont community through leadership of service roles" to be named as the citizen of the year. The Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors sift through nominations advertised in the town's newspaper to find the person who fits the characteristics, and this year, Fleming's work stood out from among the rest of the entries.

"She (Fleming) definitely fits all those categories," said Beth Rutledge, Chamber of Commerce director. "She is a very caring person who is well-worthy of the title because she does so much for Belmont by helping people who cannot afford private or personal nurses. An award such as this makes people aware of the type of people who live here and what we are doing for our community."

Reverend Dr. Richard Boyce, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, was one of those who nominated Fleming for the award. "She (Fleming) has dreamed a great dream of the churches mobilizing to help their members be better stewards of their health and to help us as a community reach out to those who do not have access to health care. She is a real servant of Jesus Christ, and we are proud to call her our citizen of the year and claim her as our parish nurse not only for our congregation but also for this community."

To say that Fleming was more than a little surprised would be an understatement. "I was shocked and amazed. I had no idea. I didn't take it so much as it being just an award for me. I took it as an affirmation of the program and the work I do. It is really bolstering to have had this happen because you know you are on the right track."

Fleming has followed a track that she says God has mapped out for her. Through a series of what she calls "God-incidents," Fleming says that everything in her life has been in preparation for her ministry as a parish nurse.

Her training and experience as a medical and surgical nurse and an intensive care nurse in her home of Pennsylvania prepared her for her work at Hospice of Gaston County, a facility for terminally ill patients. After moving to North Carolina, she worked first as a volunteer, then as a patient care and nursing coordinator. "I felt called to Hospice, but I also felt called to parish nursing. Father Richard Hokanson, pastor of Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church, offered to lend me the money for the classes, and then an anonymous donor provided the money for my classes. This is an example of one of those 'God-incidents.' I believe that you are called to various professions, and you have to listen with your heart and spirit. Then, God directs you."

Parish nurses have become more visible in dioceses from coast to coast over the past several years, and their duties involve constant interaction with the community and involvement with those who may not have sufficient medical attention otherwise.

"Parish nursing is recognized by the American Nursing Association as a subspecialty in that you have to take a course that teaches the core curriculum. Moreover, this is not a loosely structured program and shouldn't be confused with home health services."

SEE PARISH NURSE, PAGE 4

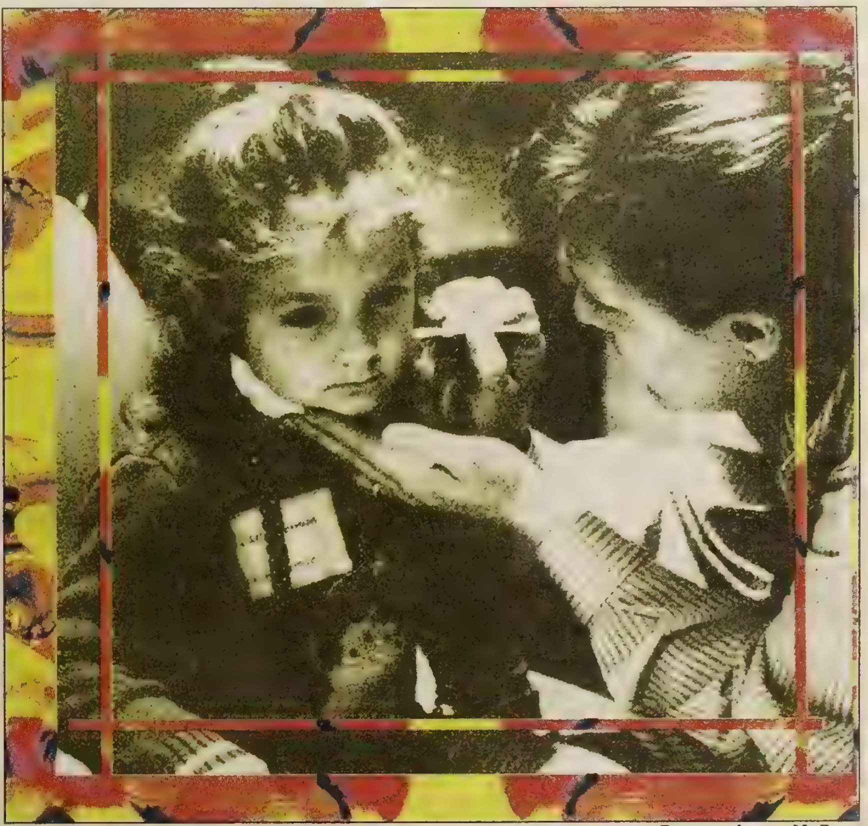
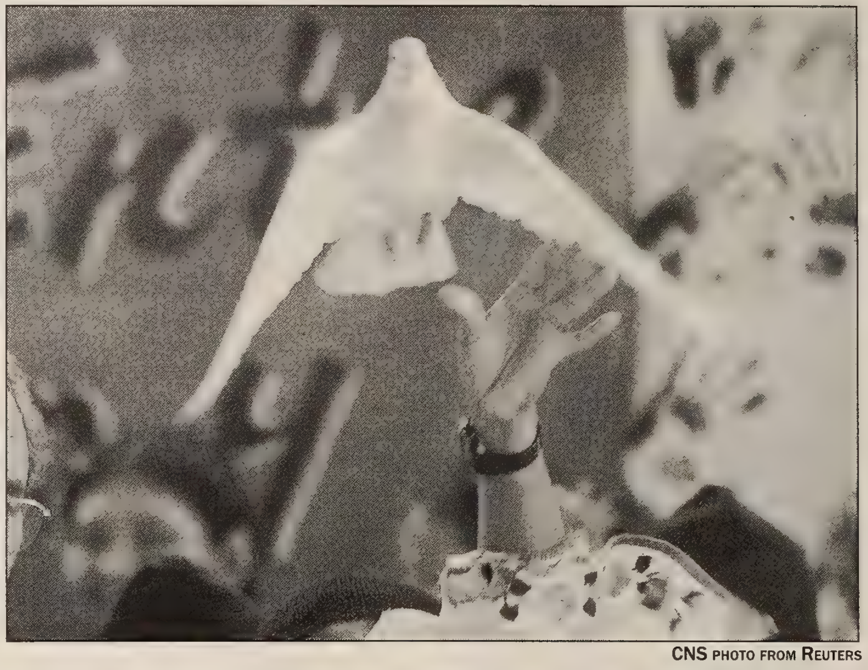


PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Let the good times roll

Three-year-old Clare Lohrmann sits for a face-painting session from Corrine Rupp, family life coordinator, at the Mardi Gras International Dinner held at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville on Feb. 25. The afternoon gathering included games, grab bags and mask decorating for the younger parishioners and bingo and a potluck dinner including ethnic dishes for the adults.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

ZAPATISTA RELEASES DOVE AT START OF MARCH

A Zapatista commander releases a dove during a rally in Oaxaca, Mexico, Feb. 26. The rally marked the start of a Zapatista march to Mexico City to meet with members of Congress on conditions for peace in the state of Chiapas, where rebel forces have being fighting for indigenous rights for seven years.

Rural life summit charts strategies to influence 2002 farm bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Rural life advocates from around the nation gathered in Washington for a Feb. 23 summit on how to influence the 2002 farm bill. The 1996 farm bill, known widely as the Freedom to Farm Act, has long been derided as hurtful to family farmers. "We want a farm bill that is fair and just, and kind to the environment," said Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, who heads the National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The rural life conference, which sponsored the summit, was one of the dozen sponsors of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, held Feb. 25-28 in Washington.

Morality in Media official decries end of L.A. porn commission

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — A 3-2 vote by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to abolish the county commission on obscenity and pornography "handed the hard-core porn industry yet another victory," said the president of Morality in Media. "It is also clear that marriage, children, public safety and health, and a decent society were the losers — not just in L.A. County but also in communities across the nation," said Robert Peters in a statement after the Feb. 20 vote. Morality in Media, a New York-based group founded by a Jesuit priest, had spearheaded a campaign to keep the county supervisors from dismantling the commission, which had existed since 1964 but was without county funding in recent years.

Cardinals to hold 'extraordinary' meeting on church's future

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Only days after creating 44 new cardinals, Pope John Paul II has convened a meeting in May of the entire College of Cardinals for a wide-ranging discussion on the church in the third millennium. The encounter, called an "extraordinary consistory," will cover issues raised in the pope's post-jubilee document, "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), which outlined the church's path in the 21st century, the Vatican announced Feb. 26. The meeting, the sixth consultative session of the College of Cardinals during Pope John Paul's pontificate, will take place May 21-24. Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga said the encounter would no doubt touch upon internal church issues and broader social justice questions.

Arizona doctor convicted of manslaughter in death after abortion

PHOENIX (CNS) — Dr. John Biskind, an abortion practitioner at the now-closed A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix, was convicted of manslaughter Feb. 20 in the death of a woman who bled to death following an abortion there in April 1998. In addition, Carol Stuart-Schadoff, former administrator of the abortion facility, was found guilty of negligent homicide in the death of LouAnne Herron, a 33-year-old mother of two who died from a punctured uterus just hours after Biskind performed a late-term abortion. Biskind, whose license to practice medicine in Arizona was suspended after he delivered a nearly full-term baby while attempting an abortion in June 1998, and Stuart-Schadoff had both been charged with manslaughter.

University's firing of Ignatius Institute directors called unjust

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — In a move that critics are calling unjust and unwise, the new president of the University of San Francisco has dismissed the directors of a 25-year-old academic program that emphasizes traditional Catholic values and Jesuit teaching methods. John Galten, director and cofounder of the St. Ignatius Institute at the Jesuit-run university, was ordered by Jesuit Father Stephen A. Privett, university president, to vacate his office Jan. 20. Also fired was assistant director John Hamlon. Paul V. Murphy, an institute professor who was named the new director, said, "Some see this as the end of the institute, but that's not the way we view it." The moves prompted a flurry of letters and e-mails from both sides and an effort to organize opposition among institute alumni.

Court weighs constitutional rights of deportable aliens

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An immigrant certainly can be deported for committing a crime, agreed the parties in two cases being reviewed by the Supreme Court. But the government and attorneys for two immigrants facing deportation resoundingly disagreed about whether the men can be imprisoned indefinitely if there is no country to which they can be deported. In oral arguments before the Supreme Court Feb. 21, attorneys for Kim Ho Ma and Kestutis Zadvydas argued that even people with final orders of deportation are protected by the Constitution from being locked up indefinitely. But an attorney for the Justice Department maintained that when an immigrant receives final deportation orders, that action automatically severs any constitutional protection he might otherwise enjoy by virtue of being in the United States.

U.S. priest in Kenya sees hope in generic AIDS drugs

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Last year, Dickson and Georgina lived close to death. Georgina, 4, shook with pneumonia and could barely stand up straight. Five-year-old Dickson's cracked face was so plastered with lesions and blisters that visitors could not bear to look at him. But in the last six months there has been a miraculous transformation. Georgina springs from the arms of her nanny and bounds down the path. On Dickson's face, an irrepressible smile has replaced the festering viral infection. The difference? A $9 daily cocktail of generic AIDS drugs they have been receiving at Nyumbani, an AIDS orphanage run by a U.S. priest on the outskirts of Nairobi. Now the tiny institution is taking on the might of global drug titans in an effort to bring life-saving drugs to millions of other dying Africans. "I'm sick and tired of saying funerals," the director, Jesuit Father Angelo D'Agostino, said. "So now we are going to try a different way."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 3 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Hispanic Center, Charlotte

March 4 — 1:30 p.m.
Rite of Election
Holy Family, Clemmons

March 5
Board of Directors Meeting
St. Mary's Seminary, Maryland

March 6 — 11 a.m.
Presbyteral Council Meeting,
Charlotte

March 7 — 10 a.m.
Mass for homeschool children
St. Patrick, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

March

3 HICKORY — The Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is meeting this morning at 10 a.m. at the Catholic Conference Center, 1551 Trinity Lane. The committee serves to promote diocesan scouting and related religious activities, and one of those upcoming events is the Catholic Camporee, held the weekend of March 30-April 1. For more information, call Henry Wallace at (704) 382-1537.

5 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Frank O'Rourke, pastor. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next Mass takes place on April 7 with Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

7 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., this morning and every first Wednesday at 10 a.m. in room 104 of the parish center and St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on March 12 at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library tonight only because of the upcoming parish mission. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual mini-Lenten retreat at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., at the 10 a.m. Masses starting

Religious ed congress summons 37,000 to be 'clothed in love'

ANAHEIM, Calif. (CNS) — The 37,000 people, including 12,000 teenagers, who attended the Feb. 15-18 Religious Education Congress at the Anaheim Convention Center were invited to clothe themselves in the love of Christ and to share that love with their parish communities and the world. It is, they were reminded, a call that is challenging and difficult, as indicated by Jesus' words to "Love your enemies" in the Feb. 18 Gospel reading. "This flies in the face of popular understanding," said Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony in his homily at the closing liturgy. "One only has to turn on the television news for a few moments, any night, and we see revenge and vengeance. Our culture, our society is filled with the opposite of God's calling."

Age limit for WYD 2002 participation lowered to 16

TORONTO (CNS) — Officials with World Youth Day 2002 announced that the age limit for participants to attend the international Catholic celebration has been lowered to 16 years. Students and young people in the 16-to-35 age group are now eligible to attend the event, scheduled for July 18-28, 2002, in Toronto. Previous World Youth Day celebrations have been limited to those at least 18 years old. The 17th annual World Youth Day is expected to attract more than 500,000 young people from 150 countries to Toronto. In addition to prayer, pilgrimage, confession, faith expression and the celebration of the Eucharist with Pope John Paul II, the 2002 event will include several opportunities for young people to take part in works of charity and social service.

NCEA joins in promoting better health coverage for children

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Catholic Educational Association has joined other Catholic organizations in promoting the availability of Medicaid and other state health insurance programs for children. The NCEA will work with Children's Health Matters, a nationwide advocacy and enrollment project of Catholic Charities agencies and Catholic hospitals that helps eligible families obtain health insurance. "This is an unprecedented alliance of the Catholic community," said Patrick Cacchione, vice president of advocacy and communications for the Carondelet Health System and chairman of the Children's Health Matters steering committee.

CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL WILHELM

CHINOOK SALMON STRUGGLES OVER RAPID

A chinook salmon struggles to make its way up rapids on the Washougal River along the Columbia River drainage in Washington state. The chinook salmon is a threatened species in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and California.

Charities' agencies spread word on short-term immigration change

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — A principal concern at Catholic Social Service agencies and other venues throughout California and the country is the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act of 2000, passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton last December. The legislation restores for a four-month period section 245i of the Immigration and Nationality Act that allows some of those in the United States illegally to apply for green cards without leaving the country. To qualify, candidates must have a close family member or employer sponsor them and must be able to prove they were physically present in the United States on Dec. 21, 2000. Those who are eligible must apply by April 30. Catholic agencies in the Sacramento Diocese and elsewhere began as early as December to assist clients in understanding requirements of the new law and in the application process.

Justice, peace conference to draw speakers from five countries

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — More than 1,500 Catholic leaders will participate in a daylong forum at a local college in March, making it the largest gathering of parish social action leaders ever sponsored by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Justice and Peace Conference III takes place March 17 at Loyola Marymount University, a conference co-sponsor, and will feature three cardinals and internationally recognized activists from the Philippines, South Africa, Vietnam, Honduras and the United States. The theme of the conference, "To Reconcile God's People," will examine experiences of reconciliation and forgiveness as an integral part of creating a just society.

Vatican official condemns use of force against Iraq

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Three days after U.S.-British airstrikes against Iraq, the Vatican's secretary of state condemned force as a means of bringing stability to the region. "Maybe some think that the problems can be resolved with force, but the Holy See thinks differently," Cardinal Angelo Sodano told reporters Feb. 19, according to ANSA, an Italian news agency. Without ever specifically referring to the Feb. 16 raids by U.S. and British warplanes against Iraqi air defense installations, the cardinal said the Vatican hoped that violent "methods do not continue. If you want peace, you have to prepare for peace." Iraq said two civilians were killed and 20 injured in the attack.

Czechs urged to declare themselves Christian in census

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The Catholic Church in the Czech Republic has launched an advertising campaign to persuade citizens to declare themselves Christians in an upcoming government census. A spokeswoman said the aim was to uphold the country's "Christian character" and reassert the church's place as an "integral part of society." In a statement, circulated in January and February, the Catholic bishops said the nationwide census offered Czechs a chance to "acknowledge their adherence to state, nation and faith." They added that the results of the census that was to begin in early March would be "significant for the state" and help the country's churches "prepare their organizational plans."

Japanese church council denounces U.S. sinking of fishing boat

TOKYO (CNS) — The Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace denounced the "war mentality" of the United States in a letter to President George W. Bush after a U.S. submarine rammed and sank a Japanese fishing vessel off Honolulu. Signed by Kimura Kenzo, secretary-general of the council, the mid-February letter deplored the "needless" tragedy, saying, "We refuse to accept this simply as another accident at sea," reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Ehime Maru, a Japanese fishing vessel with 35 people on board, sank off Honolulu Feb. 9 after the USS Greenville, a nuclear-powered submarine, hit the ship.

this morning and continuing March 14, 21, 28 and April 4. The ladies ask that attendants bring hors d'oeuvres to share after the last gathering. Call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 for more information.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Twilight evenings of reflection; involving dinner, a Lenten conference and faith sharing; are taking place this evening and on March 21 beginning at 5 p.m. at the Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane. The retreat concludes with a Eucharistic celebration at St. Margaret Church, 1422 Soco Rd. For details, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

9 MAGGIE VALLEY — The Knights of Columbus Father Michael Murphy Council of Maggie Valley and Waynesville, are having a K of C weekend retreat presented by the Augustinian Friars this weekend through March. The event is open to all Knights of Columbus, both individual and council groups. For further information, call (828) 926-3833.

10 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting "A Day Set Aside: Preparing for First Eucharist" today from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. This day; led by Diane Sepsy and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, director; is for parents and their children who are preparing for First Communion and serves as an opportunity for parents and children to deepen their understanding and experience of the Eucharist. The session includes quiet time for parents and children, lunch and a closing liturgy at 4 p.m. To register by March 1 and for more information, call (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

11 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on March 15 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on March 25 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

12 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent meets tonight and March 26 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

14 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is hosting a program, "Masculine and Feminine Grief," about the differences in the way men and women grieve and mourn. The program is for those grieving as well as bereavement ministers. For more information, call BJ Dengler at (704) 364-8431, Ext. 212.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Nussbaum funeral standing room only

By JIM SCHLOSSER
News & Record

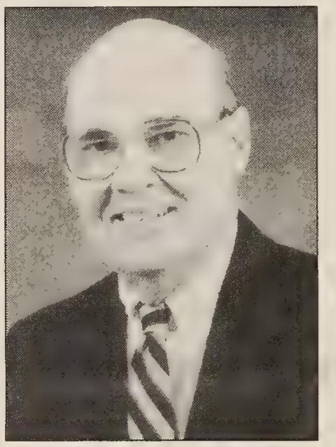
GREENSBORO — Vic Nussbaum knew no one in Greensboro and had barely heard of the city until a job brought him here a half century ago.

The Indiana native got acquainted fast and made an impression and impact. Tuesday, hundreds of admirers overflowed the long sanctuary at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and stood on the lawn outside to say farewell to Nussbaum.

Before his death Sunday at 81, Nussbaum served on the City Council from 1973-81 and as mayor from 1987-1993. He started a business — Southern Foods — that employs 300 people and headed almost every civic cause in Greensboro.

In his free time, he raised a family of nine children and devoted time to the Catholic church.

"For me, I found him one of the most noble Christian men I have ever met," declared the Most Rev. William G. Curlin, the bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte who presided at the 90-minute service.


Vic Nussbaum

Curlin said that Nussbaum, through his private life and civic and electoral work, tried to feed the poor, shelter the homeless and fight racism and prejudice because he knew "that is what it means to be a Christian."

The bishop revealed that Nussbaum would have been inducted next September as a member of the Knights of Malta, a Vatican appointment that is the highest honor a Catholic lay person can achieve.

The bishop, whose diocese includes the Greensboro area, had come to Greensboro 10 days ago to perform last rites on Nussbaum, who had cancer.

"I'm ready for whatever God wants, Bishop," Curlin quoted Nussbaum as saying.

"Christ touched us through this one good man," Curlin said.

He said Nussbaum lived his faith and made God something tangible in his life. He said when he asked Nussbaum what accomplishment he valued most — being mayor, building a business, winning civic honors — Nussbaum replied, "My faith in Jesus Christ, my love of the church and my believe in the Eucharist."

The bishop said he and Nussbaum had talked often through the years about faith and the meaning of being a Christian. He told how Nussbaum would accept a point by saying, "I'll buy that."

Nussbaum started each day attending early mass at St. Pius X Church. Because the Pius sanctuary is small, the funeral was held at the 450-seat Our Lady of Grace sanctuary. Mourners squeezed into every pew, stood along both walls and bunched together in the open space in the back. A sound system carried the service to those standing outside.

Mayor Keith Holliday and members of the City Council sat as a group. Former mayors John Forbis, who defeated Nussbaum the first time Nussbaum ran for mayor in 1981, and Jim Melvin, one of Nussbaum's closest friends, were among the mourners.

The service opened when the casket was rolled down the center aisle, part of the procession led by the bishop, fellow priests and Nussbaum's family. The audience sang "Amazing Grace." At the end, as the casket was carried out, they sang, "On Eagle's Wings." Curlin was assisted by the Rev. Anthony Marcaccio, Nussbaum's priest at St. Pius, and the Rev. Mark Lamprich of Our Lady of Grace.

The Rev. Craven Williams, president of Greensboro College, and Michael Nussbaum, a son, presented eulogies.

"We all knew he was a great man," Williams said, "but he did not. He saw himself as a servant of God."

While Nussbaum belonged to the city's elite, Williams said he showed the same graciousness and respect to the city's most humble citizens as he did those who made up "the recognized hierarchy."

Williams presided a few years ago when Nussbaum married the former Pat Austin. Nussbaum's first wife, Terry, died in 1989. Williams called Nussbaum Greensboro's "biggest cheerleader," whose signature graces projects throughout the city.

The decisions to expand the Greensboro Coliseum and build a new main library were made when Nussbaum was mayor, and the city was named an All-America City. Many observers believe his greatest legacy will be the push he made for affordable housing for low income people.

Michael Nussbaum said his dad managed a busy life by allocating his time in "small segments" to many endeavors. The segments added up to something significant.

He said his father never acted holier than thou when dispensing advice. In telling his children about the evils of racism, he would say, "Can you imagine someone missing out on meeting a new friend just because of color of skin?"

Nussbaum was buried in Westminster Gardens, not far from Southern Foods, the food processing and distribution company that he started in the 1950s. The company took out a full-page ad in the News & Record Tuesday saluting its former leader. Michael Nussbaum said drivers of company trucks making deliveries in a multi-state area stopped and parked from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday in honor of Nussbaum.

Jim Schlosser is a staff writer for the Greensboro News & Record. His story is reprinted with permission. Contact him at (336) 373-7081 or at JSchlosser@news-record.com

Parish Nurse,
from page 1

explained Fleming. "The idea is to have one parish nurse per church, but in this case, several churches banded together to pay for the nurse's position. I am one nurse for the whole community of Belmont plus wherever the churches have members, like Charlotte, Davidson and Gastonia."

Sponsored by four area churches, Queen of the Apostles Church, Fleming's home parish; First Presbyterian Church; First United Methodist Church and South Point Baptist Church and with the support of Gaston County Health Services, Fleming is the parish nurse for the Belmont community and surrounding areas. Through persistence and dedication and the desire to serve her community, Fleming rallied for this ecumenical effort after completing the parish nursing program a couple of years ago, sponsored by Presbyterian Hospital, at Queens College.

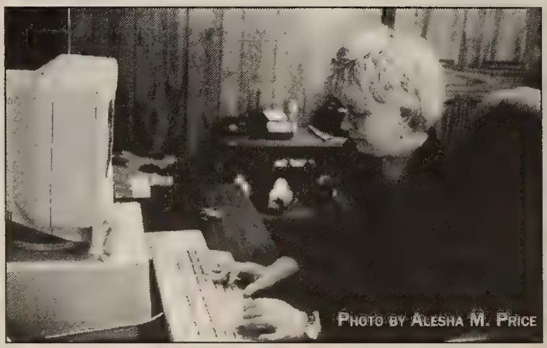


Photo by Alesha M. Price

Cheryl Fleming, the parish nurse for the Belmont community, works on one of her cases. Fleming is sponsored by four churches in the area to take care of the needs of the community.

Although a parish nurse is limited in his or her functions, the duties seem endless, and Fleming is constantly busy with several endeavors. "You can't do anything that requires a doctor's orders, like dressings, injections or administering medication. The four roles of a parish nurse involve education, resources, referrals and coordination of volunteers."

On the average, Fleming makes over 80 monthly visits to those requiring care. She also coordinates programs, like her recent "Healthy Heart Fair," where participants had their cholesterol checked and were treated to healthy foods prepared by Fleming herself, and she speaks to groups about health care and makes phone referrals. By traveling around disadvantaged neighborhoods in Belmont with the help of Reverend Kenneth Alexander, pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, she became acquainted with the citizens that she helps today.

"I liken myself to the center of the wheel. I just reach my spokes out to the people who can help. I stay in the center, see what the needs are and put people in touch with the resources they need," said Fleming. "The churches were once centers of healing, and I think they need to return to promoting healing of mind, body and spirit. I think this can be done through parish nursing."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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COURTESY PHOTO

St. Barnabas hosts father/daughter dance

ARDEN — The first Father/Daughter Dance at St. Barnabas Church in Arden brought dads and daughters of all ages together Feb. 9 for an evening of dancing.

Amidst a décor of hearts and balloons, those in attendance danced to music spun by disc jockey Joe Martone. Highlights of the evening included traditional dances such the "The Hokey Pokey" and "The Locomotion Train," Valentine's Day baked goods and souvenir photos of the fathers and their daughters.

Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor at St. Barnabas, congratulated the fathers on the example they set for their daughters that night and encouraged the building of community by church members getting to know one another better at activities such as this.

The evening's events were sponsored by the Family/Community Life Commission at the parish.

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Capuchin, NASCAR fan, sees lesson for all in Earnhardt tragedy

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Capuchin Father Martin Schratz had his topic prepared for a recent meeting with a group of local Catholic men. But a discussion on the sacrament of marriage wasn't really on the minds of the fellows gathered that night. They wanted to talk about the man people called the Intimidator.

The death of NASCAR champion driver Dale Earnhardt Feb. 18 during the final lap of the Daytona 500 left the racing world heartsick. The impact of 49-year-old Earnhardt's death still reverberates, particularly in the area around Charlotte, the heart of Carolinas' racing where the driver grew up, and, later, where he sped into racing fame.

Father Schratz, an avid fan of NASCAR, said the Earnhardt tragedy is an example of how a celebrity's death magnifies the grieving process for millions.

"NASCAR drivers become part of people's families," said Father Schratz, parochial vicar at St. Thomas Aquinas Church and in residence at Our Lady of Consolation Church.

"They're in your home every single Sunday for more than 30 weeks each year, you see them interviewed and you see their families interviewed," he said.

"People who have been into it for years watch these drivers grow. Because of who Dale Earnhardt was, he was able to enter into millions of people's lives.

"Now, he isn't going to be in people's homes every Sunday," he added. "They won't see the interviews; they're not going to hear him with his family. It affects people because they have that real attachment."

A hero to fans and an icon of success in the racing community, Earnhardt was a self-made success story from Kannapolis, a small mill town northeast of Charlotte.

His aggressive driving style on the track earned Earnhardt the nickname "the Intimidator," but fans and friends remembered Earnhardt as a man dedicated to his faith, to the community, and certainly to his craft.

Earnhardt was buried Feb. 21 at an undisclosed location after a service attended only by his family at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Mooresville.

Conversations about the deceased and people's memories are a healthy part of the grieving process, Father Schratz said, noting that his meeting with the group of men lasted more than two hours.

"We do that with death and dying; we talk about these experiences and we process them," he said, adding that the opportunity to talk about death gives people the chance to bring faith into the fold as well.

"We started talking about the whole process of dying, about how you don't know the day or the hour that God is going to call you," he said of the meeting.

"What we can learn from tragedies like this is that we must be prepared. Sure, we don't know the day or the hour, but at the same time we should live our lives to the fullest. Let's not be afraid to accept the challenges that come our way, but at the same time, let's always keep God in our family."

Father Schratz, who has been to a number of races in his years of following the sport, said faith plays an important role in the NASCAR community. An ecumenical organization called Motor Racing Outreach provides chaplains who pray with drivers and their spouses before each race, and group prayer services are common during race weekends.

The priest recalled the vivid scene of Earnhardt winning the Daytona 500 in 1998. Before the champagne showers and high-fives hit their crescendo, Earnhardt prayed with a chaplain in Victory Circle.

And while the record books speak to Earnhardt's efforts on the track, Father Schratz said the stories about the racer's benevolence in the community that are now surfacing are tributes to his quiet and giving manner off the track.

"He was giving millions to charity in different situations, and he was saying, 'Don't tell anybody. This is between you and me,'" Father Schratz said.

"I think that's the kind of person he was. He enjoyed reaching out; he was living his faith quietly. But at the same time, he stood up for what he believed in. He lived his life the way he thought he was supposed to live it, and he was a person who was in love with God."

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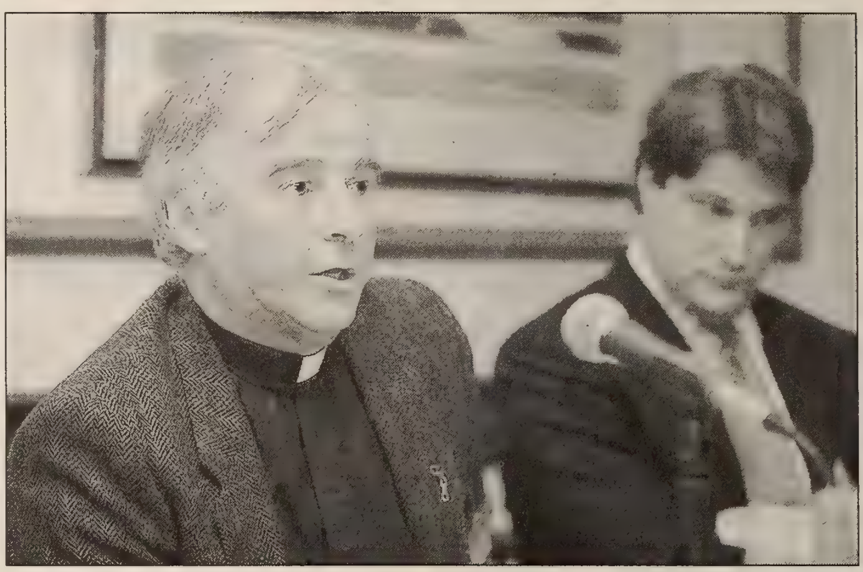
Builder razes Dorothy Day cottage on Staten Island

NEW YORK (CNS) — Only a pile of wooden rubble remains of the modest bungalow on Staten Island where Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and a candidate for sainthood, spent time during the last eight summers of her life. The cottage and two others once owned by the Catholic Worker Movement were bulldozed in early February by builder John DiScala. He bought the former beach colony where the cottages were located in 1998 with the intent of constructing a development of luxury homes. The demolition shocked preservationists, who said a hearing had been imminent on the cottage's proposed designation as a landmark by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

U.S. ambassador to Vatican has farewell meeting with pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican since late 1997, had a farewell meeting with Pope John Paul II Feb. 24 at the Vatican. Neither Boggs, appointed by former President Bill Clinton, nor the Vatican provided details about the meeting; it is customary for departing ambassadors to meet the pope before leaving Rome. Boggs, who will celebrate her 85th birthday March 16, was scheduled to return to the United States March 1. Among her last officials duties were greeting U.S. prelates inducted into the College of Cardinals Feb. 21 and a Feb. 25 celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Casa Santa Maria, which now houses U.S. priests studying in Rome.



CNS PHOTO BY MARTIN LUEDERS

PRIEST, NIKE REP ADDRESS CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Oblate Father Seamus Finn of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and Nike representative Brad Figel present a dialog on labor, human rights and the economics of responsible corporate behavior at a meeting of Catholic social ministry leaders in Washington Feb. 26. The annual meeting drew 550 people from across the country for briefings on topics ranging from farm issues to global solidarity.

Cardinal regrets writing on behalf of released drug dealer

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said he "made a serious mistake" in 1996 when he wrote a letter in support of a convicted Los Angeles cocaine dealer who was released from prison Jan. 20 by President Clinton. Carlos Vignali, serving 15 years in federal prison for bankrolling purchases of hundreds of pounds of cocaine, was among 140 people who received presidential clemency on Clinton's final day in office. The Los Angeles Times reported Feb. 12 that Cardinal Mahony and several prominent city and state political leaders had written letters to the White House on Vignali's behalf. In a statement after the appearance of the Times story, the cardinal said, "I made a serious mistake in writing to the president and I broke my decadeslong practice of never sending a letter on behalf of any person whom I did not know personally."

Making others feel welcome called essential to good liturgy

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — Making one another feel welcome is essential to what good liturgy is all about, an internationally known musician, composer, recording artist and author told parish groups in the Trenton Diocese. Grayson Warren Brown — who travels throughout the country 35 weeks a year conducting parish missions, speaking at conventions and workshops, and giving concerts — greets his audiences by giving time for them to meet and greet one another. "There is nothing that I'm going to say that is more important than what you are about to do — welcome each other and make each other feel at home," he said. "I believe that we never sit in the house of God as strangers because we are brothers and sisters in the Lord."

American loses $1 million in Rome burglary during consistory

ROME (CNS) — Thieves took more than $1 million worth of jewelry, cash and travelers checks from the Rome hotel suite of a prominent Catholic philanthropist and art patron from New York City. Florence D'Urso, 67, and her daughter, Lisa, 37, were in Rome attending the Feb. 21 consistory creating 44 new cardinals, including New York's Cardinal Edward M. Egan. The evening of the consistory, D'Urso returned to the Regina Baglioni, a luxury hotel across the street from the U.S. Embassy, to discover that her room safe was missing, according to ANSA, an Italian news agency. D'Urso told Italian police investigators that the safe contained about $1 million worth of jewelry, about $15,000 in U.S. and Italian currency, $800 dollars in travelers checks and various credit cards, a police spokesman told Catholic News Service Feb. 23.

Pope hails deceased cardinal's implementation of Vatican II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed sorrow at the death of 81-year-old Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrun Moratinos of Caracas, Venezuela, and said he faithfully implemented Second Vatican Council reforms. In a telegram of condolence Feb. 22, the pope recalled the cardinal's "selfless pastoral activity applying the doctrine of the Second Vatican Council and promoting church renewal in fidelity to Christ and to the successor of Peter." Cardinal Lebrun, retired archbishop of Caracas, died Feb. 21 in a Caracas hospital after suffering a heart attack, according to El Universal, a Venezuelan daily. Before Cardinal Lebrun's retirement in 1995, he served nearly 40 years as a bishop.

Cardinal Dulles says red is sign of service, not personal glory

ROME (CNS) — Celebrating his last Mass as a simple priest, Cardinal Avery Dulles prayed he would wear his new red garb as a sign of service to the church and not of his own glory. The 82-year-old U.S. Jesuit theologian celebrated Mass Feb. 20 at Rome's Gesu Church, where Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola lived and is buried. The professor at New York's Fordham University was to join the College of Cardinals with 43 others the next day. Cardinal Dulles said he is looking at the cardinal's vestments as a "counterpart" to the beautiful churches and basilicas that the faithful have built not as a sign of ostentation, but as a sign of gratitude and love for God.

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Christian musician reaches out in song

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — With his songs, contemporary Christian musician Greg Walton said he has found a creative way to encourage people to seek and accept God's profound love.

Walton, a Catholic who has devoted himself in full-time concert ministry for the past three years, said his message to audiences — especially youth — is based on his own experiences and faith journey.

"Holiness of life has no limitations except for that of having none," said Walton. "I really try to bring that home to the kids, to give them the opportunity to get down with God and give him any part of their lives they haven't given in his hands."

Walton performed at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte Feb. 27.

His shows are part music concert, part worship service — a testimony-laden experience that calls on audiences to recommit their lives to God.

"We really try to slam in with high energy," said Walton of his youth concerts. "And after that, I just weave in personal stories and Scripture that reinforce what I'm talking about in my songs."

During his shows, Walton calls on the audience to prayerfully and completely "surrender to the universal call to holiness" — a part of the faith journey many find difficult to manage.

Quoting from the teachings of St. Ambrose, who said Christians come upon two conversion opportunities in their lives, Walton spoke about experiences that the faithful encounter.

"A 'conversion by water' comes in the sacraments, in the church, in Christ's first choosing us, and where we become part of the Christian family," he said. "But Ambrose goes on to say that there is a necessity for a second conversion, and that is in the tears of a repentant heart. I think that a lot of Catholics are just cultural Catholics, and they never get to that second conversion, that 'conversion by tears.'

"What I hope to be is an alarm clock to the Body of Christ, to kind of wake people up and say there's more to it. God wants more of us."

Photos by Jimmy Rostar

"We're going to invite the Spirit of God to be with us tonight to revive us, to renew us in our commitment to living out his Word, to living out his truth, to living out our faith," said Greg Walton at the beginning of his Feb. 27 concert at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. The Tennessee-based Catholic singer-songwriter said music has been a catalyst for sharing his faith with others. Walton has released two albums and is at work on a third. He is a tireless performer at parishes, concerts, festivals and worship events. He also stays busy leading worship music for conferences and retreats.

Rewind...

Earlier in life as a student and young musician, Walton had to decide what God wanted from him. "In high school, God made it pretty clear to me that he wanted me to be in ministry — concert ministry in particular, in Christian contemporary music," said Walton, alluding to a conversion experience he had in his teens.

Heeding that call, Walton entered the University of Illinois-Champaign and pursued a degree in music education. He graduated, was hired right away by his home parish on the outskirts of Chicago and began directing music at the parish.

On weekends, he'd pursue his concert ministry, performing at parishes, youth conferences and other events where he could relay a message through his tunes.

After directing music at his parish for three years, he took a job in a public high school teaching choral music.

The hectic schedule of juggling his teaching and building up his music ministry began to wear on Walton, though he said the experience of leading six choirs — an extracurricular gospel choir among them — in the school was rewarding.

"I found it fit in really well with me because they had a strong appreciation for contemporary Christian music, and I couldn't get away with doing a concert without covering at least two Kirk Franklin tunes," he said with a chuckle, referring to the popular African American gospel artist. "It was a blast for me."

Fast-forward...

Though inspired by the high school youth he taught, Walton said he still felt that pull toward full-time music ministry.

"As my music ministry really picked up and advanced, it was like working two jobs," he recalled. "I was kind of a jack of all trades and a master of none."

He met Greg Menza, a contemporary Christian music veteran who had a hand in the careers of such popular acts as dc Talk and the Newsboys. While Walton prayed about his future, Menza added some encouragement.

Walton left the school after the 1997-98 school year to follow the path he said was truly meant for him. He moved from the Chicago suburbs to Columbia, Tenn., near Nashville, and Menza became Walton's ministry coordinator.

Strengthened in his love for young people as a teacher, Walton has a special affinity for performing for youth.

"My own conversion experience happened around junior high and high school, and it's really a pivotal time for everyone," he said. "I really like to get in and allow kids to get a taste of a spiritual experience with the Lord and encourage them in a radical way to realize that faith isn't just part of our cultural identity. This stuff is real; I've experienced it, and I want to give them an opportunity to experience it in their own context."

Walton has recorded two albums; the first is called "Stealing Moment," and the second, titled "Spirit of Fire," was written and produced by longtime friend and musician Mike Harrison. Walton is now in the studio recording a third.

He is a tireless performer at parishes, concerts, festivals and worship events. His visit to Charlotte came near the end of a five-state, six-day stint. He also stays busy leading worship music for conferences and retreats.

Play...

Through it all, Walton said music has been a strong catalyst for his faith.

"We are made in the image of God, and I think we have a spirit that likes to be creative — just as God was creative with the world," he said. "We are all wired in different ways for that creativity to be expressed.

"For me, it seems like the outlet for that has been music. It allows me to really interact with the Spirit of God, and I'm hopefully creating something that goes beyond myself."

Walton said his favorite moments come when he realizes his message has had a positive effect on someone.

"In writing, I really feel challenged to see that, as a Christian, I have a responsibility to make art that is excellent in all ideas — from production to song craft," he said. "If I am going to write a song, especially if it's going to be a Christian song, I want anybody to be able to listen and say, 'that's a great song' — as well as be affected by what I say."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Symposium examines ways Hispanic ministry can serve all Catholics

By MARIA FAULCONER
Catholic News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS) — According to census reports, by the year 2050, 86 percent of U.S. Catholics will be Hispanic.

But this will mean little unless Hispanic ministers are trained to serve the entire church, said Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs.

"If we, as Hispanic ministers, are not trained and formed to be ministers to all Catholics, we will be a majority in numbers, but we will not be leaders in the church," he said during a symposium for 60 national and regional Hispanic ministry leaders.

The Feb. 14-17 symposium in Colorado Springs was organized by Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya of Pueblo, Colo., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Hispanic Affairs, to refocus Hispanic ministry given the growing multicultural and multilingual nature of the U.S. church.

New circumstances "require that we find new ardor, methods and expressions that will promote a more inclusive and welcoming church," said the bishop in opening the meeting. "In the very near future there will be no majority populations."

The symposium was a follow-up to Encuentro 2000, a jubilee event sponsored by the U.S. bishops in Los Angeles last July which celebrated the cultural and ethnic diversity of the church.

Sister Marie Vianney Bilgrien, director of the Northwest Regional Office for Hispanic Affairs, said that parishes are challenged to become homes for a wide diversity of Catholics.

This involves changes in styles of prayer and singing in the liturgy, in how people are selected for leadership roles, in what social activities we offer and in parish suppers served, said the nun, a School Sister of Notre Dame.

The challenge is to create parishes that are intercultural, not just multicultural, she said.

Parallel church structures for English-speaking and Spanish-speaking Catholics must not be kept alive, she said.

Carmen Aguinaco, a member of the executive board of the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry, said Hispanic ministry must help people think from the perspective of other cultures.

"The role of Hispanic leaders in the church today is to help the church think in Spanish, as well as in other languages. To think in Spanish is to think from and within Hispanic culture," she said.

"We must also aim for the ability to think in English and in many other cultures," she said.

Sister Jane Hotstream, program director of the Mexican-American Cultural Center in San Antonio, said ministry also includes putting many descendants of immigrants in touch with their lost cultural roots.

"When their ancestors came to this land the immediate task was to assimilate and to put behind anything that would cause them to be different from the dominant group that was already established," said Sister Hotstream, a Religious Sister of Mercy.

"Processes that call for naming and getting in touch with one's cultural roots can be very frightening for this group because they are afraid that they do not have a cultural heritage," she said.

Other ideas discussed at the meeting included:

— Developing collaborative ministries to deal with formation, education, evangelization, ecumenism and multiculturalism.

— Finding ways to invite youths and young adults, the fastest growing group of Hispanics, to participate in the church.

— Getting second and third generation U.S.-born Latinos to feel welcome in church structures so that their professional skills can be utilized.

— Affirming the importance of women and offering them leadership positions within the church and society.

— Exposing racism.

— Forming leadership skills adapted to Hispanic culture such as teaching the history of Hispanic ministry to those who are not aware of their heritage.

— Developing after-school programs for youths which teach leadership skills and public speaking and which encourage the completion of high school.

— The possibility of incorporating into the liturgy elements of faith-oriented celebrations such as the "quinceanera," a 15th birthday celebration for girls, and "posadas," celebrations of the Christmas story.

Paulist Father John Hurley, executive director for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Evangelization and Missions, expressed hope "that those involved in the Hispanic dialogue going on now don't fall into the same trap that Western Europeans did when they came to this country.

"We had many similar values, the value of family, the language. When each generation got incorporated into what was then the norm, the melting pot, we lost many of those values and identities," he said.

In brief . . .

Hearst Foundation grant increases scholarships at Belmont Abbey

BELMONT — The Hearst Foundation has made a grant of $100,000 to Belmont Abbey College to fund additional scholarships for minority students from Gaston, Mecklenburg, Cleveland and Lincoln counties. The foundation made an equal grant to the college in 1993.

The scholarships have helped minority students to pursue higher education and, once enrolled, to remain in school with fewer financial worries. The addition of new scholarships will help additional underserved populations in this region, including African American, Hispanic, American Indian and Asian students.

"As the only four-year college in Gaston County, Belmont Abbey has a clear responsibility to raise the educational, and thus the economic, status of its residents," said Dr. Robert Preston, president. "Many of our students already come from Gaston, Mecklenburg, Cleveland and Lincoln counties, and we know there are more who would like to come here. These scholarships will greatly improve our ability to help these students. The Hearst Foundation has been most generous in recognizing this need and helping us to meet it."

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Catholic activists identify issues for Capitol Hill lobbying

Top issues are wage and tax help for low-wage workers, repealing of the death penalty, aid to sub-Saharan Africa, and the lifting of Cuban economic sanctions.

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Preparing for visits to Capitol Hill the next day, Catholic social activists armed themselves with talking points Feb. 26 on domestic and international policy priorities targeted by the Catholic Church in the United States.

Among the top issues were wage and tax help for low-wage workers, repeal of the death penalty, aid to sub-Saharan Africa, and the lifting of Cuban economic sanctions.

Briefings on the issues were part of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which drew more than 500 social activists to Washington Feb. 25-28.

Addressing wage and tax issues, the U.S. Catholic Conference identified three priorities: a rise in the minimum wage, expansion of the earned income tax credit, and a doubling of the child income tax credit.

Compatible minimum wage bills have been introduced in the Senate by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and in the House by Rep. David Bonior, D-Mich. It would take the national minimum wage from the current $5.15 to $6.65.

The first hike would be 60 cents immediately upon becoming law. Subsequent rises would be 50 cents on the law's one-year anniversary, and 40 cents a year after that.

"A single parent with two kids at the minimum wage is $3,000 below the poverty level," said Thomas Shellabarger, a USCC domestic policy analyst.

A minimum wage hike, he added, will also help workers currently making between $5.15 and $6.65 bring their pay upward.

Under President Bush's tax cut proposals, the child income tax credit would be doubled from the current $500 per child to $1,000, costing about $22 billion a year.

The USCC would like to make that tax credit fully refundable, meaning that many more low-income households — making $25,000 a year and less — would get that $1,000-per-child benefit even if they don't owe the federal government any taxes.

Deepak Bhargava, director of the National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support at the Center for Community Change, said it would add up to another $22 billion a year to Bush's tax-cut package.

"If you made it fully refundable," Bhargava said, "you would lift 2 million children out of poverty as soon as it was fully phased in."

Expansion of the earned income tax credit would allow low-income families with three or more children to more easily qualify for the credit. Currently, he said, about one-half to two-thirds of those who qualify for the credit receive it.

At a session on the death penalty issue, a congressional staffer and a professional lobbyist advised one group on what points were likely to be most persuasive in support of the Innocence Protection Act.

The bill, due to be introduced in early March, would require states to allow use of DNA evidence, would set standards for ensuring defendants in capital cases have competent legal help and would clarify other elements of law that are considered to add to the unfair application of the death penalty.

Peter Loge, director of the Justice Project, said the bill addresses only one aspect of the death penalty debate — the morality of the means of capital punishment.

Dan Misleh, policy adviser to the USCC domestic social development office, said any bill that helps end executions is a place to start, particularly when a total ban on capital punishment is unlikely to be approved by Congress. But the Innocence Protection Act, which had bipartisan support when introduced in the last session of Congress, "is viable," he said.

On the international front, USCC international policy adviser Frances Horner said the United States needs to increase development assistance to sub-Saharan Africa.

Even another $1 billion in assistance would bring the United States from last place among industrialized nations into a tie with the second-from-last nation, according to Horner.

The United States is also dead last by giving 0.1 percent of its gross national product in overseas development assistance, trailing Italy's 0.16 percent.

The United Nations' target of 0.7 percent is met only by Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Horner criticized the fact that the United States devotes 4.4 percent of its sub-Saharan development assistance to population planning, more than three times that of other industrialized countries.

She sarcastically called the aid program "more of us, less of them."

Another USCC international priority is the lifting of economic sanctions against Cuba, which have been in place for 40 years.

While calls to curb the sanctions have grown in recent years, neither Congress nor the White House has shown an inclination to ease them. Nor is there any guarantee that Cuba sanctions would be lifted now that Secretary of State Colin Powell has advocated easing the economic sanctions imposed upon Iraq in 1990.

Contributing to this story were Patricia Zapor and Agostino Bono.

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Book Review

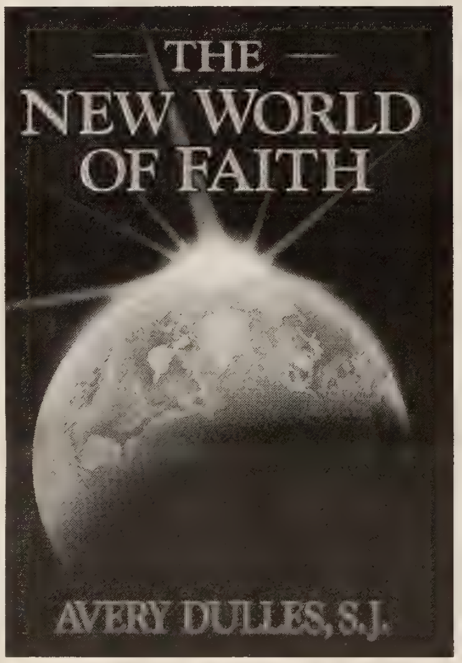
"The New World of Faith"

Book offers cardinal's gift of theological insight

BY BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In writing "The New World of Faith," Cardinal Avery Dulles has done a big favor for all Catholics who have not had the opportunity to be taught by him or who don't have the theological background to understand his earlier works.

***"The New World of Faith,"* by Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2000). 175 pp., $14.95.**



In the introduction, the eminent Jesuit theologian says he wrote "The New World of Faith" for "primarily Christian believers," for " inquirers about Christianity," and for an "audience that extends beyond the limited circle of professional theologians."

There is no need to worry that Cardinal Dulles, who was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II Feb. 21, has diluted his gift of theological insight so that a mass audience could comprehend what he has to say. It takes effort — and faith — to read this book. For Catholics genuinely interested in knowing their faith, this is an owner's manual that can be read when one has specific questions about the church, or it can be read page by page in order to gain a better understanding of the church and the faith its members profess.

While one can jump from topic to topic, it is best to read the chapters in the order they are written so as to get the full impact of what he writes.

This is definitely a history book — a narrative of Catholic history, with extensive use of Scripture to emphasize each point. It is a story of where Catholics are, where they have been, and where they are going.

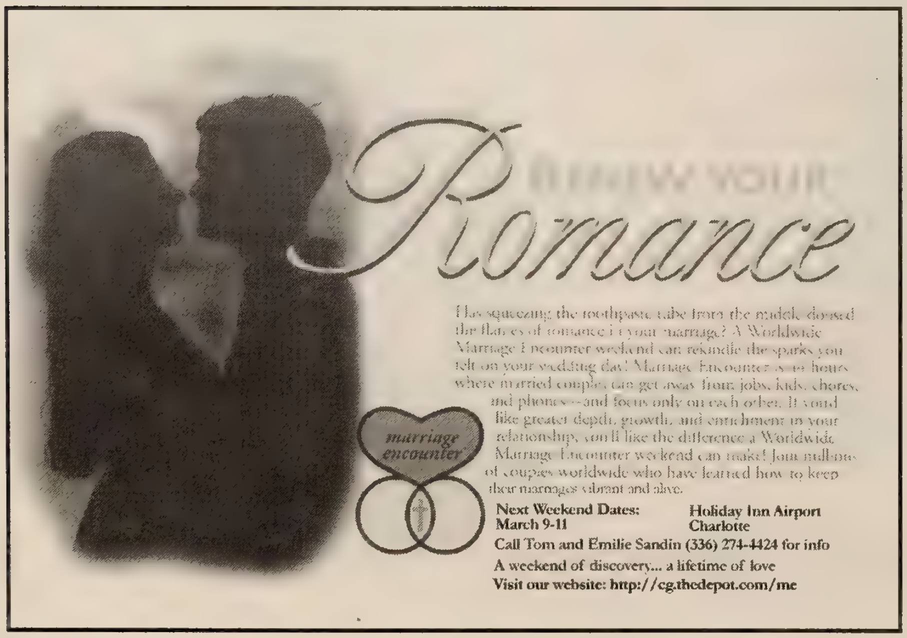
In the midst of that journey, Cardinal Dulles explains topics that are elements of Catholic life: the Trinity, saints, sacraments, evangelization, ecumenism, church structures, and life after death. He's thorough, but relatively easy to understand.

Those looking for a book to read and study as a group would do well with "The New World of Faith." Its combination of Scripture and history — and the scholarship of the author — provides answers to questions Catholics often ask about their faith.

It also will inspire readers to live their faith and to be enthused about what God has promised.

Reading, comprehending and living "The New World of Faith" is as close as most Catholics will ever get to having been taught by Cardinal Dulles. They ought to take advantage of the opportunity.

Olszewski is editor and general manager of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.



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Word to Life

March 4, First Sunday of Lent
Cycle C Readings:

1) Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15
2) Romans 10:8-13
3) Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

BY JEAN DENTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

As I observed daily life on a recent visit to a rural area of Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, I realized that this was much like the lifestyle of the people in the day when Jesus walked the earth. Probably 85 percent of the people in Haiti live without any of the modern conveniences we know in American culture. They have no electricity or running water in their homes; their clothing is modest but minimal; sanitation is difficult. There is dust everywhere — or mud after a rain.

Without much motorized transportation, people walk miles and miles to work, to market or to visit friends. They live mostly by subsistence. The general situation is impoverished.

When I read today's Gospel, I thought of my friends in that country, because if anybody knows that man does not live on bread alone, it is the Haitian people. The Old Testament reading from Deuteronomy reminded me of them, too. It talks about bringing the "first fruits" of the soil to God, who provided them, and celebrating his goodness in his presence.

I recalled the scene during a previous visit by members of my parish to our "twin" parish in Lascahobas, Haiti. During a feast-day Mass, the people processed to the altar bringing produce from their own small plots of land — not just a few symbolic baskets, but everyone contributing to an overflowing amount of freshly picked vegetables, fruits, grains, breads and even a live chicken.

The poor families joyfully brought their best offerings because even though they had very little, they were deeply thankful for what they had received and keenly aware that it had come through the favor of a loving God. After Mass, all the gifts were brought to the parish rectory. Many of them were immediately cooked or put on the dinner table where they were shared at a festive communal meal with the priests, our group of American visitors, lay leaders and many parishioners who joined us. We did just as the Lord had instructed Moses: "Then you and your family, together with the Levite and the aliens who live among you, shall make merry over all these good things which the Lord, your God, has given you."

We, the aliens among our Haitian hosts, learned much about God's goodness and the true gratitude and love of his most faithful people — and it was certainly not on bread that we thrived that day.

QUESTIONS:

What are the "first fruits" you produce in your life? What, of these, can you present (and in what way) to God in gratitude for his favor?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 4 - 10, 2001

First Sunday of Lent, Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Roman 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13; **Monday,** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Wednesday (Sts. Perpetua & Felicity),** Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 11:29-32; **Thursday (St. John of God),** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25 or 4:17, Matthew 7:7-12; **Friday (St. Frances of Rome),** Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26; **Saturday,** Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

Readings for the week of Mar. 11 - 17, 2001

Second Sunday of Lent, Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36; **Monday,** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday,** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday,** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday,** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (St. Patrick),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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"3000 Miles To Graceland" a visually assaulting film

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Had "The King" been watching this film, he would have left the building — and quickly.

Director Demian Lichtenstein's vicious "3000 Miles to Graceland" (Warner Bros.) is about a group of ex-cons led by Kevin Costner and Kurt Russell who pull off a Las Vegas casino heist dressed up as Elvis impersonators during International Elvis Week. Not exactly the kind of film that would bolster support for prisoner rehabilitation.

Lichenstein's focus is not so much in telling a coherent story but in creating a visually assaulting film. Violence — not Elvis — is king here. Extended scenes of brutal gunfire exchange, with the body count piling high, are shown in slow motion. Blood flows like water. And in the end, criminals literally sail off into the sunset, without any moral or legal consequences to their actions.

Brandishing exaggerated sideburns, Costner plays Thomas Murphy, the Elvis-obsessed mastermind behind the casino robbery. Second in command — and freshly out of prison — is Michael Zane (Russell), also an Elvis fan, as are the rest of the gang members, who include David Arquette, Christian Slater and Bokeem Woodbine.

In the middle of this savage display of testosterone is Courteney Cox Arquette as Michael's love interest, Cybil Waingrow. He just happens to pick her up at the sleazy roadside motel where they are both staying and then can't seem to get rid of her. And, oh, Cybil has a young son (David Kaye) whose sticky fingers get him into all kinds of trouble.

Television commercials for the film show the group dressed to the nines in polyester bell-bottomed jumpsuits with colorful beading and high collars. The Elvis terrorists even seem to have a sense of humor exchanging quips as Elvis songs blare in the background. But don't be misled, as this is no comedy.

Greed leads to savage complications soon after the $3.2 million holdup (upping the body count), and the film switches gears to become a lethal road movie. Murphy chases Michael, whom he thinks has gotten away with the money. Cybil is after both Michael and the cash. Little of this makes narrative sense, but all of it is shown in a ferociously in-your-face manner.

Ruthless Cybil uses her child as a bargaining chip to manipulate Michael and outwit him for the millions. Her late-in-the-game concerned-mother act is unconvincing. One extraneous scene has a pretty nymphet in a flowery dress running off with Murphy — who has just killed her greasy lover — then being handed over to some Hell's Angels-like bikers.

Buried deep in the plot is the underlying detail that both Michael and Murphy are illegitimate sons of Elvis. The narrative hints that since they haven't been recognized as blood relatives, they need to rob in order to afford the kind of lifestyle their hip-swaying pop would have wanted for them.

Prominently dangling around Russell's neck is a gold charm with the initials "TCB." The letters stand for Elvis' favorite expression, "taking care of business." If only filmmakers would have taken care of business and made a better movie.

Because of excessive violence with gore, a few explicit sexual encounters and situations, some profanity and recurring foul language, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

Navarro is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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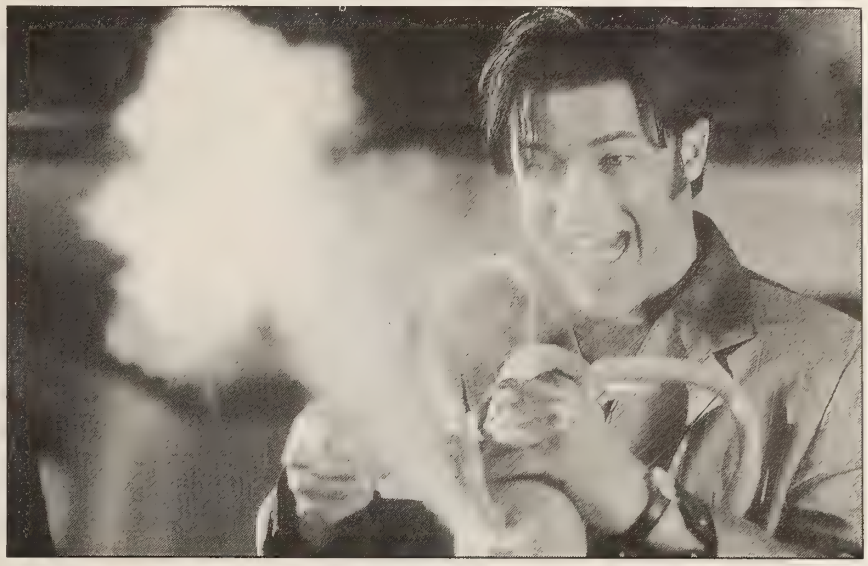

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

'MONKEYBONE'

Brendan Fraser stars in the feature film "Monkeybone". The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"America 1900" (1998)

Documentary surveying the optimistic state of the union a century ago when such inventions as the telephone, electric light, phonograph, motion picture, indoor plumbing and automobile buoyed American confidence in the future. Narrator David McCullough then crisply recalls the 1900 presidential campaign and such issues such as racial tensions, environmental problems and our role as a world power, problems which we still confront a century later. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (PBS Home Video)

"Beautiful" (2000)

Drab comedy about a small-town Illinois girl (Minnie Driver) who dedicates herself to winning the Miss America beauty pageant as a means to escape her otherwise gloomy life. Overly long and dull, Sally Field's directorial debut fails to make any relevant statements about society's fixation on physical beauty while rewarding selfish actions with an implausible ending. Implied promiscuity resulting in an illegitimate birth, an instance of rough language and fleeting profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia TriStar)

"Bedazzled" (2000)

Mediocre comedy in which a socially inept computer technician (Brendan Fraser) sells his soul to the devil (Elizabeth Hurley) in exchange for seven wishes to win the love of his beautiful co-worker (Frances O'Connor), but the wishes don't turn out quite the way he intended. Although the twists on the requests are cleverly conceived, director Harold Ramis' tiresome film emphasizes makeup and costuming more than humorous substance. Some drug content, brief comically intended violence and homosexual innuendo, occasional sex-related humor and a few instances of crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Fox)

"Butterfly" (2000)

Moving drama set in 1936 Spain just before the eruption of the Civil War about an extraordinary relationship between a shy, young boy (Manuel Lozano) and his compassionate and liberal school teacher (Fernando Fernan-Gomez). Director Jose Luis Cuerda's intelligent film aptly captures coming-of-age moments in a boy's life as the tension of pre-fascist Spain subtly fuels the film's momentum. One fairly vivid sexual encounter with rear nudity and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax)

"The Contender" (2000)

Politically charged drama in which a Democratic senator's (Joan Allen) vice-presidential confirmation is derailed by the discovery of an alleged sexual misadventure in her past by a vengeful Republican congressman (Gary Oldman). Director Rod Lurie's left-leaning, wordy thriller has some engrossing moments, but it loses its appeal in its portrayal of politically conservative characters as caricatures. Brief, vivid scenes of sexual encounters with nudity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (DreamWorks)

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope tells cardinals, families consistory was new page in history

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting with family members and friends of 44 cardinals created in a Feb. 21 consistory, Pope John Paul II said the event marked a "new page in the church's history."

Speaking alternately in 10 languages in the Vatican's audience hall Feb. 23, the pope said that induction into the College of Cardinals tied the new cardinals and the 27 national churches they represent more closely to Rome.

Among the pilgrims were hundreds of Americans, in Rome to witness the elevation of Washington's Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, New York's Cardinal Edward M. Egan, and Cardinal Avery Dulles, a Jesuit theologian.

The pope said his pastoral visits to English-speaking countries, including the United States, had afforded him a glimpse of the "immense riches of the cultures from which you come."

"Now the new cardinals place these riches still more generously at the service of the universal church as they are more closely united with the successor of the Apostle Peter in the task of proclaiming the Gospel to all nations," he said.

The pope told German pilgrims that his creation of four new cardinals from their country was a "sign of esteem" for the German church, which has had a sometimes tense relationship with the Vatican in recent years.

Speaking to Ukrainians, he said that the elevation of two of their countrymen to cardinal's rank should be "a sign of the universal church's gratitude for all the priests and faithful in Ukraine" who remained faithful to Christ and the pope throughout Soviet persecution.

The pope is scheduled to visit Ukraine in June.

Pope hails deceased cardinal's implementation of Vatican II

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II expressed sorrow at the death of 81-year-old Cardinal Jose Ali Lebrun Moratinos of Caracas, Venezuela, and said he faithfully implemented Second Vatican Council reforms.

In a telegram of condolence Feb. 22, the pope recalled the cardinal's "selfless pastoral activity applying the doctrine of the Second Vatican Council and promoting church renewal in fidelity to Christ and to the successor of Peter."

Cardinal Lebrun, retired archbishop of Caracas, died Feb. 21 in a Caracas hospital after suffering a heart attack, according to El Universal, a Venezuelan daily. Before Cardinal Lebrun's retirement in 1995, he served nearly 40 years as a bishop in four Venezuelan dioceses.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

St. Patrick's enduring appeal

When we think of March, the first thing that comes to mind is St. Patrick, the great apostle to Ireland. He is remembered as the leader who fought crime and injustice in this land, not with anger and vengeance, but with love — and led the people to faith in God.

St. Patrick's extraordinary life was a glowing witness to what can happen to a person who opens his or her life to Christ and remains forever faithful in this union.

This year I began thinking about St. Patrick back in January when I got a letter from Chuck Thompson of Houston, Texas, a longtime reader of my column. He sent a flyer he produced called "St. Patrick Notes." The notes focused on St. Patrick's unselfish love.

"The love that St. Patrick gave is celebrated everywhere. His good work had a sublime effect not only on the Irish, but upon the world. His successful mission was a world event," Thompson said.

Patrick certainly would be a saint for our times, considering all he went through. He had a good life living with his Christian family on the western coast of Britain until he was 16. Then, Irish raiders attacked, around the year 406, and in the midst of the fighting, the fire and confusions, Patrick saw his sister dragged away by them, as he himself was kidnapped and then brought to the strange land of Ireland where he was made a slave.

"I was chastened exceedingly and humbled every day in hunger and nakedness," he later wrote. It was six years before Patrick was able to escape and begin the risky journey back to his family. But, remarkably, those years did not throw him into anger and despair.

"He bore the scars of a terrible ordeal, but also the zeal of a profound faith. In the light of this faith, he was convinced that both his sufferings and his deliverance had been ordained for some divine purpose," Robert Ellsberg wrote in his award-winning book "All Saints" (Crossroad). That belief led him back to the country that had treated him so unjustly, and the rest is history.

"The Gospel drove Patrick to return to his oppressors that he might devote his life to their peaceful conversion and the cause of their salvation," Ellsberg wrote. "But the spiritual conquest of Ireland followed the prior victory of love over the anger and bitterness in his own heart."

Sadly, the peace and love that St. Patrick brought to Ireland became uprooted down the centuries because of political, cultural and religious rivalry. While we celebrate his feast day, it should also be a day to beg his heavenly help in gaining a permanent peace in Ireland.

"If the memory of this dimension of St. Patrick's life had long ago become a feature of his feast day celebration, it might truly be said that there are no 'serpents' left in Ireland," concluded Ellsberg.

Guest Column

FATHER PAUL BRANT, SJ
Guest Columnist

Improving the immigration system

I'd like to begin with a retelling of something that happened on my recent visit to Mexico.

On his family ranch overlooking a favorite tourist spot in central Mexico, Don "Salvador" and I finished loading the minivan. We began the round of goodbyes to his family gathered around; only 8-year-old Marisol had tears in her eyes this time. His wife, four small children and six adult children, their wives and his grandchildren and a bunch of cousins were accustomed to this scene. Don Salvador would return in six or seven months to harvest the beans and corn which others will sow. He and I were leaving to travel 38 hours by car to our work in eastern N.C. He works with a hog farmer, and I am his itinerant pastor. My flock and I travel a lot. Some of them more than I, under vastly different circumstances.

For example, his son "Johnny" leaves about now, from ranch to U.S.-Mexican Border, on a bus. Then under cover of night, he and several relatives will "go over the mountain" on foot, crossing the border. They will hide outside by day from the Border Patrol with their binoculars and infrared detectors, surveillance helicopters and motorized patrols. The Mexicans move like commandos 12 miles a night. After five days of this cat-and-mouse leapfrogging, eating the minimum like people in flight, they will arrive at a safe house 50 miles inside Texas where they will eat and rest, meet the van to ride to their work in eastern N.C. Johnny leaves behind his wife and 9-month old daughter, in the home at the edge of Don Salvador's property that Johnny built with the money he earns at minimum wage in N.C. If they are caught, they have to start all over again. Last year, cousin Alberto didn't hide well enough, and was returned by his "migra" interceptors to the Mexican side. The whole group of seven brothers and cousins was delayed for two weeks while Alberto made a successful crossing. They are accustomed to the crossing, and pay only about $500, Texas to N.C. Others who depend on hired "coyotes" who are more or less reliable pay them an average of $1,800 for their crossing, which may be more or less rapid, more or less secure from Border Patrol detection, more or less safe from extreme hunger and cold, snakes and scorpions and exploitation by the same "coyotes." Women entering this way, and many do, are even more at risk.

If successful, Johnny will arrive to share an old trailer with eight-15 other men, get work within six weeks, work for 50 hours a week until next November, spend $300 a month on himself send $200 a month to his wife and save the rest. He will pay all his debts and probably have savings of a couple of thousand dollars when he returns. His employer, not knowing that he is undocumented and working with counterfeited papers, will have deducted at least the mandatory 9 percent of his salary for Social Security and Medicare contributions which Johnny is not entitled to. His employer will be very satisfied with Johnny's work — he shows up every day unless he is too sick to move, works hard, and doesn't complain.

Salvador rode in style with the "padrecito" and son Johnny crosses like a hunted animal. WHY? Salvador has a visa and Johnny can't get one. WHY?

The problem is not with these essential workers like Johnny or with the jobs they fill; the problem is, as many, including the American Catholic Bishops, have said, that our immigration system is out of date. Our

See GUEST COLUMN, page 15

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Instruments of peace

March 1, 1961, not two months into his new administration, President John F. Kennedy brought a dream into reality. That was the date when the Peace Corps was launched. In his inaugural address, Kennedy had proclaimed: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." But the next sentence suggested that his vision was universal. "My fellow citizens of the world," he continued, "ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

Kennedy realized what Pope John XXIII meant when he said that "peace begins with development." A "developed" nation, then, has food for its people, a stable yet growing economy, and the wherewithal to exist without total dependence on other nations. It is a country with real possibility. And so he initiated the Peace Corps.

Throughout my priesthood, I've met many of those who have served in this great volunteer organization. Each came to a number of new understandings about people through their experience of giving. One in particular, a woman named Gina, told me that her life was forever changed by the two years she served in the Peace Corps.

First, Gina told me it broadened her knowledge of the ways people live. Even the most seriously deprived American cannot compare to the utter poverty known by the people she served in a small town in Ghana. Gina also came to see that it was not the grand gesture, the huge food shipment or major charitable gift that mattered to people on a one-to-one basis. It was, instead, the little things done to communicate true caring. Holding a baby for the mother who was barely able to handle her two other youngsters. Bothering to struggle to learn the local language as a sign of respect for their culture.

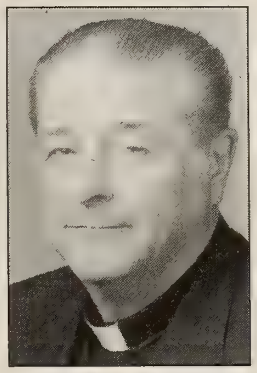
And, finally, Gina told me that nothing meant more to people she met than a volunteer's disposition. When some Americans arrived, they'd act as if they were saviors to the downtrodden. Much as their help was, in fact, needed, these folks never truly connected with the locals. For others, like Gina, there was a connection. These were the volunteers who carried with them an attitude of gratitude. They were grateful for the chance to enter into the lives of the people they met. They appreciated the chance to make a difference for the better. "People," Gina told me, "can usually read your hearts. Especially the poor. They don't want to be an object of your pity. In fact, they resist even accepting charity they desperately need when it's given from a haughty heart. But when you give with gladness, when you give with recognition that it's your privilege to serve, it makes the giving and the response not a deed of social activism. It makes it true friendship."

The Peace Corps, forty years old this year, was a brilliant concept. Sargent Shriver, its first director, described it this way: "The Peace Corps is thousands of human beings at peace — with themselves, their fellow man, with the world. Why? Because they saved their own lives. How? By giving themselves away."

Whether in your own neighborhood or halfway around the world, try giving yourself away. You may be surprised at how much you get back.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST



Organ donation

Q. In reference to your recent column concerning the status of the human body after death, please explain the acceptability of disturbing the deceased body through organ harvesting.

Following my wife's death at Cabrini Hospital, I was asked to agree to an organ donation to another patient. I did not agree. Since then I have wondered whether I allowed my sorrow to interfere with her lifetime of generosity. What do you think?

A. Sharing organs of deceased relatives with people still living who need those organs is approved and advocated often in Catholic circles today, including recommendations by the pope himself.

The tradition and present teaching of the Catholic Church strongly support the principle and practice of giving an organ of one's body to another. This is true even when the donor is alive, as, for example, when one family member gives one of his or her kidneys to a brother or sister.

Even more, therefore, is it an act of charity to allow a living person to enjoy a healthy or longer life by receiving a heart or an eye or other body part from one who has died.

Your comment about your wife's past generosity is worth thinking about. Over a lifetime of love and sacrifice, we all in one way or another give our lives to other people. If something that has been ours can still do good for someone else after we die, why not?

Pope John Paul II repeated this position some time ago, speaking of the shortage of donors for patients awaiting transplants. It is a matter of Christian generosity, he said. "No solution will be forthcoming without a renewed sense of human solidarity," based on Christ's example, which can "inspire men and women to make great sacrifices in the service of others" (address of April 30, 1990).

A Uniform Donor Card providing for the gift of part of one's body to a living person who needs it, or all of one's body for education research, may be obtained from Living Bank, Box 6725, Houston, Texas 77265. Phone: 713-528-2971.

Also, many states now provide organ donor forms on the reverse side of, or attached to, driver's licenses. These forms must be filled out and signed.

Obviously, it is wise to discuss plans for organ donation with loved ones beforehand. Among other things, it allows those who are left behind to know the personal wishes of the spouse or other family member who has died, which is, of course, an important moral concern.

Shroud of Turin

Q. What is the Catholic Church's present teaching about the Shroud of Turin? Is it now accepted as the cloth in which Jesus was wrapped after the crucifixion?

A. The so-called Shroud of Turin, which bears the image of a human person and is alleged by some to have been wrapped around the body of Our Lord, apparently came to Europe sometime during the Crusades.

The Archdiocese of Turin has possessed the shroud for centuries. In 1988, officials there authorized a carbon-dating of the cloth by three scientific laboratories, working independently.

The tests indicated a 95 percent certainty that the cloth was made between the years 1250 and 1390.

These findings have been disputed by certain other experts, but the Catholic Church has no official position on the origin or age of the shroud.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER PATRICK SHELTON, O.S.B., VF
GUEST COLUMNIST

Lenten Thoughts

I was twenty-three years old at the time, about a year into owning a small neighborhood grocery store, the Maple Avenue Dairy, in Niles, Ohio. A man came into the store to purchase some items, and when I mentioned my name, he said, "Oh, you're Jim Shelton's son. I work with him at the G.E. plant. He is the finest human being I have every met!" A few days later I had a similar experience, as another customer introduced himself and spoke with deep regard for my father. "Your father makes being a Christian seem easy," the man said. Forty-eight years have passed by, but I still remember as though it was yesterday what those men said. And I still have a deep pride and love for my father who made "being a Christian seem easy."

The fact is, we all know that being a Christian is not easy. My father gave up a life as a farmer, moved to the city and worked in factories for the sake of my mother, who despised farm life. My parents raised seven children during the Depression and saw the home that they had been paying on for nine years taken from them. My mother died when I was eighteen years old, and my father carried on the responsibility of raising his children. I was able to purchase my store thanks to my father's willingness to mortgage our home. (It took two weeks for Dad to make this decision, as he weighed the risk of losing a second home against my ability to make a go in the business world. In the end, love for his son won out over any fear that I might fail).

Lent, for me, is a time to remember that I am not yet my father. I still would benefit from a change of heart that would make me more like my Dad. St. Benedict, in his Rule for Monks, says that monastic life, which is a recommitment to our baptismal covenant, should be a "continuous Lent." He did not mean that a monk should be cheerless and constantly crying over his sins (though sorrow for sin certainly has its place), but rather that anyone who claims to be following Christ needs to be living out daily the conversion process. And, in Benedict's day, at least, most Christians only thought about conversion during the Lenten season. I have no doubt that if St. Benedict were to have met my father he would have embraced him as a monk's monk, a man who kept a continuous Lent.

I suggest that all who read these words can easily recall a deceased loved one much like my Dad. Why not take a few minutes today and write down one or two of that individual's Christ-like qualities, qualities that are yet to become part of your life. And then resolve to do your best this Lent at entering into a personal conversion that will be true to that person's memory. This may be easier to accomplish than you think. You will not be alone in the effort. Your loved one will be with you every step of the way.

Father Patrick Shelton, O.S.B., is pastor at St. James parish in Hamlet, N.C.

Two parishes in Diocese named "Excellent Parish" in nationwide study

"The local church is still where most people look for spiritual nourishment and for guidance for their lives." — Paul Wilkes

WILMINGTON, N.C. - St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and Holy Family Church in Clemmons have been named two of America's outstanding Catholic parishes in a nationwide study.

A team of researchers from the Parish/Congregation Study, based at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, spent two years searching for local church excellence.

The study, underwritten by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, combed the country for the best examples of local church excellence, both Catholic and Protestant. Size or location, denominational affiliation or lack of one were not important, but a certain "habit of being" was.

"These parishes we found are simply wonderful places to be. They not only take care of their members and the newcomer, but reach out generously into the world. I am absolutely amazed with the abundance of goodness and greatness that was found," Wilkes said.

The study identified 300 excellent Catholic parishes and 300 excellent Protestant congregations nationwide, which will be included in two soon-to-be published companion books: "Excellent Catholic Parishes: The Guide to Best Places and Practices" (Paulist Press) and "Excellent Protestant Congregations: The Guide to Best Places and Practices" (Westminster John Knox). St. Gabriel will be included in an annotated, state-by-state index of outstanding parishes across the country in "Excellent Catholic Parishes," which will be available in February 2001.

St. Gabriel has also been invited to take part in the Pastoral Summit, a nationwide conference to be held May 30 - June 1 in New Orleans, which grew out of the Parish/Congregation Study research. The Pastoral Summit will bring together some of the country's best pastors, church staff, and lay leaders. "We went in search of excellence and found it in abundance," Wilkes said. "Now we want to share this wealth because, quite frankly, most of the innovative pastoral approaches are also the most practical — and possible — for churches of all sizes, wherever they might be found in the country."

The groundbreaking Pastoral Summit will assemble, for the first time on a national level, both Catholics and Protestants, to concentrate on achieving excellence in the local church. The conference will feature workshops led by Catholic and Protestant pastors and lay leaders — many of them featured in Wilkes' book — workshops, discussions, and conference-wide prayer and worship. "The beauty of the Summit is that we are not talking about doctrinal differences or ideologies that may sometimes be in conflict, but simply about pastoral excellence," Wilkes said. "The local church is still where most people look for spiritual nourishment and for guidance for their lives. The Summit will hold up some of the best models we have of church life so that pastors and lay leaders can learn from some of the most vital churches in the country."

The Summit will represent a broad range of denominations, church sizes, and geographical locations. From a tiny Lutheran church in rural Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, to a venerable Boston-area Catholic parish, from an evangelical Southern Baptist church in Denver to El Paso's vibrant St. Pius X, the approaches and programs they employ are as varied as the churches themselves. "These churches are beacons of hope in a very confused time when people are looking for moral guidance and a sense of belonging, of true community," Wilkes said.

Paul Wilkes, the project director, is the author of numerous books and articles on religious belief and practice, including his latest book, "Beyond the Walls: Monastic Wisdom for Everyday Life." Melanie Bruce and Marty Minchin are the study's research associates.

Woman begins Franciscan novitiate

TIFFIN, Ohio — Arlid Barrera was received as a novice into the congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio, on Feb. 11 at a prayer service in the St. Francis convent chapel. Sister Arlid lived with Tiffin Franciscan Sisters in Lenoir in the Diocese of Charlotte as a candidate of the Sisters of St. Francis starting in March 2000.

Sister Arlid began her acquaintance with the Sisters of St. Francis a number of years ago as sisters lived and ministered among the Hispanic-Latino people of northern North Carolina.

On Feb. 11, Sister Arlid began a two-year novitiate experience with an intensive focus on prayer, study, learning and experiencing the mission of the Sisters of St. Francis as it is lived out in their daily lives.

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Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Child Care Provider: Room At The Inn, a Catholic maternity home for single, pregnant mothers located in Charlotte, needs a full-time Child Care Provider. Experience preferred. Call Trish for more information: (704)525-4673.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Music Ministry: Part-time position for growing 800-member parish. St. Mary's Church, Shelby and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain is seeking qualified person proficient in organ and with vocal ability to work with cantors and choir. Responsibilities include one Saturday evening service and two Sunday services (one in Kings Mountain and one in Shelby). Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to: St. Mary's Music Search Committee, 818 McGowan Rd., Shelby NC 28150 or Fax: (704)487-0187. For more information on our parish, visit www.rc.net/charlotte/stmaryshelby

Faith Formation Coordinator: Part-time. This position is for grades K-6 and Confirmation Program. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Pleas send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Ann's Church, 3635 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

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Principal, Elementary: Catholic Elementary School, north Atlanta. Candidate must be Catholic with M. Ed. in Administration. Seeking enthusiastic, spiritual and progressive leader, dedicated to academic excellence and parish community involvement. 500-student enrollment in grades K-8; on the leading edge of technology and curriculum development. Application deadline: March 9; start date: July 1. Resumes to: Principal Search Committee, St. Jude the Apostle School, 7171 Glenridge Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30328. www.saintjude.net

Principal, Elementary: Saint Mark parish will be opening a new K-8 coeducational school of 450 students in September 2002. The successful candidate will begin work July 2, 2001 and will have the responsibility of performing all tasks necessary to organize, manage, and open the school. The candidate will be a practicing Catholic, have a master's degree with 5 years' experience as an elementary school administrator and hold or be qualified for North Carolina elementary principal certification. Competitive salary and fringe benefits. Send a resume and letter explaining philosophy of Catholic education, description of leadership and management style, any experience opening a new school, and salary requirements to: Search Committee, Saint Mark Catholic School, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.

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Log Cabin for Rent: Are you looking for a quiet get-away place, a possible silent retreat location? Ten minutes to local Catholic Church. This 2/2 is situated just outside Banner Elk, on a hillside overlooking the valley below and the mountains in front of you. It is ideal as meditation platform, surrounded by woods in the rear and rockers and bird feeders about the full covered porch to the south. Walking trails just outside the door. This cabin is rustic yet fully furnished with modern furnishing. Call (828)898-5328.

Property For Sale: Prime piece in Waxhaw. Approximately 7.5 acres land in town; perfect Bed and Breakfast, wedding chapel, or a to-be-restored house and carriage house; may possibly be re-zoned for light business. Inquiries: (704)843-4603 or (704)996-0313.

Guest Column,
from page 5

economy has changed since 1952 when the current system was established; the visa system for these essential workers has not.

The American Economy and decreasing U.S. fertility has created a labor shortage all over the country. In Mexico, for example, there is a close-by surplus of available labor. Foreign nationals fill millions of essential jobs! Many of them like Johnny cannot obtain legal work authorization. The work he does is essential in two senses. For him, because he can't find work paying a living wage in Mexico. For his employer here, because there are no citizens willing or available to do the work he does, he must hire Johnny or close his doors.

The problem will not go away. It is not short-term. Demographics show that over the next 20-30 years, a large percentage of our work force will retire. Who will replace them? How can we ensure that they work legally?

Readers who are affected by the problem, either as employers or out of the solidarity they feel with people like Johnny, will want to attend the Legal Immigration Forum to be held Friday, March 16 in Greensboro. There you will hear experts from industry, government, education, churches, foundations and the legal community discuss viable alternatives to improve the current immigration system and suggest ways to make them happen.

Among the sponsors of the Forum are the Diocese of Raleigh, the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus, the North Carolina Legal Immigration Coalition and the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.

Further information from Father Paul Brant, S.J., (252) 635-9429; for registration, contact HR Partners, Inc. at (336) 883-2200 (e-mail: info@HRPartnersinc.com)

Priest named U.S. head of Pontifical Mission Societies

WASHINGTON — Father John E. Kozar, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been named the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States.

Included are the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter Apostle, and the Missionary Union of Priests and Religious. They are part of the Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Father Kozar was appointed by Cardinal Josef Tomko, head of the Evangelization Congregation. The aannouncement in the United States was made by Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in a February 16 letter to Father Kozar.

Father Kozar's term is effective immediately. He succeeds Auxiliary Bishop William J. McCormack of New York, who has been national director of the Societies since 1980. The Societies are headquartered in Manhattan.

In announcing the appointment, Bishop Fiorenza congratulated Father Kozar and expressed the congratulations of Cardinal Tomko, Archbishop Marcello Zago, O.M.I., secretary at the Evangelization Congregation, and Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Bishop Fiorenza added that Archbishop Montalvo wished Father Kozar to know of the Nuncio's desire to cooperate with him "in this most important work of the Universal Church."

In a separate letter, Bishop Fiorenza thanked Bishop McCormack for his service to the missionary efforts of this country.

"Bishop McCormack, the entire Church owes its gratitude to you for 21 years of generous service to the missions," Bishop Fiorenza said. "You have helped to educate U.S. Catholics to the work of the missions that is part and parcel of our faith. By your travels to missionary lands you have provided firsthand proof of how much the people of our country care for those in need and are willing to share their resources with them. Your service to the Church has been of inestimable value and it is one of which the Bishops of the United States are very proud. The trust of the Holy See and our trust have been well placed in you."

Father Kozar, 55, was ordained a priest in 1971. He received his bachelor's degree from St. Meinrad Seminary College in Indiana and his master of divinity degree from St. Mary Seminary and University, Baltimore. As a seminarian he worked in a Peru mission on a summer assignment. Prior to the appointment as national director, he was administrator of St. Mary's Parish, Aleppo Township, and director of the Pittsburgh diocesan offices for the Propagation of the Faith, the Holy Childhood Association, and Catholic Relief Services.

In accepting the appointment, Father Kozar noted his interest in the missions began when he was in elementary school and heard the heroic tales of visiting missionaries.

This appointment, he said, "is the newest segment in my missionary journey. I look forward to sharing the richness of the Church's missionary vocation with the faithful of the United States."

He also expressed gratitude for the confidence placed in him by Cardinal Tomko, Bishop Fiorenza and Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh.

Bishop Wuerl spoke of the pride the Pittsburgh Diocese feels in the Holy See's tapping one of its priests for this work.

"Father Kozar's great pastoral sensitivity and missionary commitment is evident to all of his brother priests and all the members of our local Church," Bishop Wuerl said. "He has served the missions so well, especially our diocesan supported mission in Chimbote, Peru, throughout his priesthood."

The Propagation of the Faith last year collected $64 million from Catholics of the United States for missionary efforts around the world. Through offerings of Catholics worldwide, which last year totaled $160.9 million, the Propagation of the Faith provides ongoing support for the pastoral and evangelizing programs of the Catholic Church in Africa, Asia, the islands of the Pacific and remote regions of Latin America.

Bishop McCormack hailed the efforts of Catholics in the United States.

"The principle objective of the societies is to stimulate the missionary spirit that's inherent in our faith," Bishop McCormack said. "U.S. Catholics have been extremely generous. They are inspiring in their generosity to and prayer for the missions. The two patrons of the Church's missionary work, St. Francis Xavier, who traveled to Asia to spread the Gospel, and St. Therese of Lisieux, who spent her entire religious life in a cloistered Carmel praying for the missions, show the wide range of missionary work, which includes prayer and personal sacrifice."

"The greatest missionary act of the Church is the Mass," he added.

The Society of St. Peter Apostle invites individuals to support the education of candidates for the Catholic priesthood in the developing world and to support the formation of men and women candidates for the religious life in the Missions.

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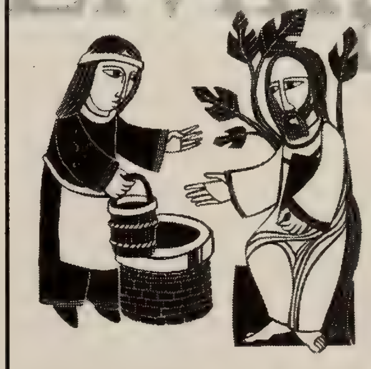
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Cardinal Egan says martyrdom relevant to modern Catholics

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Celebrating Mass on the spot where two early Christians were beheaded for their faith, Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York said martyrdom and sacrifice are still relevant to modern-day Catholics.

The cardinal said that "giving powerful witness" is something Christians can do in a prison, the workplace or a family home, and it inspires the rest of the world as much today as it did centuries ago.

Cardinal Egan spoke during a liturgy Feb. 23 in the Basilica of Sts. John and Paul, a church near the Colosseum that was symbolically placed under his pastoral care as part of his elevation to cardinal.

The same day, Cardinal Avery Dulles, a U.S. Jesuit theologian, took possession of his titular church in Rome, the Church of the Most Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington will celebrate Mass in the Church of Sts. Nereus and Achilleus later in the year, because it was under repair at the time of the consistory.

Cardinal Egan's church was named after two retired Roman soldiers who lived in the third century in a complex that has been excavated beneath the fifth-century basilica. They were beheaded when they refused an imperial order to return to military service, which at that time would have meant renouncing Christianity.

Cardinal Egan said Americans sometimes think that the witness of martyrs belongs to the past. But he recounted meeting several current cardinals who had suffered greatly in communist prisons with a martyr's spirit.

He said that same spirit can be shown by all Christians: married couples who struggle to stay together, priests and religious who give themselves totally to their pastoral service, and many others.

"It isn't always easy. There are ups and there are downs. There are good days and dark days, good years and dark years. But if we stand strong and make clear that our commitment is never in question ... what a powerful witness we give," he said.

In the Archdiocese of New York, he added, if Catholics witness their faith daily, "we can achieve what the martyrs achieved — we can turn the world around."

More than 800 well-wishers who accompanied Cardinal Egan to Rome attended the two-hour liturgy.

The cardinal joked that while the New York newspapers had been forecasting that he would be closing parishes in cost-cutting moves, "we just opened one" — the "414th parish of the Archdiocese of New York."

The basilica has been entrusted to the care of New York cardinals going back to 1946, when Pope Pius XII, who had formerly held title to the church, presented it to New York's Cardinal Francis Spellman. Excavations and restorations on the basilica were financed by Cardinal Spellman and his successors, Cardinals Terence J. Cooke and John J. O'Connor.

"I'm sure from heaven, Cardinal O'Connor, Cardinal Cooke and Cardinal Spellman are saying, 'Make sure you never lose this church,'" Cardinal Egan told those in attendance.

Photo by JoAnn S. Keane

Lent 2001

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, 'If you are the on of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.' He said in reply, 'It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'"

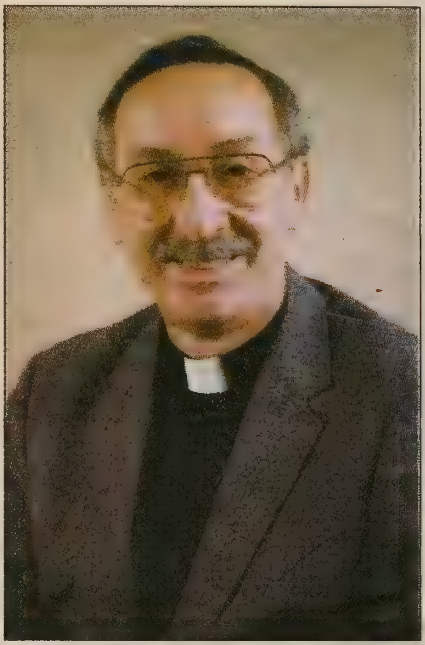
Deacon's life enriched by wife's support

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

ARDEN — Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley and his wife Rosemary have traveled down life's road hand in hand. Since the beginning, they have shared everything — careers, education, children and the diaconate. How can they share in the permanent diaconate, a vocation for men? Rosemary Kingsley says that she considers it to be as much her vocation as her husband's.

"Part of the marriage vows involve supporting one another, and the sacrament of matrimony was the foundation for the permanent diaconate," said Mrs. Kingsley. "His ministry is important because my husband is important to me. I realize that he is the deacon, and I am there to support him."

Mrs. Kingsley teaches Baptism preparation with her husband, visits the sick and homebound and attends the Masses at St. Barnabas Church in Arden at which her husband assists. "My wife is supportive of my ministry, and she does as much as she can with me."



The Kingsleys' journey began in New York, soon after they first met and began dating, at a time when Rev. Mr. Kingsley, a cradle Catholic, found himself slipping away from his faith. "The Lord was not a part of my life in my late teen years, but my faith was rekindled when I met my wife. She was instrumental in that."

Mrs. Kingsley asked two things of her husband-to-be: that they begin attending church weekly and that they have the sacrament of reconciliation administered once a month. Regular Mass attendance and penance is sometimes difficult for many Catholics to undertake, but for Rev. Mr. Kingsley, love for the woman who would become his wife conquered any fears or uncertainties he had about his religion. "Many young folks today lose dedication to God and lose sight of the purpose for marriage," he said.

In fact, it was during one of these monthly confessional visits that Rev. Mr. Kingsley was given a glimpse into his future in an ordained ministry. A priest asked him if he had thought about a vocation in the priesthood. To which, Rev. Mr. Kingsley replied in a surprised tone, "I am engaged to be married." So, that idea was left in the confessional, but it remained in the back of his mind.

Marriage, family and a career with Westinghouse as a draftsman, and later, as a technical sales engineer soon followed, and when the company decided to move its division to Asheville, the Kingsley family followed suit. It was a more difficult transition for Rev. Mr. Kingsley than his wife. "It took me a while to become acclimated to the environment and culture, especially going to a place where Catholics were in the minority," remembered Rev. Mr. Kingsley.

However, they found a home in St. Barnabas Church, where they have been parishioners for 22 years, and began to become involved in their Catholic community. The couple made their Cursillo together in 1979, and Rev. Mr. Kinsgley said that it was a turning point in his life. "It (Cursillo) set my heart on fire for the love of God, and it was a total re-awakening for me to understand that Jesus loves me."

The idea of the permanent diaconate was replanted into Rev. Mr. Kingsley's mind while on a pilgrimage to Fatima. After praying the rosary in a chapel, the trip's spiritual director asked if he had ever thought about being a deacon. The thought grew into reality when he saw an advertisement in the diocesan newspaper for the diocese's second diaconate class. He applied and was ordained in 1988. After retiring from Westinghouse after his department moved again, he became a part-time chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Becoming a deacon led Rev. Mr. Kingsley down another road in his life. He said that his formation classes peaked his curiosity, and he wanted to learn more. In the mid 90s, he decided to enroll in the master's in theology program at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He began attending classes apart from his wife, a miserable time for him. "We were on the phone one night, and I said, 'this won't work.' So, she moved up there with me."

They found a small house and brought enough household supplies for the two of them. It was as if they were re-living their early years together. "It was a neat experience, living like a couple of college kids even though we weren't young," said Rev. Mr. Kingsley. "We had mattresses on the floor, boxes that served as tables, two plates, two forks, etc. We got my son's old black and white TV and put it on one of the boxes."

After receiving his degree, he came back to North Carolina to his job as hospital chaplain and also worked at a crisis agency in downtown Asheville. He is now the pastoral associate at St. Barnabas and was named vicar of the Asheville and Smoky Mountain Vicariates in June of 2000.

With 39 years of marriage, 3 children and 11 grandchildren to reflect upon, Rev. Mr. Kinsgley would not change a thing. "I would do this all over again providing I would have my family's support. The diaconate has enriched my life tremendously, and looking at it from the point of commitment of service to parish, church and diocese, I enjoy my ministry."

The permanent diaconate is one of the life-giving ministries supported in part by the Diocesan Support Appeal.

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 9, 2001
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Inside

Bishop Curlin addresses death penalty issue ...Page 3

Permanent deacons recommit to ministry ...Page 4

Local News

Whom Shall I Send? Diocesan Support Appeal draws to close ...Page 4

CCHD hosts faith and social justice event ...Page 5

N.C. Franciscan takes first vows ...Page 7

Every Week

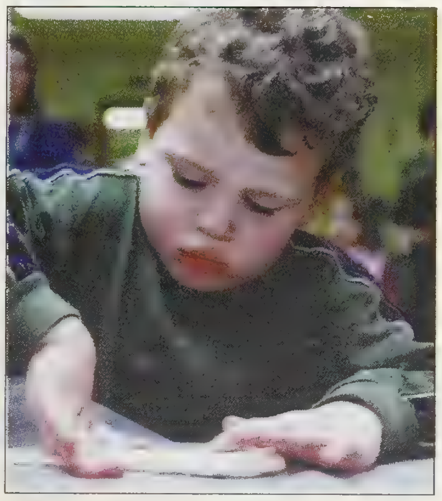
Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.
Luke 7:36

Lent 2001:

A Lenten Fair



Text and Photos by Joann S. Keane

Children at Holy Cross parish devoted Sunday afternoon to Lenten activities in the Kernersville parish hall. Projects and activities revolved around the spirit of the season, involving the youngsters in crafts, games and food. In the above photo, 13-year-old Christine Bonasera decorates a candle with the symbol of the cross. Candles prepared by the students will be used during special Lenten family time utilizing lessons learned in their faith formation classes. One of the popular activities of the day was the stringing of 'good deed beads.' The children will move a bead each time they perform a good deed. "Hopefully, they will move 10 beads a day," said Faith Formation Coordinator, Marie Kinney. Side pictures depict, from the top: Rolling out pretzels, preparing a candle with the sign of the cross, stringing 'good deed beads,' and in the bottom photo, young girls look into cups filled with tiny seeds, symbolizing new life.

Helping priests change called key formation tool

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — Key continuing formation tools for priests will involve helping them embrace diversity and ongoing change, psychologist Father Stephen J. Rossetti said at a national meeting on continuing education of priests.

Father Rossetti, president of St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Md., a treatment center for church ministry personnel with substance addictions or other disorders, was keynote speaker at the Feb. 19-22 convention in San Antonio of the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy. More than 200 people participated in the meeting, which had as its theme, "Multiple Faces and Millennial Learning."

Law professor criticizes Supreme Court partial-birth decision

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The common good took a back seat to unrestricted individual autonomy in last year's Supreme Court ruling overthrowing a Nebraska law banning partial-birth abortion, said a Jesuit law professor. The decision "essentially places the interests of one person over the interests of all," said Father Robert Araujo, law professor at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash. The Constitution establishes that liberty is for everyone and must serve the common good, he said March 4. "The interest of a few cannot trump those of the rest of society," he said at a March 2-4 conference on "Catholic Perspectives on American Law" at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Pope accepts resignation of Anchorage Archbishop Hurley

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Francis T. Hurley of Anchorage, Alaska. The resignation means that Coadjutor Archbishop Roger L. Schwietz, appointed last March, automatically becomes archbishop of Anchorage. The changes were announced March 3 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Hurley, who turned 74 on Jan. 12, has been a bishop in Alaska for more than 30 years, first serving as auxiliary bishop of Juneau from 1970 to 1971, and then its ordinary from 1971 to 1976, when he was appointed archbishop of Anchorage.

CNS photo from Reuters

Hindu activists burn Koran over Taliban move

Hindu activists in New Delhi March 5 burn a copy of the Koran – Islam's holy book – in response to news that the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was to destroy all statues and shrines, including Buddhas, in that country. The move by the Taliban was denounced by countries worldwide and called "fanatical extremism" by the Vatican newspaper.

Foot-and-mouth virus prompts cancellation of some Masses

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Catholics along the Louth-Armagh border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland were excused from the obligation to celebrate Sunday Mass March 4 following an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease that affects farm animals. Masses were canceled for that day in 13 parishes at the request of Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, after it was confirmed March 1 that foot-and-mouth disease had been detected on a South Armagh farm among sheep illegally imported into Northern Ireland from Britain. The disease, which rarely infects humans, affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and deer. The virus can be carried for miles by the wind, people or cars, and can survive long periods of time on boots and clothing.

Vatican officials hail U.N. efforts to protect Buddha statues

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vatican officials welcomed U.N. diplomatic efforts to prevent the destruction of two massive historic Buddha statues by Afghanistan's Islamic Taliban leadership. "I'm happy that UNESCO and the United Nations have intervened. Let's hope they prevail," said Archbishop Francesco Marchisano, president of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Goods of the Church. Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taliban's supreme leader, issued a decree in late February ordering the destruction of all statues and shrines in the country that the Taliban deems un-Islamic and idolatrous. Among the statues marked for demolition are two 1,500-year-old Buddhas in central Bamiyan, which stand 175 feet and 120 feet high in sandstone cliff-side niches.

Seal of confession comes into play in inquiry on alleged spy

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Even if accused spy Robert P. Hanssen confessed his crimes to a Catholic priest, the priest is forbidden by church law to discuss the confession to anyone, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was reported in late February that FBI agents have been interviewing Catholic priests from St. John Parish in McLean to glean information about their possible spiritual relationship with Hanssen. The accused spy, the FBI deduces, must have told someone about his alleged 15-year espionage career, which included reportedly passing along thousands of classified federal documents to his KGB handlers. "Hanssen hasn't expressed regret over his actions," said one FBI source. "But we're interested in finding out if maybe he discussed this stuff with a higher authority."

Abortion making inroads in Latin America, pro-life activists say

MIAMI (CNS) — Financed in large part by groups in the United States, radical feminism is making inroads in Latin America, exporting an abortion mentality that runs counter to the indigenous culture's traditional respect for life. That was the observation made by several pro-life activists from Latin America who took part in Human Life International's regional conference Feb. 24-25 in Miami. The panel discussion featured pro-life leaders from Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Spain. "Radical feminism has been exported to our country. It does not represent the voice of Mexican women," said Osiris Reyes, a Mexican pro-life activist who recently founded Mujeres por los Derechos Humanos (Women for Human Rights).

Catholics, evangelicals hold theological consultation

MUNDELEIN, Ill. (CNS) — An international consultation of Catholic and evangelical representatives said it is considering a possible first-ever joint statement on shared beliefs and differences. In a communique Feb. 24 the group said that when it meets again in February 2002, "it is expected that a final version of a joint document will be prepared for publication." The consultation, jointly sponsored by the World Evangelical Fellowship's Theological Commission and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, met at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein, north of Chicago. The Feb. 18-24 meeting was the fourth in a series begun in 1993.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 10 — 10 a.m.
Mass
Conference Center, Hickory

March 11 — 2 p.m.
Rite of Election
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

March 13-22
Lenten pilgrimage to Italy

Correction

The issue number of last week's News & Herald was printed incorrectly. The correct issue number was 25.

Diocesan planner

March

11 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

14 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual mini-Lenten retreat at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., at the Wednesday 10 a.m. Masses continuing this morning and March 21, 28 and April 4. The ladies ask that attendants bring hors d'oeuvres to share after the last gathering on April 4. Call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 for more information.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Lenten Days of Reflection are taking place at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, today and March 28 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The days start with a conference and faith sharing followed by quiet time and lunch, and the Eucharist and homily begin at 2 p.m. For more information, call (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us

17 WINSTON-SALEM — The Hibernian Society of Winston-Salem, an organization for Catholic men and women of Irish decent, is hosting a St. Patrick's Day party tonight at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club. The dinner consists of corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, pasta, rolls and beverages, and Deep River Pipes and Drums and the Morris Family are providing the entertainment. For tickets and information, call Liz Simnick at (336) 924-5200.

19 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish-Catholic social

Church in Brazil launches fraternity campaign against drugs

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — The Brazilian bishops' conference has launched this year's Lenten fraternity campaign with the theme: "Life yes; drugs no." The campaign will speak out against the use of illegal drugs as well as the use of alcohol and cigarettes. "Drugs affect not only the physical dimension of the human being but also his social and moral orbits," said Auxiliary Bishop Raymundo Damasceno Assis of Brasilia, secretary-general of the bishops' conference. The campaign's official text, handed out to Brazilian media and all churches and parishes in Brazil, criticizes authorities who "adopt measures to punish those who use drugs but do not invest in the education and prevention of the habit."

Senator decries Cuba embargo, supports DNA testing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., received a standing ovation from participants in the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering after a Feb. 27 luncheon address in which he advocated the use of DNA testing for those convicted of capital crimes and condemned the ongoing embargo of Cuba. Leahy, a Catholic who said he would introduce the Innocence Protection Act by early March, said that one of its provisions — the appointment of competent counsel — is central to the bill. The measure would set new standards for the imposition of the death penalty. On sanctions against Cuba, Leahy said keeping the embargo allows Cuban leader Fidel Castro to "blame a failed economic system on the United States." Leahy said, "We've got to get rid of that ridiculous vestige of the Cold War."

Comboni in Sudan says U.S. should push for peaceful no-fly zones

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The United States should push for the creation throughout Sudan of "safe zones" that prohibit military flights and should improve conditions in peaceful areas so that people can eventually return to their homes, said a Comboni missionary working in Sudan. Comboni Father Michele Stragapede also urged those who think they are fighting a "holy war" to "open their eyes and see the reality of business and social injustice that lies behind the screen of religion." Referring to the more than 2 million people killed, Father Stragapede said, "The casualties of war in Sudan make the idea of war even more unacceptable."

Catholic activists identify issues for Capitol Hill lobbying

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Preparing for visits to Capitol Hill the next day, Catholic social activists armed themselves with talking points Feb. 26 on domestic and international policy priorities targeted by the Catholic Church in the United States. Among the top issues were wage and tax help for low-wage workers, repeal of the death penalty, aid to sub-Saharan Africa, and the lifting of Cuban economic sanctions. Briefings on the issues were part of the annual Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which drew more than 500 social activists to Washington Feb. 25-28.

Religious hope Summit of Americas will benefit poor

OTTAWA (CNS) — Representatives of more than a quarter of a million Catholic religious in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean are hoping any agreement reached at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec will benefit the poor. The heads of government of 34 countries in the Americas will meet in Quebec City April 20-22 and are expected to sign the first draft of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. "We consider the action plan for that agreement to be deeply flawed," said the presidents and secretaries of the four religious conferences of the Americas, in a statement made from Haiti, the poorest country in the hemisphere. The representatives of the groups were in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for a meeting of the Inter-American Religious Conference Feb. 23-26.

and charitable interparish group, meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in her Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

23 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting a renewal of body and spirit for those who parent children with special needs. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. tonight and ending with Mass and lunch on March 25, this weekend retreat's focus is on spiritual and physical needs and the deepening of one's awareness of them through communication with God through prayer. The facilitator, Ann Mercer, has worked with parents of children with special needs for over 16 years. For more information and to register, call (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

24 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting a day of prayer, renewal, faith sharing and the celebration of women as sisters in the Lord today from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. With the theme "Empowered by Love" as a backdrop, the 2nd Annual Women's Day includes an afternoon session entitled "Bless this Mess: Living with the Reality of Our Lives" with Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast. The Carolina Catholic Bookshop will be displaying items, and lunch is also being served. Call Kathy Murray at (704) 849-0398 for further information.

DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 Denver is hosting its annual Irish night dinner at Holy Spirit Church, 537 Hwy. 16 North, tonight at 7 p.m. The dinner consists of corned beef, cabbage and potatoes and is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets and other information, call Charley Swengros at (704) 483-1687 or (704) 483-6448.

29 GREENSBORO — The 57th Women's Weekend Ultreya is taking place at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., today through April 1. For details, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

March 6, 2001

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On February 28, I joined thousands of other North Carolinians in appealing to Governor Michael Easley to stop the execution of Ernest McCarver that was scheduled for 2:00 a.m. on Friday, March 2. Ernest McCarver was placed on death row for his murder of Woodrow Hartley in 1987. As the hour of his execution approached, the U.S. Supreme Court halted Ernest McCarver's execution. I thank God for this decision.

There is no question that Woodrow Hartley was brutally killed by Ernest McCarver as he worked at his job in Concord. Mr. Hartley should not have died as he did. Mr. Hartley and his family are the victims of a terrible act committed by one who seemed to show little value for human life. Our Church and all people of faith must stand in solidarity with the victims of violence as they struggle in their pain and suffering. My prayers are offered for the soul of Mr. Hartley. I pray that God continue to bless his family and offer them comfort, reduce their fears, and lead them to some sense of peace.

I also pray for Ernest McCarver, who is also God's child and Christ's brother. I urge you to join me in recognizing the dignity of all human life, even those lives which have caused suffering and pain to many. Ernest McCarver has taken tests that indicate that he may be mentally retarded. Was he able to understand fully the gravity of the terrible act he committed or the process by which he was tried, convicted and sentenced to death for his crimes?

I am utterly amazed and dumbfounded that a society as rich and blessed as ours legally executes mentally retarded criminals. It is the same sense of horror and shock I feel as a member of a society that kills our children, many through partial birth abortions (little ones brutally killed just before completely leaving the womb of their mothers, forever denied their first breath of air). Where is the nuance in both of these acts that so often exists in ethical dilemmas? If ever a clear moral path is before us it is before us here ... we cannot kill our children nor can we execute adult criminals with the mental capacity of children. My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, do you join me before God in prayer with the frustration of Job in your hearts, wondering just how much further our society's moral order can be threatened? I firmly believe that the various forms of violence that threaten human life are interrelated. If we as a society cheapen human life for any reason then all human life is devalued and threatened. If ever our prayers are needed they are needed now! The culture of violence and death that permeates our society challenges all people of good will to work for laws that protect and proclaim the dignity of human life.

In the Pastoral Letter that I and Bishop Gossman of Raleigh wrote last year, (our Good Friday appeal during the Jubilee Year 2000 to end the death penalty), we called for a conversion of hearts and reconciliation in people of good will in response to the ever-growing use of violence in our criminal justice system. We responded then in one voice, and I respond now, that the violence of the death penalty must end. Surely other means of punishment, rather than state-sanctioned violence, can be used to protect society, ensure criminals answer to both victims and society for wrongful deeds, and assist in the rehabilitation of the criminal. Violence is not the way to solve or answer for crimes; violence only leads to more violence.

I support the death penalty moratorium legislation that is being considered by the General Assembly, not as an end in itself, but as an expedient interim step to the eventual end of state-sponsored executions. People in favor of this moratorium are not necessarily against the death penalty, yet they believe that the innocent should not be executed. Such errors are horrific because they are irreversible. Such errors are inexcusable when standard procedures, such as DNA testing, are not implemented due to cost concerns or improper handling of evidence. Is the application of the death penalty discriminatory toward the poor and members of minority groups? Numerous studies indicate that this is so. Until such inequities and potentials for miscarriages of justice are explored more fully a death penalty moratorium is essential now. You may wish to contact our diocesan Office of Justice and Peace for study materials on the death penalty and for information on how you can lend your voice in support of the moratorium on executions (phone #s: 704-370-3231 or 3225; e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org).

This is not a simple issue. Many voices are present supporting the use of the death penalty and many voices call for its end. I truly believe, however, that we are called by a higher power to work for a society that treats the victims of violence with compassion, imposes justice without violence, and proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Please pray with me that our society will soon be one that acts decisively on the side of life, that seeks an end to violence, and that sees all its actions through the lens of justice.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Permanent Deacons recommit to faith and service

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan and his wife Eileen stop for a picture with Bishop Curlin following the Deacons' Annual Commitment celebration at St. Gabriel parish in Charlotte.

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — A permanent deacon is neither a high-class altar server, nor a low-class priest, said an official from the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy during the Jubilee for Permanent Deacons last year in Rome. The diaconate is a vocation and a ministry, the ministry of Christ the servant.

It is a statement worth repeating.

"You are ordained clergy," said Bishop William G. Curlin, addressing the deacons of his diocese. "When you proclaim the Gospel and preach, you are my extension in your parish."

On March 3, Bishop Curlin took the opportunity to praise the service of deacons in his diocese, while the ordained deacons recommitted themselves in service to the chief shepherd of the diocese.

It is an annual event, a gathering of deacons pledging to live their ministry, to proclaim the faith and maintain and deepen a spirit of prayer, to follow the example of Jesus Christ, and to retain their allegiance to Bishop Curlin.

There are nearly 15,000 permanent deacons in this country, a number that substantially overshadows their ordained brothers in the diaconate in other countries worldwide. All counted, 26,000 deacons span the globe. In the Diocese of Charlotte, 65 men are ordained, with eight currently in formation.

As deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte the ordained men serve in a myriad of duties. Some balance full-time jobs, complete with family alongside their ministry. Others, retired, carry out parish duties. Profiles of permanent deacons recently became a regular feature in The Catholic News & Herald.

"Put your heart in this diaconal ministry," said Bishop Curlin. "You're not laymen. There's no such thing as an ordained layman. You, the priests and I, we constitute the holy orders of the church. There are things you may do in a lay custom, but your heart is that of a clergy."

"Your mindset is that of a man consecrated to God," said the bishop. "You're not someone who says, 'six days a week, I play a layman's role, and come to the church for an hour or two and play the clergy role.'"

"Your ministry is engrained on your soul," said Bishop Curlin.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Parishioners give of time, talent and treasure through Diocesan Support Appeal

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — *"...Then I heard the Lord say, 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'I will go, send me!'" — Isaiah 6:8.*

Diocesan and parish-level leaders and workers have answered God's call to work with his people in this diocese in all areas of ministry. Now, as Diocesan Support Appeal Sunday Weekend approaches, March 17-18, parishioners across the diocese are asked to support these men and women through their endeavors in their various ministries. This year's theme, taken from the sixth chapter of Isaiah, focuses on the work and dedication of campus ministers, youth ministers, parish catechetical leaders, permanent deacons, lay ministers and many others from which all people of the diocese benefit in some way.

The appeal is the diocese's main fund-raising effort, which provides funds for 35 ministries supported by the DSA. The focus areas include Catholic Social Services, Multicultural, Educational Ministries and Vocations. While letters and pledge cards have already been mailed to registered Catholics in the diocese, DSA Sunday Weekend and a second letter from Bishop William G. Curlin, mailed the week ending March 9, invite those who have not yet made a pledge to respond to give.

As of Feb. 26, 51 percent of this year's $333,333,000 goal has been pledged at the halfway point for a total of $1,701,507 from 7,543 donors. "We are actually running ahead of where we were last year at the halfway point as far as gifts are concerned," said Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development.

Gaddy said that the response to the initial mailing further supports the way people in this diocese embrace stewardship as a way of life. "The generosity of the people is something that has always been gratifying, and it shows that people do look beyond their own immediate needs."

One addition in the Appeal Sunday mailing is the inclusion of an envelope in Spanish for any parish with a Spanish Mass, which complements the posters and videos in Spanish sent out at the beginning of the DSA. "Every year, I hope to add one more Spanish element to the promotional materials which came out of requests from parishes. This is a gesture of hospitality to encourage Spanish-speaking parishioners to participate in the mission of the church."

Aid from parish volunteers has also supported the DSA this year. Gaddy is beginning to work with more people undertaking the endeavor to coordinate the DSA in their own parishes.

"This makes it an effort from the ground-up, and the parishioners take ownership of the DSA. At St. Luke Church in Charlotte, for example, Leonard Polburn has coordinated speakers to present different aspects of the Appeal and has kept parishioners abreast of how they are doing with regular updates," she said. "Something like this is a blessing because it frees the pastors to attend to their pastoral work. This is something new emerging, and I am seeing a lot of enthusiasm on the part of the laity."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Diocesan Support Appeal
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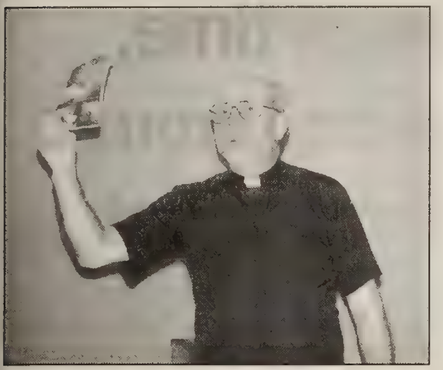
Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

Participants discuss relationship between faith and social justice



By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — "As committed Christians and Catholics, you should do what you can for others in the name of social justice not because it is the right thing to do but because it is the thing that Jesus would do," said Bishop William G. Curlin, as he welcomed the participants in a program co-sponsored by the national Catholic Campaign for Human Development office and the diocesan CCHD office within the Office of Justice and Peace and Catholic Social Services. "As disciples of Jesus Christ, you should go out to change the world in the areas of poverty, social justice, crime and others."

The daylong program, Education for Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life, was presented to a group gathered at St. Matthew Church on March 3. Parish catechetical leaders, campus ministers, CCHD and Catholic Relief Services parish coordinators and other diocesan and parish-level leaders gathered in the spirit of fellowship to discuss ways to help make a difference in the lives of men and women who are economically, socially and spiritually disenfranchised to help them become catalysts of change in their own lives.

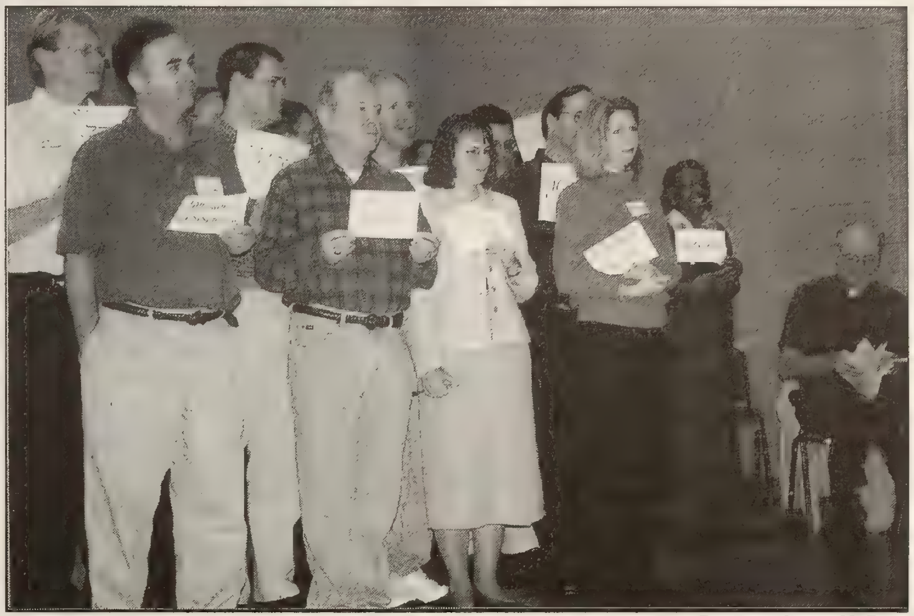
"The most important thing that people have recognized is that they must make connections between faith and justice in communities," said Dr. Barney Offerman, director of the diocesan CCHD office. "Part of the program was to put out the call to people to look at themselves and their parishes in terms of how they can apply and live Catholic social teachings in the context of the environment of the parish."

The interactive training session consisted of a morning presentation by Glenmary Father John Rausch and Michael James and Deborah Lee from the Center for Ethics, Economics and Popular Education in San Francisco and afternoon sessions with several presenters from the diocese and other organizations including George Reed, executive director of the North Carolina Council of Churches, and Joe Purello, director of the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace.

The Diocese of Charlotte is the fifth in the country to have this program, an initiative of the national CCHD office, presented to interested parties, said Joanne Frazer, education consultant for the education department of the national CCHD office.

"This initiative has been developed in the past two years because it has become increasingly clear that the arena of economics has been one in which Catholics feel uncomfortable when trying to make a connection to their faith," said Frazer. "This one-day training session seeks to integrate our Catholic social teaching as it relates to current economic forces. The goals of the national CCHD office for this training are to promote deeper understanding among Catholics about the connection between their faith and economic life and to increase solidarity between those living in poverty and those who are economically advantaged."

Using biblical passages and excerpts from Sharing Catholic Social Teaching from the U.S. Catholic bishops, Father Rausch, a syndicated columnist who works and teaches in the Appalachian region of the diocese, talked about the link between economic life and faith life of which many people are not aware. "You can pick any topic and inject the Christian way of looking at life, and you will be able to move the world. It is up to us to be able to figure out with our creativity, how we as a society will recognize and affirm people's dignity. There have to be some specific programs for people on the bottom of the bottom."



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Glenmary Father John Rausch, pictured top left, speaks to a group gathered at St. Matthew Church in Charlotte for the Education for Solidarity: Catholic Social Teaching and Economic Life program, held on March 3. Pictured above, volunteers participate in an exercise; presented by guest speakers Michael James and Deborah Lee from the Center for Ethics, Economics, and Popular Education in San Francisco; that demonstrated income distribution and its growth over the past several years. The one-day training session was co-sponsored by the national and diocesan Catholic Campaign for Human Development Offices.

One of the ideas behind Catholic social teaching is empowering people from within to be able to support themselves. The point of the gathering was to identify problems and their causes and determine the most effective ways of handling those issues that plague the community and the people most affected by socioeconomic problems.

"The purpose of this program is to get people to begin to think themselves into action and to act themselves into thinking. As people of faith, we have to walk the talk and reach out to people and rather than tell them what to think, embody them to deliver themselves into action," said James, director of the Center for Ethics, Economics and Popular Education. "The challenge is that people continue this as a cultural practice as opposed to waiting for the next weekend to come."

James and Lee engaged the audience in interactive exercises including human graphs with incomes written

See CCHD, page 9

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CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Priest gives information on Euro in Portugal

Father Luis Oiveira shows a picture of a euro coin at the end of Mass in the town of Aldeia de Palheiros, south of Lisbon, March 4. The priest took time to explain the new currency, which is to begin circulating July 2002 in several European countries.

Vatican hosts private showing of remastered 'Space Odyssey'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican hosted a private advance showing of the remastered and restored version of "2001: A Space Odyssey," a 1968 science fiction film by famed director Stanley Kubrick. Christiane and Anya Kubrick, the director's widow and daughter, and Jan Harlan, his brother-in-law and producer, attended the March 1 screening in the small cinema at the offices of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Istituto Luce, the film's Italian distributor and a regular collaborator with the social communications' council, organized the screening, which came a week before the film's scheduled European release.

Cardinal says he sees 'good signs of openness' from Vietnam

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan said his February induction into the College of Cardinals gave rise to "good signs of openness" toward the Catholic Church from his homeland's communist leadership. Vietnam allowed five bishops to attend the Vatican ceremony and permitted Feb. 22 thanksgiving Masses across Vietnam, including Ho Chi Minh City's cathedral. The Masses were timed to show union with Rome, said Cardinal Thuan, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. "I appreciate and evaluate that there is something new — an openness," the cardinal told Catholic News Service March 2.

Bishops of Western Canada to send priests to North

EDMONTON, Alberta (CNS) — The bishops of Western Canada, already facing an acute shortage of priests, may soon be sending some of their clergy and other personnel up North. In response to a request by the bishops of Northern Canada, the Western Catholic Conference has agreed to look into the possibility of sending some personnel there. The bishops met at the Grey Nuns Regional Center in Edmonton in late February. Some dioceses in the North are operating with only five or six priests, which means some missions have to go without Mass for a whole year. They want clergy and lay workers from the South. "When we look at our own dioceses we feel we are stretched, but when we look up there we see they are more stretched than we are, and so we are trying to find ways to help them," said Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg, Manitoba, president of the Western Catholic Conference.

Bishop Braxton installed as second bishop of Lake Charles

LAKE CHARLES, La. (CNS) — With nearly 1,000 priests, deacons, religious and lay people in attendance and thousands of others watching on television, Bishop Edward K. Braxton was installed as the second bishop of Lake Charles Feb. 22 at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church. Bishop Braxton, 56, succeeded Bishop Jude Speyrer, the founding bishop of the Lake Charles Diocese when it was created in 1980, who resigned for health reasons. A native of Chicago, Bishop Braxton had been an auxiliary bishop of St. Louis since 1995. He told the people of Lake Charles that he did not "come to you with detailed plans for what I hope to accomplish in the first year. That would be foolhardy," he said. "My first goal is to understand and build upon the good you have already accomplished."

Kenyan church official says Lent is time to rebuild country

MOMBASA, Kenya (CNS) — A Kenyan church official said the country is on the verge of collapse and urged Kenyans to participate in rebuilding their homeland during Lent. Mombasa Archbishop John Njenga, chairman of the church's justice and peace commission, said Feb. 27 that bad governance, brutal murders, general insecurity and assault on people's lives had nearly brought the country to its knees. The archbishop said the country was in need of rebuilding and called on Kenyans to involve themselves in reconstruction. Archbishop Njenga announced the church's annual Lenten campaign, whose theme this year is "Together Let Us Rebuild Kenya."

Cardinal Sin declares 'people power' site holy ground

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila blessed and declared as "holy ground" the site of the two "people power" revolts that peacefully ousted Philippine presidents accused of wrongdoing. The blessing Feb. 25 was part of a daylong commemoration of the Manila-area uprising that deposed former President Ferdinand Marcos Feb. 25, 1986, and installed Corazon Aquino as the country's first woman president, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Cardinal Sin also credits the Blessed Mother for the success of the second uprising, Jan. 16-20 this year. This time some 2 million Filipinos, mostly students and young professionals, converged at Mary Queen of Peace Shrine in Quezon City to pray for the resignation of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

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Franciscan comes home to make profession of vows

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — His faith journey has taken him throughout the eastern United States and to Costa Rica. His work as an artist has brought him to galleries in North Carolina, New York, Connecticut, West Virginia, Nebraska, Massachusetts and Minnesota. But on a rainy Saturday in the North Carolina Triad, Brian Haverlock surrounded himself with family and friends at his home parish to take another step toward life as a Franciscan friar.

Long-time Winston-Salem resident Brian Haverlock returned home March 3 to profess simple vows as a Conventual Franciscan friar. With family, friends, priests and friars from throughout North America and Latin America witnessing, Haverlock promised himself to God.

"Brian has seen Christ, the face of the living God," said Conventual Franciscan Friar John-Joseph Dolan, assistant general of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, who gave the homily at the March 3 Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church. "This experience of (God's) love has forever changed his life, turned his world upside down, given him new brothers and opened him to new experiences and cultures.

"Today, Brian ... we invite you ... to be a part of our collage."

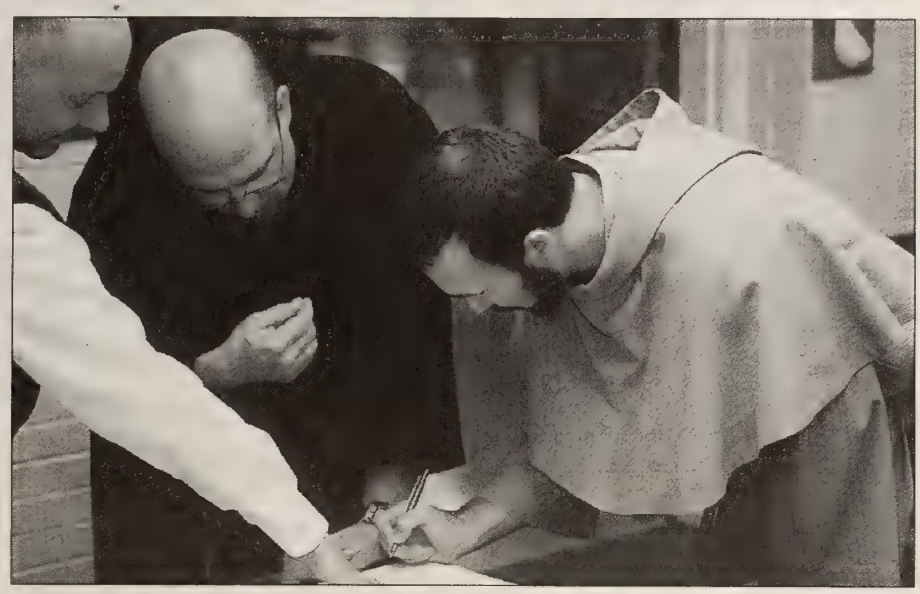


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Friar Brian Haverlock signs his profession as Friar Michael Duffy, assistant director for formation, watches.

Collage

Much like his life's journey, Haverlock's walk of faith has taken a circuitous route.

At age 15, the North Dakota native moved to North Carolina with his family. Settling into a new environment, bit by bit he wandered away from the church. Art was the number one priority in Haverlock's life, and years would pass before he would connect creativity and spirituality.

The cycle continued into his college years in Greenville, N.C., where he pursued a bachelor of fine arts degree at East Carolina University.

"As far as my personal attendance at Mass went as a youth, it might have been Christmas and Easter," he says. "Then going off to college, I really got involved in the college life. My one major concern was being an artist."

He says his college experience did include the first hints of discernment, though. "The search began at that time for what life was about: What is the meaning of life? What am I supposed to do?" he recalls.

He graduated in 1995 and traveled to England to spend six months with family. He painted in a studio, built some friendships and continued that search for meaning.

With his return to the States came a more urgent sense of self-discovery.

"Really, the spiritual discernment began when I came back," Haverlock says. Thus began a two-year period of soul searching. Friends encouraged him to accompany them to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, and Haverlock began to experience what he calls a "gradual awakening" to something insightful.

"There was no club across the head," he recalls with a chuckle about this time of vocational discernment. "But I began to have a profound interest in attending the Mass and starting anew."

Franciscan friars — Conventual Franciscans from the Immaculate Conception Province — served the Our Lady of Mercy community. Haverlock sought a spiritual adviser there and began attending Mass daily.

"My prayer life began to grow, and daily Mass became a huge part of my spiritual life," he says. When his spiritual adviser gave Haverlock a biography on St. Francis of Assisi, the 13th-century saint whose simplicity and piety made him one of the church's most well-known and beloved saints, something struck him.

"That book just nailed me," he says. "I said this is what I've been looking for all my life. Something clicked between the life of Francis and some things that I had gone through and been feeling and discerning."

Haverlock devoured all he could about St. Francis and the Franciscan way of life. "And," he adds, "I began discerning a vocation to the religious life."

Broader strokes

After much prayer and thought, Haverlock traveled to Philadelphia to begin a two-year candidacy as a Conventual Franciscan. With passing time came a more resolute decision: Brian Haverlock knew the Franciscan way was for him.

"After each year, I was more confident in my vocation," he says. When it came time for him to take the next step — a one-year period called a novitiate — Haverlock accepted an assignment in Costa Rica. He spent five months there, learning the language and culture before formally beginning the yearlong novitiate.

For Haverlock, the experience did much to paint a picture of the world in broader strokes.

"Many doors were opened up; my eyes were opened in a new way," he says. "The Costa Rican culture — the Latin American culture — is very simple. They're a very humble people; they are faith-filled and very energetic.

"It was a humbling experience for me. I learned humility by entering another culture where I really had to struggle to express myself, to communicate, to enter into the context of prayer in another language."

And throughout that year, he learned much in profound ways about the universal church he will someday serve as a priest.

Self-portrait

Ever present in Haverlock's life has been a love for creating art.

"For me, art is communicating," he says. "Art is a language that requires us to listen carefully. Through art, a person can communicate many things, and for me, it's a way of communicating many mysteries of life — mysteries of being a person.

"Art for me is creating a dialogue. In a way, it's a bridge for one to communicate spiritually."

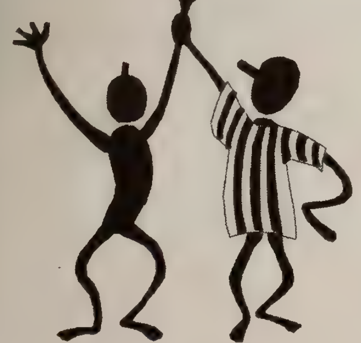
Haverlock's art has been described as having properties of surrealism and realism. Imagery and symbolism abound in each piece. But Haverlock says his art defies any current style.

"Every artist wants to do something new," he says. "Every artist wants to be creative, to explore new boundaries, to open new doors. This particular style for me started when my spiritual discernment began."

Friar Haverlock says though it is not always a conscious decision, he incorporates the spiritual into his creations.

"For me, the act of creating is a form of prayer," he says. "It's a profound way of praying when you are working with the hands — whether it's with painting, with

See FRIAR, page 15



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Lent a time to focus on life's deserts, young retreatants learn

The following is the complete text of the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent, taken from The New American Bible.

"Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' Then he took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a single instant. The devil said to him, 'I shall give to you all this power and their glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I may give it to whomever I wish. All this will be yours, if you worship me.' Jesus said to him in reply, 'It is written: "You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve."'

"Then he led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you," and: "With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."'

"Jesus said to him in reply, 'It also says, "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time." (Luke 4: 1-13)

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

SPARTA — Just as Jesus resisted temptations and struggles during his 40 days in the desert, teen-agers can rely on the Holy Spirit to face their challenges each day, a group of young Catholics learned during a Lenten retreat in the Boone Vicariate.

Youth group members of the Boone Vicariate's three easternmost churches — St. Stephen in Elkin, St. John Baptist de la Salle in North Wilkesboro and St. Frances of Rome in Sparta — gathered at the Sparta church March 3-4 to talk about how youths experience the Lenten journey.

As many discovered, sacrifice and struggle transcend the liturgical season and are part of daily life — as is guidance from the Holy Spirit to make it through those "desert times."

"This retreat taught me that I'm not the only person who has to deal with temptations and other things," said Adam Blakley, 12, from St. Stephen Church. "I enjoyed talking about the different things that can be in teen-agers' lives, and I learned some things about myself."

Small-group discussions and activities highlighted the weekend retreat, which centered on the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent:

"Filled with the holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. ... (The devil) led him to Jerusalem, made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ... "With their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."'

"Jesus said to him in reply, 'It also says, "You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." When the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from him for a time." (Luke 4: 1-13)

The retreat included another focal point as well, the verses following that reading:

"Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all." (Luke 4: 14-15)

"What we did was likened our retreat experience and Lent to that pattern that Jesus gave us: that we were led into Lent by the Holy Spirit, that we were led into this retreat by the

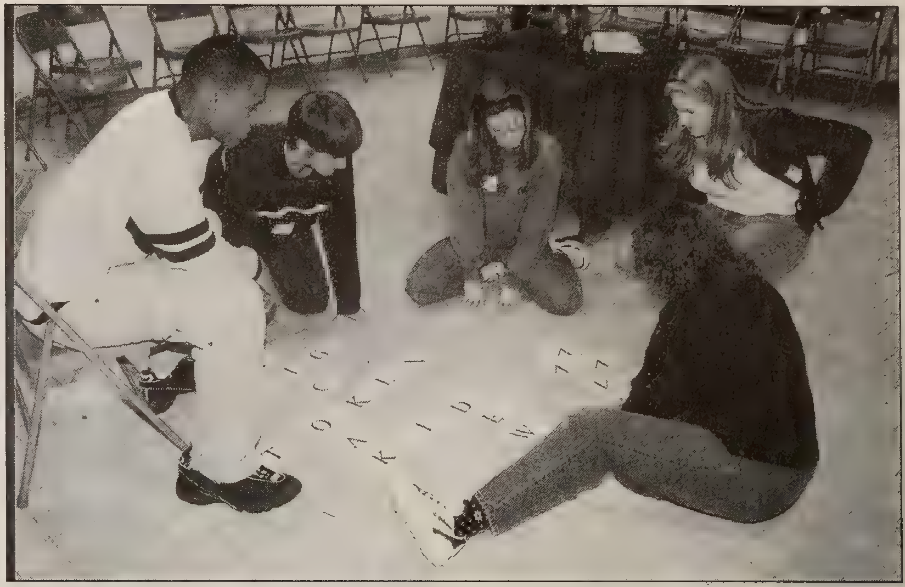

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Small-group discussions and activities highlighted the Lenten youth retreat at St. Frances of Rome in Sparta.

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Photo by Jimmy Rostar

"The young church is at a point where it's willing, able and ready to ask the hard and challenging questions," said Paul Kotlowski, pictured center. The diocesan youth ministry director facilitated the retreat and plans to do the same for youth in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate later this month.

Holy Spirit, and that we come out of both more greatly armed by Holy Spirit," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. Kotlowski directed the retreat, which he will also present to youth in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate later this month.

The opportunity to talk about struggles in teen-age life was important to Meghan Smith, who said it was nice to find fellowship with people who, despite their uniqueness, share common interests and difficulties.

"I enjoyed meeting new people, but not just that; I enjoyed seeing past their outer layer," said Smith, a 16-year-old parishioner from St. Frances of Rome. "There were a bunch of different kinds of people there, and I really got a lot out of seeing past that outer layer to their inside — to their heart."

Debbie Kovacich, youth minister at St. Frances of Rome, was impressed by the group's openness and enthusiasm during a weekend of celebrating faith.

"We're small and we're rural, and often these kids are the only ones in their class or their school who are Catholic," said Kovacich. "When they get together with a large group of other Catholic kids, you can just see their faith come through. They enjoy talking about being Catholic. They like talking about Jesus. They like sharing their values."

The small-group experiences stood out as a highlight for many retreatants. "We talked about a lot of stuff and how it's related to our lives," said 15-year-old Aaron Dulin from St. John Baptist de la Salle in North Wilkesboro. "We explained in the small groups what we thought about things, what our opinions were."

The retreat included time for the sacrament of penance, and the youths attended the Sunday Mass as a finale. Several retreatants shared their experiences with the congregation.

"To have 33 kids present for Mass at our little parish was really something," laughed Kovacich.

Moreover, the youths had a chance throughout the weekend to focus on how the gifts of the Holy Spirit carry the faithful through tough times. "The retreat definitely helped me understand what Lent is all about, what Jesus went through when he was there in the desert, and how the devil can lure you in different ways," said Blakley. "Now, I am better prepared to handle certain situations, and with me knowing about Lent more, I can deal with struggles and say no to temptations."

Kotlowski said the retreat experience is an example of how young Catholics are shining in their faith. "The young church is at a point where it's willing, able and ready to ask the hard and challenging questions," he said. "To see young people really wrestle with the tough issues of faith and to be a part of that dialogue is always really energizing, enlightening and refreshing."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

CCHD, from page 5

on sheets of paper that demonstrated how income has changed over the years at varying degrees. "So many of Jesus' teachings are about economics and faith or faith and poverty. We did the income distribution activity just as a snapshot of what the economy looks like today and what has been happening over the last 50 years," said Lee, a trainer with the center.

The five afternoon sessions demonstrated examples of putting faith into action to inspire parishioners to begin to move beyond dialogue about problems to performing works of mercy and helping those who are disadvantaged to work toward their own solutions.

During one of those sessions, Greg Walker-Wilson, director of the Mountain Microenterprise Fund in Asheville, explained the purpose for his organization and how it has helped people in the Western areas of the diocese start their own businesses through education and support. "It is about economic empowerment and helping people who otherwise might not have access to business classes, no prior business experience or no collateral for loans. Our job is believe in people when others do not and give them the tools to help them succeed," said Walker-Wilson, whose program is partially funded by the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina and is a partner with the diocese through the Office of Economic Opportunity in Murphy.

"I would hope that any program like this would stimulate people to go back into Scriptures and really understand that from the Scriptures comes the mandate to really be brothers and sisters," said Father Rausch.

"It is in the Scriptures where we find the dignity of each individual and the call to community. When people leave this gathering, I hope that there are questions and there are a couple of possible areas where they might be able to change things in their own hearts or in their own circle of friends. We have to change topics of conversations from self-indulgence to service of others."

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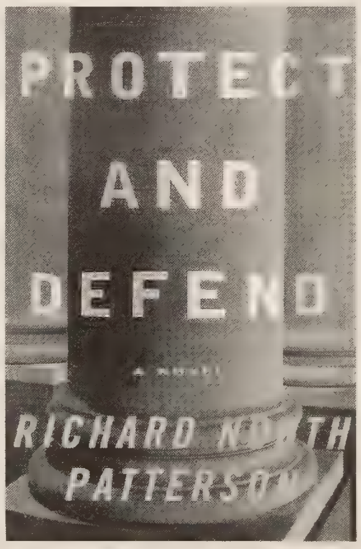
Book Review

After string of successes, Patterson's latest fails badly

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

Richard North Patterson has written a string of highly successful novels, no matter whether one measures success by sales or quality. Leading from the strength of his own background in law and government, his stories generally play out in the legal or political arena.

In "Protect and Defend" (Alfred A. Knopf, $26.95), he unites pivotal characters from previous works (Kerry Kilcannon, the Kennedy-like politico from "No Safe Place," and Judge Caroline Masters from "Degree of Guilt") and stubs his literary toe. Badly.



Patterson's fans, however, don't seem to mind, possibly because this tale, melding politics and the law, is topical and emotional and pounds along like a percussionist on parade.

It is also a heavy-handed pro-abortion melodrama masquerading not very artfully as an even-handed treatment of the subject even as sudsy vapors swirl around characters awash without knowing it in the theology of pragmatism: morality depends on circumstances and the end justifies the means.

Basically, "Protect and Defend" is the story of a pregnant teen-ager's challenge to a federal parental-consent late-term abortion law. Presented in both human and legal terms, the challenge unfolds as the U.S. Senate, shortly after Kilcannon's inauguration as president, debates his nomination of Masters as chief justice — the previous conservative (and therefore fossilized) chief having dropped dead on the inaugural stand.

The principals, in addition to Kilcannon and Masters, include Mary Tierney, a 15-year-old student at a Catholic school (her baby has been diagnosed as hydrocephalic and unlikely to live more than a day); her pro-life parents (Martin, a benevolent but doctrinaire law professor at a Catholic university, and his mousy wife); Mary's crusading feminist attorney Sara Dash (think Joan of Arc in a pantsuit); MacDonald Gage, the Senate majority leader (a grasping Republican, he has visions of being president himself someday); and Chad Palmer, chairman of the Judiciary Committee (a war hero, he's a stand-up guy, solidly pro-life and also has presidential ambitions).

Kilcannon, Masters and Palmer all have secrets. Kilcannon, a Catholic, has a lover who aborted his child without his knowing it at the time of his run for the presidency. Masters bore a child out of wedlock (her lover: a draft-dodger turned in by her father) and gave the child up for adoption to her sister, making Masters the aunt of her own child. Palmer harbors the memory of his own daughter's quiet abortion, obtained with his wife's consent but not his.

Well, you can see what a mess this is going to be as two of these secrets unravel, thereby posing even more moral and ethical questions. Patterson, however, is not content to allow matters to play themselves out and so, the appearance of contrivance notwithstanding, he provides additional soapy scenarios.

Mary, we learn, doesn't want the abortion because the baby is brainless; rather, though the likelihood is slim, what she really fears is that the birth will leave her infertile. Like her mom.

Further, Martin Tierney not only enters the case on behalf of the unborn child but personally handles much of the argument in court, where witnesses are allowed to make speeches and address other participants directly. And Masters, who could have recused herself because Dash was once her law clerk and the two are still friendly, not only sits on the appeals panel but casts the deciding vote and writes the majority opinion, confounding her backers and delighting those opposed to confirmation.

Some other points worth noting: conservative jurists and legislators are generally shown as heartless letter-of-the-law types and the leadership of the Christian right is portrayed as villainous. Liberals, of course, are the finest of people, even though they may have to do nasty things. Journalists are arrogant. And Catholics, by and large, are either prisoners of dogma or impervious to it.

There is one salutary note, never expressed but obvious to anyone wading through the detergent: sex out of wedlock has consequences of its own. Thankfully, we are spared the erotic details of these matings (that's never been Patterson's style). But the impression is left that everybody has done it. And the president, of course, is still doing it.

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1) Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Psalm 27:1, 7-9, 13-14
2) Philippians 3:17-4:1
3) Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36

By JEFF HENSLEY
Catholic News Service

Sometimes God speaks to us in the recesses of our hearts, speaks a word that seems to offer direction, but that we have a hard time making sense of.

At the time of my adult conversion experience in my mid-20s, I felt God calling me to become a Christian writer. As I heard that call, my mind began seeking out ways to develop what abilities God had given me.

My immediate response was to seek to enter graduate school in what I thought was the ideal preparation for a life of writing, seeking to make God's goodness and love better known. English, that's what I should study, I thought. And so I applied to enter graduate school majoring in English.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, as it played out) I hadn't much applied myself to the study of English as an undergraduate and had some atrocious grades and not that many hours accumulated. And so I turned to the study of journalism as a "second best," in my own mind at least.

Each semester I would sign up for my classes, go to class and experience, at some point in the semester, utter frustration. What was I doing there? This didn't seem the proper path to the goals I thought the Lord had for me. Each semester I would slog through, earning good grades, learning a lot, but suffering great indecision.

More and more these days, I find myself using one key phrase right after I have made one foolish statement or another: "Shows how much I know."

After 12 years as a diocesan Catholic editor, time and God, I believe, have taught me that the closed door of English led to the open door of journalism, which was right where I belonged.

The Apostle Peter at the time of the Transfiguration in this Sunday's Gospel reading wants to build a tabernacle, a sort of outdoor worship space. He ends up laying the foundation for something considerably more permanent, the church.

Abram receives a promise from God that his descendants will be numberless as the stars. At that time, he has no children.

God's ways, wondrous as they are, are not our ways. But he is faithful to his word, at times seeming to take no regard of our lack of understanding of what he is seeking to accomplish or even of our faithfulness. His visions are ultimately fulfilled with our participation, no matter how imperfect.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 11 - 17, 2001

Second Sunday of Lent, Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 9:28-36; **Monday,** Daniel 9:4-10, Luke 6:36-38; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, Matthew 23:1-12; **Wednesday,** Jeremiah 18:18-20, Matthew 20:17-28; **Thursday,** Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 16:19-31; **Friday (Abstinence),** Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13, 17-28, Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46; **Saturday (St. Patrick),** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Readings for the week of Mar. 18 - 24 , 2001

Third Sunday of Lent, Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9; **Monday (St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; **Tuesday,** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday,** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday,** Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Abstinence),** Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday,** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

Getting Remarried?

On March 31 and September 15, the diocesan Family Life Program will offer one-day remarriage workshops for engaged couples in which at least one of the two partners was previously married. Couples come to better understand themselves, their partners, and the relationship they share, through small and large group activities, presentations, journaling, and private partner-to-partner discussions.
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Movie Capsules

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

"The Caveman's Valentine" (Universal Focus)

Offbeat thriller in which a former pianist-composer turned schizophrenic street person (Samuel L. Jackson) battles his paranoia as he tries to prove a sadistic photographer (Colm Feore) murdered a homeless youth. Director Kasi Lemmons aptly captures a tortured character's struggle between lucidity and insanity but the contrived whodunit isn't nearly as successful. Some violence, sexual innuendo and an implied one-night stand with nudity, occasional profanity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Company Man" (Paramount Classics)

Intermittently amusing comedy about a henpecked schoolteacher (Douglas McGrath) who, fed up with the relentless nagging from his social-climbing wife (Sigourney Weaver), ends up in the middle of the Bay of Pigs invasion pretending to be a secret CIA agent. As written and directed by Douglas McGrath and Peter Askin, the ensemble cast in the zany farce is just going through the motions despite terrific, rapid-fire one-liners and fun, madcap mayhem. Several sexual references, fleeting rear nudity, brief drug content and an instance of crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Mexican" (DreamWorks)

Strained crime caper in which bumbling bagman Brad Pitt must retrieve an antique Mexican pistol for his gangster boss despite the vociferous demands of girlfriend Julia Roberts to sever his mob association and marry her. Despite some positive character transformation, director Gore Verbinski's disjointed tale also has its well-meaning characters resorting to violent behavior. Intermittent violence including a suicide, brief homosexual innuendo and constant rough language with occasional profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"See Spot Run" (Warner Bros.)

Silly comedy about a drug-sniffing FBI dog being pursued by mob hit men but accidentally adopted by a witless postal worker (David Arquette) babysitting for the canine-loving little boy next door (Angus T. Jones). Director John Whitesell's film is mostly formulaic and strained, but a few clever laughs may entertain youngsters. Some comically intended violence, sporadic crude humor and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Series 7" (USA)

Exploitative satire in which an eight-months-pregnant woman (Brooke Smith) attempts to prevail as the reigning champion of a reality-based TV show in which contestants kill each other off as a cameraman captures every murder on tape and the American public watches. Director Dan Minahan takes reality TV — and American society's obsession with it — to an extreme in a heinous film that falls prey to the human voyeurism it ridicules. Intense violence that mocks the value of human life, brief drug use and recurring profanity and rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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"Biography Close-Up: Sesame Street" to air March 18 on A&E

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — How a beloved children's educational series came to be and still flourishes is the worthy subject of "Biography Close-Up: Sesame Street," airing Sunday, March 18, 8-10 p.m. EST on the A&E cable channel.

Thirty-two years old and still going strong, "Sesame Street" had its genesis at a dinner party where TV documentarian Joan Ganz Cooney was asked if TV could help prepare disadvantaged toddlers for school. She offered to try to develop a series along that line. (True to the spirit of the Muppets, Kermit and others pop up periodically to mock the very idea of such a show.)

Thus began a complex process of developing a formula that mixed reality and fantasy in a child-friendly manner that would teach pre-schoolers the alphabet, numbers and wholesome values. By trial and error, and a great deal of creativity, they came up with human characters — including people of color — and colorful creatures on an inner-city street who would make learning fun.

The formula still works. After a writers' conference, cast and crew are seen shooting two programs about a hurricane on Sesame Street and how Big Bird must deal with the destruction of his home. Many themes have been explored to develop children's self-esteem and allay their fears about the sometimes confusing world around them. When the actor portraying the character of Mr. Hooper died, a show was devoted to explaining what that meant. And using actors from various racial and ethnic backgrounds was a breakthrough when the series premiered in November 1969 — and became an instant hit.

Of course, central to the series' development were Jim Henson's Muppets and the many whimsical ways he used them. The story of how Cooney mistook Henson for a terrorist the day they met is truly amusing.

And viewers will get a new appreciation for what is required of the Muppeteers below camera level who must simultaneously voice their puppet, convey emotion by body language, and move back and forth from their crouched positions while watching the monitor and not blocking the camera lights. On the small screen it looks so effortless, but director and former Muppeteer Frank Oz admits it took him years to perfect his technique. Clearly, much thought, sweat and artistry go into each episode.

Original cast members Bob (Bob McGrath), Susan (Loretta Long) and Maria (Sonia Manzano) recall the excitement of being cast in the show and how their characters were allowed to grow through the years. Other interviews with Muppeteers Carol Spinney, Kevin Clash and Steve Whitmire are also interesting, but somewhat drawn out. A fine program overall, it would have been improved by tighter editing, perhaps to 90 minutes as opposed to two hours.

Thankfully, "Sesame Street" remains a genuine force for good on TV. Generations of children have arrived in kindergarten excited by the prospect of learning and reading books, thanks to what they have absorbed from this program. To this day, each page of a "Sesame Street" script must address an educational goal. As a tribute to the genius of Jim Henson, and a nostalgic trip down memory lane, this is one A&E biography worth watching.

Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges Christians to make special effort to enter Lent

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said today's Christians are surrounded by secularism and must make a special effort to enter into the spirit of Lent.

Speaking to pilgrims Feb. 28 — Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the church's penitential season leading to Easter — the pope said one of Lent's main fruits is greater openness to the needs of others.

The pope spoke in a relaxed and strong voice during the weekly general audience, which was attended by 5,000 people from more than a dozen countries.

Lent involves "a personal and community ascetic journey," he said, "which sometimes is particularly arduous because of the secularized environment that surrounds us."

"But this is precisely why the effort must be stronger," he said.

The pope said traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving are aimed at personal conversion, a renewed relationship with God, and a strengthened commitment to help the needy.

"A greater openness to the needs of one's neighbors cannot but be the fruit of such a courageous ascetic itinerary," he said.

"After having contemplated the face of the Lord crucified, how can one not recognize him and serve him in those who are in sorrow and abandonment?" he said.

In his homily at an evening Ash Wednesday Mass in Rome's Basilica of Santa Sabina, the pope said this year's Lenten celebration was an opportunity for the church to continue the focus on penance and reconciliation of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

"It was a year of intense spiritual fervor, during which divine mercy was abundantly poured out on the world," he said.

The pope underscored the importance to Lent of contemplation, prayer and recourse to the sacrament of reconciliation.

Confession allows believers to rediscover Christ as "the one in whom God shows us his compassionate heart and reconciles us fully with himself," he said.

The pope said the church's message of reconciliation was a gift to today's world, which he said was in growing need of peacemaking and forgiveness.

By preaching love for one's enemies, the church "is conscious of inspiring in the spiritual patrimony of all humanity a new way of relating to one another — a way which is certainly difficult but rich in hope," he said.

The pope presided over the Liturgy of the Word before blessing and distributing ashes. As in past years, he then sat to the side while Cardinal Jozef Tomko, prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, presided over the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Teens say abstinence works

The word is that you guys seem to be doing a pretty good job. Being abstinent, that is.

Lots of people didn't think you could do it. They thought that just because you were teens, you should be taught and treated like a bunch of little animals without a shred of free will.

So, they reasoned, the best any of the rest of us could do to teach you about sex was to teach you some basic commands and get you temporarily neutered, so you'd do the least damage possible.

Now, doesn't that make you feel special?

Maybe not, but if you think about most professional sex educators, rooted in the Planned Parenthood "They're gonna do it anyway" philosophy, that's exactly the attitude they bring to their dealings with teens.

But allow me to let you in on a secret: Those particular types of programs, framed as they are in a refusal to judge any sexual behaviors as right or wrong as well as in a hopelessness about the possibilities of your self-control, don't really work.

And, it turns out, they don't work nearly as well as programs that are rooted in that quaint, strange notion called "abstinence."

It's true. Since 1996, the federal and state governments have been providing lots of funding for abstinence-based sexuality education programs. The results of that effort are starting to show up as states study their effectiveness. What they're finding is a noticeable drop in premarital sex among teens as well as in teen pregnancy.

In fact, there's a county in Tennessee that used to be first in the state in teen pregnancy rates. After three years of an intensive, abstinence-based program, that same county dropped to 64th place.

But that's not all. Most of you know that the abstinence message isn't only coming through in the classroom. It's also coming through in chastity pledges such as "True Love Waits."

A lot of people turned their noses up at those chastity pledges too. But a recent study published in the American Journal of Sociology presented some surprising news: Teens who take chastity pledges actually try pretty hard to live by them and are far less likely to engage in premarital sex than those who don't pledge.

Who'd have thought it? Who'd have thought that teens could actually understand the message that all the birth-control methods in the world can't prevent the most lasting damage of premarital sex: the loss of personal integrity and the destruction of the beauty of sexuality? Who'd have thought that teens could actually commit themselves to live, not by media lies, but by the truth that sexuality has a marvelous, deep and unique purpose that is only fully realized in marriage and that recreational sex with people you barely know makes a mockery of?

Who'd have thought it? Well, to be honest, we did — your parents, teachers and youth ministers. And we didn't just think it, we knew it all along.

Thanks for proving us right.

Guest Column

RICO De SILVA
Guest Columnist

The Timeless Hero

We all have heroes.

When I was growing up, all my friends had sports idols or venerated cartoon characters. For me, even Pete Rose or Superman could not touch my dad. Ever since I can remember, my father was always my hero. He had a presence that words cannot really describe. And even today, I still do not know what it was, but I always felt secure around him. I always wanted to be with him. I always wanted to be like him. It was not so much what he used to say to me, but what he did or who he was. He was my dad.

I remember a particular incident when I was about 10 years old. My dad and I were sitting in our house porch near the beach in my native country of Panama. It was a typical Panamanian day, very hot and humid. A middle-aged, poorly clad fisherman approached my father asking him for a glass of water. Without saying a word, he stood up, went inside the house, grabbed a portable card table and proceeded to set the table outside for the man. Dad then served the man some spaghetti and bread, and got him some lemonade too. Next thing I know, we were sitting with this man, sipping lemonade, while the fisherman savored his spaghetti like it was his last meal on earth. I do not believe I knew the meaning of the word compassion at that time, but I knew that what my father did was GOOD. It made such an impression on me that to this day, when I remember my deceased father, I always think of what he did that hot and humid Saturday afternoon.

When I think of my dad, I also think of St. Joseph. Like my father, this saint is my hero. We have heroes because we recognize and admire greatness in them. St. Joseph was an ordinary man with extraordinary faith. His greatness laid in the fact of his unquestionable, silent, consistent obedience to God's will. We read in the Gospel of St. Matthew that whatever he was commanded to do by God's angel he did immediately, protecting his Holy Family. Moreover, his faithful obedience to God was lived out more perfectly by his daily commitment to be husband to Mary and foster father to Jesus. As a good husband and father, he not only protected, but also provided for his family. Like any man, he embraced the daily grind to earn his bread with the sweat of his brow as a carpenter. It is precisely this faithful and loving commitment to be present to his family that evokes continual admiration for this great saint.

The Church in her wisdom remembers what St. Joseph did 2,000 years ago when he was chosen by God to be a father and a husband to the Holy Family. On March 19, we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary. Like my father or your father, he probably had a presence that Jesus recognized as a child growing up in Nazareth. I often imagine that if Jesus Christ ever had a childhood hero, it had to be his foster father, Joseph. I am sure he recognized in St. Joseph the paternal love and protection His Father in Heaven wanted Him to enjoy as a child growing up in Nazareth. The Church recognizes St. Joseph's loving presence and constant protection to her. This was made manifest last century by Pope Pius IX when he named St. Joseph "Patron of the Universal Church."

St. Joseph has great relevance in family life today. He is a model for all fathers struggling to be role models for their children, providing for and raising a family. In a culture where family values are constantly under attack by selfish and egotistical secular values, and where women, more than ever, are raising their children by themselves, Joseph stands as an example of true Christian fatherhood. Let us not forget that Jesus not only learned his trade of carpentry from St. Joseph, but more importantly He learned from His foster father how to be a man.

St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ, pray for us.

Rico De Silva is a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte currently in formation at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Tolerance for today — and tomorrow

The far-reaching impact of The Christophers, as a truly ecumenical movement which speaks to people of all faiths and of no particular faith, came home to me recently. I received a telling letter from a now retired State Supreme Court Justice. The judge's parents taught him to be suspicious of religions other than his own. And Catholics were at the top of the list of prominent faiths to be avoided.

As the judge matured he began to wonder about his perceived enemies. He even dared to wonder if it's possible that we're all children of the same God. Could it be, he asked, that even though we come to the reality of a Higher Being from different perspectives, our final destination is the same? This musing put him in direct conflict with the biased attitudes he had learned as a child.

Then one day, listening to the radio, the judge heard the compelling message of an articulate priest. His name was Father James Keller, and he had founded an organization called The Christophers. Keller spoke of the importance of all religious faith. He encouraged us to see in the different beliefs and practices of other faiths not a threat, but a sign of hope. God makes us all different and that's part of the eternal wonder of His creation. The differences of approach give testimony to the universal importance of humankind's search for meaning — and for God.

The judge wrote me that in those few moments of listening to Father Keller on the radio so many years ago, his view of others began to change. He had never known a priest, and certainly never imagined that he would ever hear one say that his way to God was a path that should be worthy of respect, appreciation, even delight for other people. With that affirmation, the judge embarked on a new recognition of the value and dignity of every religious search. He even came to see that each human being, including nonbelievers and those who struggle to believe, are worthy of esteem. And it all began with the words of one priest who dared to affirm our shared search for God.

There is value in this journey toward Divine truth. When you look at our often divided and conflicted world and see that too often people use religion as an excuse for prejudice, cruelty and even war, it's wonderful to remember the hopeful message of Father James Keller. It's a much-needed message that must be interpreted anew for each generation. As Pope John Paul II has warned us more recently, "To do harm, to promote violence and conflict, in the name of religion is a terrible contradiction and offense against God."

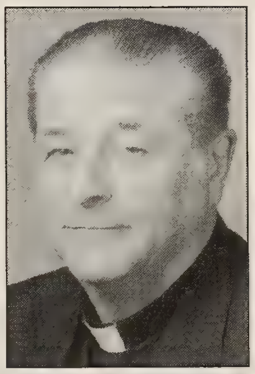
There are many reasons I love working for The Christophers. Among its greatest strength as an instrument for God's goodness is its work of bridge-building, through which it encourages all people of good will to develop mutual respect for the myriad ways men and women come to believe. Imagine, if we all lit candles in the midst of the darkness, how bright, tolerant and respectful our world could be.

One of Father Keller's first books was called You Can Change the World — a great title because it summed up his positive attitude. Here is a quote for your consideration: "Love one another. Hold fast to that whether you understand one another or not. And remember nothing really matters except loving God and others over the whole world as far as you can reach."

Thanks, judge, for that letter, and for telling us how you came to open your heart and extend your reach.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist



Communion for Alzheimer's patient

Q. I am the major caregiver for an Alzheimer's patient in our family and need to know whether he can receive Communion. I receive conflicting answers. One priest is reluctant to bring him the sacrament because "he doesn't really know what is going on."

My brother is, as they say, in the later mid-stages of the disease, and of course is regressing regularly. But I am convinced he is sometimes more aware of "what is going on" than we think.

Is there a rule about this? I think that, even in his condition, receiving Communion would be a big help. (Wisconsin)

A. Your instincts and experience agree totally with all that is known about Alzheimer's sufferers, especially in their later and final stages. The loss of memory and of cognitive abilities, which so distresses and frustrates caregivers like yourself, is not the whole story of what can be going on deep inside.

Even when they cannot speak intelligibly or rationally, or grasp verbal communications, many, perhaps most, of these patients can experience through their senses much that seems to open up parts of their lives that seemed to be lost in permanent darkness.

Just before this past Christmas a group of 60 Alzheimer's patients attended a church service in California. Many of them could not say their own names, but from somewhere inside they found the words to sing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World."

Experiences that reach the senses of hearing and touch sometimes seem especially able to surface memories long lost to consciousness. In my own experience, Catholics in the later stages of the disease may unexpectedly remember the Sign of the Cross or accompany someone praying the Our Father or Hail Mary with them.

Visiting familiar places like their church, hearing stories of where they have been and what they have done, is often a big help.

In light of all this, it would seem presumptuous to refuse Communion to Alzheimer's patients, as long as they are physically able to receive. There is no way one could legitimately presume that the patient is incapable of receiving the Eucharist with sufficient awareness and spiritual benefit.

The church's position is and has been that when it comes to the sacraments, we always give people the benefit of any doubt and leave it to God to sort out. We are ignorant of too many factors to take that judgment on ourselves.

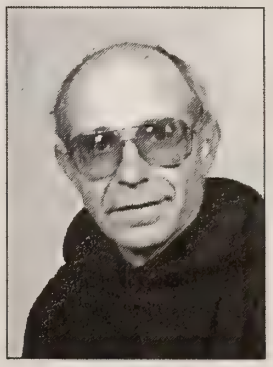
Finally, I hope you are taking advantage of every opportunity to keep yourself fed, spiritually and emotionally. Caring for Alzheimer's patients is arguably the most draining and exhausting task one can have, and it cannot be done without a load of continuing help and support.

Fortunately, a large variety of printed and other resources are available for such assistance. Most larger communities today list an Alzheimer's Association chapter in the phone book. National headquarters are at 919 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611-1676. Phone 1-800-272-3900. Their Web site is www.alz.org.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Lenten Reflection



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

Lent 2001: Ashes and Alleluias

Lent is often called a journey. That means that the end of Lent, we should expect to find ourselves somewhere different from where we started. The beginning of this journey is marked by the ashes of Ash Wednesday and by the alleluias of Holy Saturday. Between the beginning and the end, we tell our stories which unfold our existential journey, guided by God's wisdom and misguided by our foolishness.

The Bible is a good book of stories, in addition to being "a great perennial teaching." We hear about Sarah's disbelieving laughter and Abraham's endless bargaining over Sodom. Jacob is duped into marrying the wrong wife, and Rachel connives to bear babies. Joseph and Jeremiah get thrown into cisterns, and Rebekah is but one of the women at the well drawing water for a thirsty stranger.

Jonah, Elijah and Job are all so frazzled that they want to drop dead on the spot. Esther works up the nerve to spoil Haman's plot against her and her people, but then he gets dragged to his own execution under the accusation of lechery.

A king tosses Daniel into a pit of lions and then spends the night fasting in remorse, hoping against hope that the lions fast, too. A pair of judges, shamed by Susanna, haul her off to court and accuse her of the crime they themselves attempted, but Susanna has the last laugh.

Last, but not least, is the parable of a gardener's efforts to coax a fig tree into bearing fruit.

From the story time, off we go into "signs, symbols and rituals." The history of salvation could be written in symbols: the blood of the lamb, the manna of the desert, the brazen serpent, the bitter herbs, the cup of wine. Christ himself is referred to by St. John as the "Word," the visible symbol of the Father who sent his only begotten Son to be a personal redeemer. The death on the cross was a visible expression, a symbol of our Father's love. At the Last Supper, the Lord wanted this event to be recalled as the memorial of his death. All the sacraments, after all, are effective signs, symbols of the invisible grace.

Signs, symbols and rituals are needed in our relationship with God and one another. The alphabet itself is a series of codified sounds which, properly put together, spell out a message. Simply for the sake of playing with words, how about thinking of Lent as

L stands for Love
E stands for Enriches
N stands for Nourishes
T stands for Transforms

Our last thought about ashes and alleluias: It is common routine for professional farmers to burn the fields after the harvest for three good reasons. First, fire purifies the fields by killing the diseases and pests that had accumulated during the growing season. Second, burning the rubble opens up space for the new crop. Finally, burning the remains of the previous crop means that the carbon in the rubble serves as fertilizer for the coming crop.

Is it not exactly the conversion and/or renewal process in our lives? We are so eager to celebrate our alleluias; why not celebrate the ashes as well? Happy Lent 2001.

Capuchin Father John Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Performer shares his experience of Jesus having a sense of humor

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Is it possible to imagine Jesus laughing? It's easy to read about his other human emotions like love, rage and sadness. But did Jesus chuckle?

It might be a stretch for some, but Nick Weber, an experienced Shakespearean actor and former circus performer, is one man who can readily apply the Ignatian practice of imagination to visualizing Jesus laughing.

Making good use of his master's degree in theatre arts from San Francisco University and a degree in sacred theology, Weber recently delighted his audience at St. Eugene Church in Asheville with a one-hour exploration of looking at the Gospels with an element of fun.

"The only bad news about the Good News is they forgot the comic section," Weber said in his show "And Jesus Laughed." Never once is Jesus remembered to have laughed or giggled.

"Let's face it. Jesus had bad days. He was a 33-year-old Jewish bachelor for life, born into a poor family. He ran around the countryside dressed as a hippie surrounded by former IRS men, fishermen and a hooker. He spoke to crowds who either scorned him or envied him."

In his interpretation, Weber convinced his audience that Jesus saw many opportunities that provided him with laughter. Basing one assumption on the Scripture reading that showed the disciples trying to shoo away the little ones, Jesus chided them for their seriousness and reminded them to be like smiling, playful children if they wanted the kingdom of God. (Matthew 19:13)

The crowd responded with enthusiasm, including seven rows of teenagers.

Fifty-five kids from the Youth Ministry Program at St. Eugene howled at Weber's reference to the continual "dumb questions" of the disciples, which surely provided Jesus with ample pleasure.

"I've spent a long time imagining Jesus laughing out-loud at himself and with others," Weber added. "I am able to relate to someone more complete to the Incarnation.."

"It was an original masterpiece and I loved it" said John Scully, seventh-grader at Asheville Catholic School. Another classmate, John Oliver replied, "It was pretty funny and it made me laugh — and not many things make me laugh."

"The genius of Nick Weber made it comfortable and humorous," said Chuck Taft, director of liturgy and music at St. Eugene. "At the core, his message is deep. He reminded us that the Gospels have something to say to us, even today. They aren't simply a message from the past."

St. Joseph of the Hills observes Black History Month

Submitted by WAYNE CARTER
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

EDEN — Father Mauricio W. West, the Diocese of Charlotte's vicar general and chancellor, joined the St. Joseph of the Hills parish community last month as guest celebrant during the parish's annual Black History Month observance.

In his homily, Father West encouraged those present to use their God-given talents to reach out and support others, regardless of differences.

The parish family continued the celebration after Mass with a brunch prepared by the Family Life Commission.

The African American presence at St. Joseph of the Hills spans more than 40 years. Contributions by these parish members have been as diverse as the individuals themselves.

Teresa Belthrop Hairston, who was baptized, married and witnessed her sons baptized in this same church, is an example of the long-standing relationship to the St. Joseph of the Hills faith community. Hairston shared her thoughts on Black History Month with the congregation in a presentation titled "African, American & Catholic."

The discussion chronicled her discoveries of the history of Africans and people of African descent who have made noteworthy contributions to the Catholic Church. She cited the liturgical reformer St. Gelasius, the third African pope, who ordered the reception of Communion under both species.

Other notables included St. Martin de Porres, St. Marcellinus, an African missionary to France; and St. Josephine Bakhita, born in Sudan and known as "our black mother" by her religious community, the Daughters of Charity.

Hairston concluded her presentation by sharing some thoughts on the lives of these individuals. She focused on their great faith in Jesus Christ, how they did remarkable things and made tremendous contributions throughout history to the life of the Catholic Church.

"This is evident today," she said, "as the legacy of these saints of the Catholic Church touches contemporary African American people."

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Child Care Provider: Room At The Inn, a Catholic maternity home for single, pregnant mothers located in Charlotte, needs a full-time Child Care Provider. Experience preferred. Call Trish for more information: (704)525-4673.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Music Ministry: Part-time position for growing 800-member parish. St. Mary's Church, Shelby and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain is seeking qualified person proficient in organ and with vocal ability to work with cantors and choir. Responsibilities include one Saturday evening service and two Sunday services (one in Kings Mountain and one in Shelby). Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to: St. Mary's Music Search Committee, 818 McGowan Rd., Shelby NC 28150 or Fax: (704)487-0187. For more information on our parish, visit www.rc.net/charlotte/stmaryshelby

Faith Formation Coordinator: Part-time. This position is for grades K-6 and Confirmation Program. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Pleas send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Ann's Church, 3635 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Principal, Elementary: Saint Mark parish will be opening a new K-8 coeducational school of 450 students in September 2002. The successful candidate will begin work July 2, 2001 and will have the responsibility of performing all tasks necessary to organize, manage, and open the school. The candidate will be a practicing Catholic, have a master's degree with 5 years' experience as an elementary school administrator and hold or be qualified for North Carolina elementary principal certification. Competitive salary and fringe benefits. Send a resume and letter explaining philosophy of Catholic education, description of leadership and management style, any experience opening a new school, and salary requirements to: Search Committee, Saint Mark Catholic School, 1011 Eastwood Road, Wilmington, NC 28403.

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Diocesan leaders report on what helps, hinders women in church

By NANCY FRAZER O'BRIEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Women in diocesan leadership positions in the United States say their participation in church decision-making is sometimes hindered by sexist attitudes, church structures or the strident voices of women themselves, according to a new survey.

The results were compiled by the Life Cycle Institute of The Catholic University of America in Washington from questionnaires sent to 378 women in 128 dioceses who had been identified by their bishops as diocesan leaders.

The aim of the survey, which was released Feb. 27, was to "examine how women's voices are heard in church decision-making," said Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church, in a letter sent to bishops with the survey results.

Those receiving the questionnaire were asked to identify "the personal characteristics and church structures that help and hinder" the role of women in church decision-making and to describe their own "positive and negative experiences as a woman in diocesan leadership," the archbishop said.

Nearly one-third (31 percent) of the 233 women who returned surveys said "diocesan leadership structures do not allow women's voices to be heard," while 30 percent said "diocesan leaders or priests have sexist attitudes or don't understand women."

But more than one-fourth (27 percent) said women's voices are muted when "the woman is overly militant, combative, single-minded or insubordinate."

The Life Cycle Institute's report on the survey results also included selected comments from the respondents, although none was identified by name or diocese.

"The very fact that a woman must prove her credibility is a hindrance," said one. "But a woman will not be heard if she is defensive, aggressive and refuses to respect the authority and structure of the organization."

Asked what helps women's voices to be heard:

— 37 percent said a woman who "has earned trust by loyalty and respectfulness, or by years of service."

— 34 percent cited a woman's competence and "excellent skills, knowledge or credentials."

— 30 percent said it helped when "the bishop and other diocesan leaders are open-minded toward women."

Women are heard, one respondent said, "if they are well-prepared, self-assured, respectful and respectable, have an appropriate sense of humor, and continue to familiarize themselves with the 'territory.'"

But 87 percent of the women rated as good (63 percent) or excellent (24 percent) the quality of collaboration among clergy, religious and lay people within the diocese. Only 2 percent said it was poor.

"My greatest frustration is the lack of consistency in experiences of collaboration," said one respondent. "Some (but not enough) issues are addressed in a very collaborative manner. Some issues are addressed in an informative manner under the guise of collaboration. Other issues are simply decided and decisions are announced in the form of a memo."

But another said her bishop, "using his leadership, has given an example to priests and pastors that women must be recognized for their contributions."

Forty percent of those responding to the survey were in religious life, 36 percent were married, 17 percent single, 5 percent divorced or separated, and 2 percent widowed.

Nearly half (48 percent) were between the ages of 51 and 60, while another 25 percent were 61-70 years old and 19 percent were 41-50.

More than 80 percent of the women diocesan leaders were white, 5 percent were African-American, 6 percent were Hispanic, 2 percent were Asian-American and 1 percent were Native American. The remaining 3 percent said they were from another race or ethnic group, or more than one.

Asked what position they held in the diocese, 30 of the respondents said they were chancellor, a position which has only recently become available to women under canon law.

Among the other positions held by the women were newspaper editor or communications director; director of finance, stewardship or business; director of human resources; tribunal director or member; educational administrator; and social service administrator.

The survey was conducted for the bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church in anticipation of the committee's March 11-13 consultation in Chicago with more than 100 female diocesan leaders.

"It should stimulate our conversation in Chicago and also back home with the women who collaborate with us in church leadership," said Archbishop Vlazny. "They are performing an invaluable service and deserve our respect, support and understanding."

Friar, from page 7

music, with gardening, what have you.

"For me, it's an expression of my relationship with the Lord. It's my prayer. Things come out that I experience or that I am thinking or that I want to communicate."

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Friar Brian Haverlock prays the Our Father with his parents, Roger and Georgina Haverlock of Winston-Salem.

A new canvas

By taking first, or simple, vows, Friar Haverlock now enters a several-year period of continued formation in Washington, D.C. With God's direction, he will then take solemn vows for life, followed by a period called the transitional diaconate that leads to ordination. Within four to five years, Friar Brian Haverlock may be ordained into the priesthood.

"It's a blessing that this son of Our Lady of Mercy is becoming a friar," said Conventual Franciscan Father Canice Connors, minister provincial of the friars' Immaculate Conception Province and former Our Lady of Mercy pastor, who presided at the March 3 Mass. "This reminds us that as someone comes forth from a faith community and moves into an order, we all continue the journey of faith together. There is a wonderful circle of blessing and a sense of God's goodness."

All the while, Friar Haverlock expects to learn more each day about the Franciscan way of life.

"The Franciscan life is one of simplicity and spirituality," he says. "It's a contemplative way of life combined with the active way of life."

He says that style of offering one's life to God allows for many encounters with the artistic — in relationships, in ministry, in work.

"In God's creation," he says, "there are many opportunities to be creative."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Ecumenical group unites in prayer at Hickory church

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — While taking part in the 2001 World Day of Prayer service written by the women of Samoa, Christians around the world learned a little about this South Pacific country and some of its customs and language.

They took part in a Kava ceremony, a special reception that Samoans offer to guests and friends, in which a kava root or a coconut is used as a symbol of something precious that unites them in friendship.

They greeted each other with handshakes, saying, "Talofa (tah-loh-fah)," and hearing the response, "Talofa lava." In Samoan this means welcome and greetings, and is an offering of love and peace. They also learned the names of some of the many small islands that are part of Samoa.

WDP 2001 · SAMOA

INFORMED PRAYER & PRAYERFUL ACTION

In Hickory, 70 people attended the service, which took place in the chapel at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Friday evening, March 2, and was sponsored by the local branch of Church Women United.

Church Women United is a grassroots ecumenical movement of Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and other Christian women. Carole Marmorato of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Hickory is the chair of the planning committee for the local group.

The theme for this year's service was "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." The worship bulletin, supplied by the national Church Women United organization, said that the Samoan version of this theme is, "'We need to be informed when we pray, and we need to be practical after our prayer,' implying that it is not prayer if we do not act."

The Scripture readings during the service were from Esther 4:1-17, and Matthew 15:21-28. During the homily, the Rev. Lory Beth Huffman, associate pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, talked about the two women facing difficult situations portrayed in these passages, and how they first prayed and then took action to be a part of the answer to those prayers. "We need to find ways to respond to those concerns that we bring to God," she said.

During the Hickory version of the Kava ceremony, a coconut cookie was given to each person attending the service. Women from 15 area churches participated in and helped with preparations for the service and the reception that followed. Celia Sexton and choir members from Holy Trinity Lutheran provided the music.

Marmorato said that the Hickory service was really a community effort. "I couldn't do this without all the help I get," she said. "I have a great planning committee."

She said that Karla Blakey from Episcopal Church of the Ascension helped with publicity. Susie Lail from Bethany Lutheran prepared flyers and handouts. Ann Matthews from Highland United Methodist made welcoming remarks. Norma Ridenhour from Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Newton directed the service and took care of the props that were needed, and Cecelia Mull from St. Andrew's Lutheran supervised the nursery.

Several women from those churches and others participated in the service and reception. Other churches represented included First Presbyterian, Mt. Olive Lutheran, First United Methodist, Mt. Pisgah AME and Northminster Presbyterian.

The World Day of Prayer is celebrated through various organizations in more than 170 countries, but Church Women United has sponsored the services in the United States since 1941. Church Women United also sponsors World Community Day in November of each year.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Lent 2001

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks; your presence, O Lord, I seek.
Hide not your face from me; do not in anger repel your servant.
Psalm 27: 8-9

Ex-crooner sings a new song to the Lord

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

FOREST CITY — Whenever Rev. Mr. Andy Cilone hears old 50s and 60s songs on the radio or on TV, a wave of nostalgia for the old days hits him, not because the songs were playing as he grew up but because he was singing them. Long before committing himself to ministry with the permanent diaconate, Rev. Mr. Cilone was known in certain circles as the lead singer of his band, "The Mystics."

His singing career began — like many other professional and semi-professional singers — in the church. In his neighborhood church choir, he was a boy soprano and sang the Gregorian chants familiar to many older Catholics at a time when the Mass was said in Latin. At school, he had the opportunity to sing in operettas and other productions, but it was after high school that he became somewhat of a local celebrity. He started his band, and later, was the replacement frontman for Bobby Vinton's band after the popular singer began scoring hits.

Rev. Mr. Cilone toured in his local area, playing at nightclubs and social events, while working at a local plastics plant in his hometown of Follansbee, W. Va., across the Ohio River from Steubenville, Ohio. After he and wife JoAnn were married and his family began to grow, he sang for a couple of years before returning to the familiar surroundings of the church; however, his singing became an ecumenical endeavor.

The principles of Judaism are familiar to Rev. Mr. Cilone because for nearly 10 years, he was a cantor in a conservative Jewish temple in Steubenville. "I found out about it from the woman who taught me singing lessons. It was a very comfortable environment for me because the rabbi was very open. One of the owners of the company I worked for went to the temple, so everything kind of blended together and worked out."

It worked out so well, in fact, that he became the soloist at a Presbyterian church along with continuing to sing at his own church and at the Jewish temple and also working at the plastics plant. "The money I earned from singing helped to supplement my income; however, I simply enjoyed it. When you sing for Mass or for a church service, you help people elevate their spiritual lives, and this was something that came natural for me."

Song and praise followed the Cilone family as they relocated to Forest City, N.C., when his company opened another plant in the Western area of the state. Before moving, Rev. Mr. Cilone had researched the area and found that Immaculate Conception Church in Forest City had 40 families at that time in 1976 and that Catholics made up one-half of one percent of the population. "I saw that as a challenge and a new experience, and that was one of the areas that prompted my getting involved with the permanent diaconate later on," said Rev. Mr. Cilone, who immediately became the church's cantor.

The late Father John Murray, pastor of Immaculate Conception at the time, informed Rev. Mr. Cilone that applications were available for the diocese's first class of the permanent diaconate, and the priest encouraged him to apply. Thus, Rev. Mr. Cilone was ordained in 1983 and continued to serve his parish in another area of ministry, one toward which he felt God had led him. "You feel a gratefulness and a sense of gratitude for God's work in your life which was part of my decision to apply to the permanent diaconate. The other was the educational aspect because I had been bombarded with questions about my faith, and I saw this as a tool for learning more about my faith to enhance my teaching."

Rev. Mr. Cilone had begun to teach confirmation class at his church around the same time as he became involved with the permanent diaconate; therefore, he was able to apply some of what he was learning to his classes. He later became the faith formation coordinator, a position he holds to this day. He has been vicar of the Hickory Vicariate for the past six years and is the original vicar of the Hickory region.

While his spiritual life was changing for the better, his professional life was evolving in an unexpected way. Nearly three years after settling in North Carolina, Rev. Mr. Cilone found himself without a job because the plant was sold. However, Rev. Mr. Cilone was able to find the silver lining in the cloud. "It was a scary situation because you wonder what you will do. I found another job as plant manager in another plastics plant, but this was one of the things that seemed to put me in a position where I would be available for the permanent diaconate."

Even last month's retirement is viewed as another blessing for Rev. Mr. Cilone. "God is continuing to lead me, and I am sure that there will be more areas of ministry that I will be involved in. I minister wherever there is a need — home, work or church."

The father of five and grandfather of four, soon to be six, is usually busy, but he took time out recently to paint his next grandchild's room a shade of pineapple yellow. As for singing, Rev. Mr. Cilone has not retired his pipes just yet. Lullabies will surely be high on the request list for the grandchildren due in April and May of this year.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

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Inside

Woman walks road from rage to reconciliation ...PAGE 5

Priest reflects on popular liturgical song ...PAGE 8

Local News

Catechists gather for Lenten retreat ...PAGE 4

Faith journey leads to permanent diaconate ...PAGE 7

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

Rite of Election ...PAGE 9

Pictured right — Hundreds in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered to celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, a key step in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Court refuses to hear case on graduation speech's religious tone

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case of a California high school valedictorian who was prevented from giving his graduation speech three years ago when he would not tone down its religious references. Without comment, the court rejected the former student's argument that public school district officials had violated his rights when they did not allow him to give his prepared speech. The student, Chris Niemeyer, was co-valedictorian of the 1998 graduating class at Oroville High School in Oroville, Calif. His speech had numerous references to God and pleas to the audience to "pattern their lives after Jesus' example" and to realize that "God seeks a personal relationship" with each of them.

Speakers assess bioethics from various faith perspectives

MIAMI (CNS) — Anything involving science or technology must be seen from a moral or social point of view, Rabbi Donald Dixon told a bioethics conference in Miami. Rabbi Dixon, a member of the Miami Heart Institute Bioethics Commission, said the Jewish faith takes its lead from the Book of Genesis, where mankind is made in the image of God. "So we feel strongly that we must behave in a Godlike manner, being merciful, just and forgiving," he said. The rabbi was one of several representatives of faith groups who spoke at a bioethics conference in early February at St. Thomas University. Relating Genesis to bioethics, the Orthodox rabbi said cloning would be Godlike, "so the consensus is that you would be allowed to 'play God' and, yes, you could do that."

Catholic high school shooting called shocking

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (CNS) — A Scranton diocesan spokeswoman called the March 7 student shooting at Bishop Neumann High School in Williamsport a "sad and shocking" reminder that violence can occur anywhere. An eighth-grade girl suffered a bullet wound in the upper arm. The alleged shooter, who was in police custody, was also an eighth-grade girl. Maria Orzel, diocesan communications director, told Catholic News Service that Bishop James C. Timlin of Scranton, who is a pilot, left Scranton immediately to fly out to Williamsport, about 75 miles west. Bishop Neumann, one of nine Catholic high schools in the Scranton Diocese, has about 230 students in grades 7-12.

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Spanish nun holds images of newly beatified

A Spanish nun holds an image of a few of the newly beatified Spanish martyrs March 11 in St. Peter's Square. Pope John Paul II beatified 233 martyrs, the most ever at one time, during the service.

Mercy nun to direct Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a New York-based agency that coordinates most of the activity of religious groups in its field, named Mercy Sister Patricia Wolf as its new executive director, effective March 6. Following an interim directorship by Ursuline Sister Valerie Heinonen, she succeeded Timothy H. Smith, a United Methodist layman from Canada who left in September after heading the agency since 1976. Sister Wolf took an active role in the corporate responsibility movement while serving on the staff of the Intercommunity Center for Peace and Justice in New York, and from 1981 to 1983 chaired the board of the interfaith center.

Chilean cardinal says peace requires truth about disappeared

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — Cardinal Francisco Errazuriz Ossa of Santiago said the truth about those who disappeared during the 1973-90 reign of Gen. Augusto Pinochet is required for building reconciliation among Chileans. On March 5, Chilean President Ricardo Lagos invited the new cardinal to a ceremony at the president's official house. During the nationally broadcast ceremony, Cardinal Errazuriz proposed a formula to achieve final reconciliation among Chileans, sharply divided between critics and supporters of Pinochet. "The only possibility to bring Chileans together is the way of truth, justice, forgiveness, repentance and clemency," said the cardinal, who is also president of the Chilean bishops' conference.

Security stepped up after vandalism at historic mission

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — Officials at historic Mission San Xavier del Bac near Tucson have decided to install motion-detecting floodlights and a 7-foot security gate following three separate acts of vandalism in one week in February. All the vandalism occurred in a mortuary chapel next to the world-renowned, 203-year-old mission, which is located on federal trust land owned by the Diocese of Tucson and surrounded by the Tohono O'odham Nation. The first act — discovered Feb. 13 — included the desecration of 35 of the 50 statues located in the chapel as well as extensive spray painting. Early on Feb. 18, three more statues were discovered broken. Later that evening a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was found covered in motor oil and smoldering.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 24
Attending Leadership Training Program
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

March 25 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden

March 26 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle

March 28-29
LARCUM Ecumenical Dialogue
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Diocesan planner

March

19 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable interparish group, meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in her Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

21 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women is having its annual mini-Lenten retreat at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., at the Wednesday 10 a.m. Masses continuing this morning, March 28 and April 4. The ladies ask that attendants bring hors d'oeuvres to share after the last gathering. Call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 for information.

22 HICKORY — The Volunteer In-Home Respite Program is providing training for volunteers at St. Aloysius Church, 921 2nd St. NE, tonight and March 29 from 6-9 p.m. For more information, call Kathryn Tinkelenberg, parish nurse, at (828) 464-9880.

23 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is hosting a renewal of body and spirit for those who parent children with special needs. Beginning at 7:30 p.m. tonight and ending with Mass and lunch on March 25, this retreat's focus is on spiritual and physical needs and the deepening of one's awareness through communication with God through prayer. The facilitator, Ann Mercer, has worked with parents of children with special needs for over 16 years. For details and registration, call (828) 622-7366.

MAGGIE VALLEY — A weekend Lenten retreat is being held at Living Waters Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters

Youth ministers, chaplains offer comfort to shooting victims

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — In an outpouring of faith in the midst of tragedy, Catholic youth ministers, priests, chaplains, parents and teens ministered to each other following the March 5 shooting of 15 people at Santana High School in Santee, northwest of San Diego. Five youth ministers from area churches were meeting together that morning at Guardian Angels Church in Santee, when one of them got a call on her cell phone from a terrified daughter fleeing the high school minutes after the shooting. Father Michael Cunnane, pastor at Guardian Angels, and several youth ministers immediately drove to the school and gathered with fleeing students and parents in the parking lot of the shopping mall across the street. In such chaotic and terrifying moments "presence is the big thing," said Father Cunnane.

In L.A. vocations marathon, they all run the good race

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The annual Run for Vocations, part of the 16th Los Angeles Marathon March 4, aims to promote religious life. Participants raise awareness for vocations through a prayer drive. Whereas runners usually ask for pledges — to finance a charity, for example — those who signed up for the Run for Vocations asked for prayers instead. This year the run, which was started 14 years ago, drew 77 priests, nuns, brothers, seminarians and parishioners as participants. Frank Ebiner, a 41-year-old member of St. John the Baptist Parish in Baldwin Park, was the first of the 77 to cross the finish line. He made it in 3:13:39. Ebiner and the rest followed the 26.2-mile marathon trail that took them through the heart of downtown Los Angeles, up to Hollywood, and back.

Focus group participants share experiences of caring for dying

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (CNS) — Support and care at the end of life is just as important as when life begins. That end-of-life care can be a huge burden but can also bear fruit — both spiritual and emotional, according to people involved in such care in the St. Cloud area. Caregivers, professional and nonprofessional, shared their experiences of death and dying during a series of 90-minute focus group sessions held Feb. 19-March 2 at St. Cloud Hospital. The meetings were part of a project called "Supportive Care of the Dying," which encourages society to give people with life-threatening illnesses supportive care, compassionate relief from suffering, and help in managing pain and symptoms.

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CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

Bishops meet with female church leaders

Dolores R. Leckey, senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University, and Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland, Ore., sing a hymn at the opening of a national consultation in Chicago on women in the church and society March 11. Archbishop Vlazny chairs the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church, which was sponsoring the three-day meeting with women from across the nation.

Southern African bishops decry attempts to block cheap AIDS drugs

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference criticized a bid by pharmaceutical companies to stop the South African government from making cheaper generic drugs available to people with the AIDS virus. It is "indefensible to prevent the provision of cheap or free anti-retroviral treatment and treatment for opportunistic diseases related to AIDS by insisting on patent rights," Cardinal Wilfrid F. Napier of Durban, president of the conference, said in a statement. South Africa's medicines legislation came under the spotlight in the Pretoria High Court March 6 as about 40 pharmaceutical companies challenged the court to uphold drug patents and ban the use of cheaper alternatives by the government.

Vatican Radio's main FM station keeps many Holy Year innovations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although many things at the Vatican have returned to normal after the Holy Year, Vatican Radio's primary FM station has not. Once an Italian-language station hosting programs in other languages, 105 on the FM dial was the Holy Year home to "Jubilaeum," broadcasting programs in which Italian, English and French presenters spoke to each other and their listeners in their own language. When the jubilee ended Jan. 6, the station became "One-O-Five Live," keeping large chunks of the multilingual format, although primarily in Italian and English. For budgetary and staffing reasons, Jubilaeum's twin in Spanish and Portuguese ended with the jubilee.

Italian officials, church leaders criticize plans to clone humans

ROME (CNS) — Plans by a team of U.S. and Italian doctors to clone human babies drew a chorus of negative reaction from Italian officials and church leaders. Vatican experts, however, virtually ignored the team's announcement, which came at a press conference in Rome March 9. Some scientists said the project would inevitably produce premature deaths and physical aberrations, while others called it a publicity stunt with little chance of succeeding. The cloning team is led by Panayiotis Zavos, a U.S. fertility researcher, and includes Severino Antinori, an Italian fertility doctor. Cardinal Carlo Martini of Milan said March 10 that scientists must remember that "human dignity is the first consideration" in using scientific knowledge. "The human being can never be a reality fabricated solely with technology," he said.

Lane, this weekend through March 25. Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan and Mercy Sister Dorothy McLaughlin are presenting the theme of people's life journeys in the context of faith. For more information, call (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

24 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting a day of prayer, renewal, faith sharing and the celebration of women as sisters in the Lord today from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. With the theme "Empowered by Love" as a backdrop, the 2nd Annual Women's Day includes an afternoon session entitled "Bless This Mess: Living with the Reality of Our Lives" with Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast. The Carolina Catholic Bookshop will be displaying items, and lunch is also being served. Call Kathy Murray at (704) 849-0398 for registration and information.

DENVER — The Knights of Columbus Council 10389 Denver is hosting its annual Irish night dinner at Holy Spirit Church, 537 Hwy. 16 North, tonight at 7 p.m. The dinner of corned beef, cabbage and potatoes is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets and information, call Charley Swengros at (704) 483-1687 or the church office at (704) 483-6448.

25 BELMONT — House of Mercy Inc. is sponsoring its 8th annual three-mile walk today with registration at 1:45 p.m. with the walk at 2 p.m. to raise funds for the facility and awareness for AIDS research. Walkers of all ages are invited to secure sponsors for each of the three miles, and churches, civic organizations and youth groups are also encouraged to form teams and walk together. A celebration featuring prizes, local entertainment and refreshments is taking place immediately following the event. For more information or to register, call Paula Wilkerson at (704) 825-4711, Ext. 4.

28 WINSTON-SALEM — Schools in the Winston-Salem area are having Lenten reconciliation services on the following dates: St. Leo School, 333 Springdale Ave., this morning at 10 a.m. and Our Lady of Mercy School, 1 East Banner Ave., at 10:30 a.m. on March 30. Call the schools for details.

29 GREENSBORO — The 57th Women's Weekend Ultreya is taking place at St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St., today through April 1. For details, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Churches in the vicariate are having Lenten reconciliation services on the following dates: Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St. in Winston-Salem, tonight at 7 p.m.; Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts. in Winston-Salem, April 5 at 7 p.m.; Our Lady of the Rosary, 619 S. Main St. in Lexington, and Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. in Clemmons, April 6 at 7 p.m.; St. Benedict the Moor, 1625 E. 12th St. in Winston-Salem, April 10 at 7 p.m. and Good Shepherd, East End of Kirby Rd. in King, April 11 at 7 p.m. Call the churches for details.

30 ASHEBORO — The diocesan Boy Scouts of America Catholic Camporee is taking place today through April 1 at the Woodfield Scout Reservation. All parish and other Cub Scout Packs and Scout Troops are invited to participate in this yearly event. For additional information, contact Henry Wallace at (704) 792-9329.

31 BOONE — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation is presenting the 5th Annual Boone Education Conference today beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. Based on the theme "Our Baptismal Call and Response," Anne Trufant will share her sense of God's call in her life and will engage in fellowship and spirituality with participants. The deadline for registration is March 26, and for information and registration, call Peg Ruble, Central Regional Faith Formation Coordinator, at (704) 391-0445.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Catechetical leaders gain insight, spiritual nourishment at retreat

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HICKORY — Eighteen holes of golf can sometimes prepare Joan Mahony for the daily routine of her ministry as a parish catechetical leader. The faith formation coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte said the golf course is a home away from home. Her job is a steady stream of parental conferences; gathering of materials for the parish catechists, or faith formation teachers; student consultations and other duties in her oftentimes seven-day-a-week profession. Golf simply serves as a getaway for her from her busy schedule.

"I think that God invented the game because it is such a spiritual experience that can't be understood unless you play. It is how I get away from it all but never get away from God," she explained.

Mahony and approximately 75 others across the diocese had an opportunity for spiritual and mental renewal at the parish catechetical leaders' retreat held at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory on March 10. The day consisted of presentations from Bishop William G. Curlin; Father George Kloster, pastor of St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville, and Marylin Kravatz, Southern Regional Faith Formation Coordinator; a prayer service and time for small group discussions for parish faith formation directors and coordinators, RCIA and adult faith formation coordinators and catechists across the diocese.

Bishop Curlin talked about how those present have to make Jesus' message relevant and livable in today's ever-changing world: "Our gifts will not have any lasting value if we don't recommit ourselves and surrender to Jesus Christ every day. Your work is not easy, but if you constantly reconnect with Christ through a consistent prayer life and Scripture reading, then you will be able to spread the message of Jesus' love to all you serve."

Father Kloster presented church history in reference to recent discussions about restoration theology, a possible return to pre-Vatican II ideas and doctrine derived from the Council of Trent, which convened after the Protestant Reformation. He talked about the importance of how Vatican II reforms carried the church into modern times. "One of the battles that the PCL's face is what do they teach our children," he said after his presentation. "So, my purpose was to help them understand Vatican II sources and to show how these sources are rooted in the deep tradition and authentic theology of the church — the Scriptures, history and the Church fathers."

Photo by Alesha M. Price

From left to right, Marylin Kravatz, diocesan Southern Regional Faith Formation Coordinator; Joan Mahony, St. Vincent de Paul Church faith formation coordinator; Peg Ruble, diocesan Central Regional Faith Formation Coordinator; Doctor Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs; and Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, diocesan Northern Regional Faith Formation Coordinator discuss the morning presentations at the parish catechetical leaders' retreat in Hickory at the Catholic Conference Center on March 10.

"It is important to have the PCL's and catechists come together at least once a year to retreat from the everyday business of their ministry," explained Kravatz. "It is also nice for them to be in the presence of the bishop, their chief catechist, and be inspired by his message. The PCL's are challenged to grow in faith together."

Sundays are usually busy days for Mahony, who has been the PCL at St. Vincent de Paul for nine years. During that time, she has worked at setting up the faith formation program for the young parishioners, obtaining and retaining volunteers and keeping abreast of new faith formation materials. She also schedules meetings with parents, times and dates for the administering of sacraments and parent-child activities and performs other behind-the scenes details to make sure the program runs as efficiently as possible.

She said that gatherings such as this help her in her parish work. "While this ministry does energize the soul, sometimes we need to get that energy from someplace else to fill in any gaps. It is important to come together with like-minded people and is extremely uplifting to get in touch with what we do and why we do it."

Terri Martino, faith formation coordinator and catechist at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton for six years, says one of the reasons she is involved in this ministry is the importance of passing the faith along not only to her children but to other children as well, and the job also helps her personal faith development. She tries to involve the entire parish in her work and stresses that communication with the students and the parents is the key. She said that the retreat served as a time for her to fellowship with other PCL's.

"If we don't take the time to rejuvenate by attending some kind of retreat or day of reflection to help us focus on priorities and spiritual refreshment, then we cannot continue on our own journeys of faith," explained Martino.

Kravatz, who led the afternoon session to help the group bring the morning presentations into perspective, said that faith formation is an important part of the development of the individual and the parish as a whole. "This is not a job; it is a very busy ministry in which you are helping to hand on the faith and to journey with others so we can all know Christ better. What that entails is not just professional requirements, which is the knowledge part of knowing your theology and developing your learning of the faith and the administration of that knowledge.

"As an administrator, you are a key part of the parish family because catechetical programs are not apart from the parish; they are a part of the parish. In spite of the busy, hectic pace and responsibility of being a PCL, what balances it is the joy you experience when you minister to other people. That is the bonus of doing this kind of work."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Woman walks road from rage to reconciliation

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CLEMMONS — On a Sunday during a liturgical season that focuses on reconciliation, Marietta Jaeger Lane spoke about the struggle between fury and forgiveness.

It is a struggle she grew to know firsthand when, in the summer of 1973 on a family camping vacation, her youngest daughter was kidnapped from the tent in which she and her four siblings slept. What began as the family's dream vacation of a lifetime turned into a nightmare.

Marietta shared her family's story with an audience at Holy Family Church in Clemmons March 11 as part of that parish's Lenten series on the themes of mercy and forgiveness. For nearly two hours, Marietta weaved a narrative of the rage and reconciliation — and faith — that she experienced after her daughter's disappearance.

"We need to learn how to forgive," Marietta said. "And there is a point we all have to come to when things happen in our life, or we hurt, or life doesn't go the way we want it to go that we must make an act of faith and know that no matter what it looks like, God loves us. God is with us."

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Holy Family Church youth ministry members Lauren Pashke and Mary Kate Foley, both 15, share stories of faith with Marietta Jaeger Lane after her March 11 presentation at the church on rage and reconciliation.

God's mountain

The path from their Michigan home to a month of camping in Montana passed through eight states, and by the time their van pulled into Three Forks for their first stop, Marietta, her husband and their five children were on top of the world. They met up with Marietta's parents, in whose trailer she and her husband planned to stay.

"I felt we had come to God's mountain," she said. "We were having the best time that we ever had as a family."

During the first night of that Montana journey, Marietta tucked her five children into their sleeping bags and kissed them goodnight.

"My youngest daughter, Susie, who was only 7 years old, was the hardest for me to reach," she said. "She was tucked away in a corner with a bunch of camping gear at the foot of her sleeping bag, and I had to hang over her sister next to her and try to reach Susie to kiss her good night."

Marietta's lips barely brushed across Susie's cheek.

"She said, 'No, Momma, not like that,'" Marietta recalled. "She got up from her sleeping bag, she crawled across her sister, and she got right up in front of me. She threw her arms around me, and she gave me a great big kiss right smack on the lips. She said, 'There, Momma, that's the way it should be.'"

The moment touched Marietta and capped what, to that point, had been a perfect day for a family.

"I praise God for that lovely memory," Marietta said, "because it was the last time I ever saw my little girl."

Though a year would pass before her family knew for sure, 7-year-old Susie was tortured, raped and, a week after she was abducted, was murdered.

Rage ...

During that first night of their Montana vacation, Susie was taken by someone who cut a hole in the tent near her head where she slept. A trail of stuffed animals lay sprinkled across the grass. The campground that served as host of the family's dream vacation suddenly transformed into headquarters for the FBI and local law enforcement.

Over the next weeks, search planes buzzed overhead. Teams on the ground looked on horseback, on foot, on motorcycle. A boat dragged the river for Susie's body.

And the family huddled in various states of shock, panic and anger. "All we could do was watch at the picnic table day after day — and wait ... and wait ... and wait."

After two weeks, Marietta's numbness finally transformed into sheer rage.

"I was seething," she said. "I was filled with hatred and a desire for revenge. As I got into bed that night, I said to my husband that even if the kidnapper were to bring back Susie alive and well that moment, I could kill him for what he had done to my family. I knew that if he were put right in front of me, I could take his life with my bare hands and with a big smile on my face."

Raised a devout Catholic who was taught to forgive her enemies, Marietta entered the most harrowing faith struggle of her life. She knew the damage long-term anger can do to a person's health as well.

She felt justified in her anger, yet her strong faith directed her to turn to God and place her anguish in his hands. "God laid a good foundation in me," she said. "I knew the principles that I was going to be held accountable to if I was to live out my Catholic faith with integrity."

And so, amidst the harrowing search for her little girl, Marietta began the struggle to turn her anger into something positive. "I surrendered to God," she recalled. "I could not with any authenticity say I forgive this person at that point. It would have been just empty words.

"But I believe in a God who never, never violates our free will. So I did the only thing I could do, and that was to give God permission to change my heart."

She devoted herself fully to asking God to help her in her struggle. "With that I felt a great peace, and I was able to get the first good night's sleep since Susie had been taken."

... to reconciliation

The kidnapper called the family several more times in the ensuing months, each time saying he wanted to exchange Susie for ransom and would call again when his plan was complete.

Marietta relied on God's grace,

See RECONCILIATION, page 15

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Nun says cancer, treatment challenged her to find God in ordeal

TRENTON, N.J. (CNS) — When she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998 and underwent chemotherapy and radiation to treat it, Franciscan Sister Kathy Ganiel said her challenge — besides getting well — was to find where God was in the midst of it. "The whole cancer experience was a conversion experience and the task for me as a Christian disciple was to find out where God was in all of this and who God was for me," she told The Monitor, newspaper of the Trenton Diocese. It took most of 1998 to treat her cancer. Following a mastectomy, she twice underwent four regimens of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Today, Sister Ganiel is considered a three-year survivor, and she is in training for the "Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day," a 60-mile walk in the fall.

Prominent Polish Jesuit denied Russian visa for third time

MOSCOW (CNS) — The general secretary of the Russian bishops' conference, who has been refused a Russian visa three consecutive times, says he is abandoning his attempts to return to Moscow. "I don't think I'll try again. It's just not worth it," said Polish Jesuit Father Stanislaw Opiela, 62, in a March 7 telephone interview from Warsaw. "Maybe there will be some kind of protest." Besides serving with the bishops in Russia, Father Opiela headed a Catholic college and edited a new religious magazine. At one time he was the Jesuit order's Moscow-based provincial. Father Opiela said he has yet to receive an explanation from Russia's Foreign Ministry for the Feb. 27 rejection and does not expect one. The government is not required to give one under Russian law.

Iditarod musher harnesses help for the homeless

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — The world's fastest dogsled racers may be more familiar with Martin Buser's backside than his front, but the three-time winner of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race doesn't leave everyone behind. Six years ago the staff of Brother Francis Shelter in Anchorage asked Buser if he would lend a hand with a fund-raiser for the homeless. "My racing gets me through some of the most remote places in Alaska, and unfortunately ... some of the people from the villages are ending up in the shelters and on the streets of Anchorage," Buser said. In the race, top teams cover the 1,151 miles from Anchorage to Nome in nine or 10 days. In six years, Buser's Iditapledge fund-raiser has brought in nearly $20,000 for Brother Francis Shelter, operated by the Anchorage Archdiocese.

CNS photo by Michael Dinneen, Catholic Anchor

Snowboarder represents U.S. in Special Olympics

Snowboarder Chris Vance represented the United States in the 2001 Special Olympics World Winter Games held March 4-11 in Anchorage. He is a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in the Alaskan capital.

Child advocate decries world's neglect of poor, abused

DAYTON, Ohio — "Why are we not shouting at the top of our voices to stop the murder of the world's children?" a longtime advocate for children in Latin America asked March 2. Bruce Harris spoke to an overflow crowd of about 300 at the University of Dayton after accepting the 2001 Monsignor Oscar Romero Award for Leadership in Service to Human Rights. He is executive director of Casa Alianza, the Latin American branch of the New York-based Covenant House. The struggle to protect and defend the street kids of Latin America has not been "an easy battle," said Harris. The award and talk were part of an international conference, "A Question of Conscience: Making a Better Life for All Children."

Human rights activist credits churches for keeping issue visible

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Human rights activist Nina Shea credits U.S. churches with reviving the human rights issue. After the breakup of the Soviet Union and the dismantling of South African apartheid, "those of us working in human rights had seen the bottom drop out of the human rights movement in the United States," said Shea, director of the Center for Religious Freedom at the Washington-based Freedom House. It was then that human rights activists saw the church as "a natural gathering of the human rights movement," Shea said. She made her comments March 6 in a talk at the School of Advanced International Studies on the Washington campus of Johns Hopkins University.

Pope thanks Cardinal George for leading Lenten retreat

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago for helping him and top Vatican officials strengthen their faith in Christ so they can proclaim him with new vigor to the world. The pope chose Cardinal George to lead his March 4-10 Lenten retreat in the Redemptoris Mater Chapel of the Apostolic Palace. Cardinal George, who gave 22 talks to the pope and the heads of Vatican offices, chose as his theme, "A Faith for All Peoples: Conversion, Freedom and Communion in Christ." He told Catholic News Service March 10 that his job was to reflect upon Scripture "to help them deepen their prayer."

Georgetown official named president of Loyola Chicago

CHICAGO (CNS) — Jesuit Father Michael J. Garanzini, special assistant to the president at Georgetown University in Washington, has been elected president of Loyola University Chicago. Father Garanzini, who will assume his new duties this summer, succeeds Jesuit Father John J. Piderit, who resigned last May. A native of St. Louis, Father Garanzini has experience in teaching, research, service and administrative leadership at some of the nation's leading Jesuit colleges and universities including Georgetown, Fordham, St. Louis, Rockhurst and Gregorian University in Rome. He also serves as a full professor of psychology at Georgetown.

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Family's faith journey leads to permanent diaconate

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — "For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth and friends above ... ."

The capacity congregation, 200 strong, joyfully sang the old hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth" as the procession made its way up St. Margaret's center aisle on the evening of March 9.

They were parishioners and former parishioners, family and friends, who had come together to honor a couple, special to them all, at a very special event. Gerard (Jerry) La Pointe was about to be ordained a permanent deacon.

Jerry, who had completed the diocesan lay ministry program and had been studying for the diaconate for four years, was planning to be ordained in June with the seven other members of his class. But when Bishop William G. Curlin learned that Jerry's wife, Lorraine, is terminally ill, he offered to confer the sacrament of holy orders three months early.

"We need the diaconate," Bishop Curlin said. "Vatican II stressed that it's a gift to the church. The diaconate is not new, and it's important that people know that. It's a restoration."

In fact, the first reading during that evening's Mass recounted the ordination of the first seven deacons, called by the first apostles.

William Murphy, who built St. Margaret, was ordained a priest there in 1972. Jerry is the second person to be ordained there. March 9 was a night of firsts. Bishop Curlin, who was director of the first diaconate class in the United States, conferred the sacrament on Jerry, the first deacon to be ordained at St. Margaret. In a ceremony held before the ordination, Lorraine became the first wife to witness her husband's commitment to the bishop and the pope, commitments that are made by every deacon candidate prior to his ordination.

In his homily during the ordination, Bishop Curlin directed many of his comments to the La Pointes, telling them that through the love they have for each other in their marriage, they are able to reach out to the wider community through Jerry's new role as deacon.

They have been reaching out for a long time. Jerry and Lorraine have been married for 49 years and raised six children. After Jerry retired from his auto body and repair business in Florida, they moved to Maggie Valley. He had been an usher at their church in Florida, and the couple soon became involved in parish activities at St. Margaret. Together they have been involved in the parish's ministry to the sick and dying for eight years. Lorraine sang in the choir and served as a sacristan. Jerry was a Eucharistic minister, sacristan and was on the RCIA team. For a while, he and Jasay Ketchum were the only altar servers, and they worked together to make procedures more efficient.

Jerry looks forward to working even harder: "I can do more as a deacon. When you wear a clerical collar, people are more apt to come to you to ask for help. That's what I want to do is to help people. If I can help even one person, it will be worth all the time I've spent studying."

Photos by JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Jerry and Lorraine La Pointe have made the diaconate journey together through praying and discerning together and supporting each other.

Father Bill Evans was pastor at St. Margaret when he wrote Jerry and six other parishioners suggesting that they look into the diaconate. Jerry was the only one to explore the possibility. He completed the lay ministry program.

"After that," Lorraine said, "there was a lot of prayer and discernment to see if this really was a call. That's the big thing, that we prayed over whether this was a calling or just a desire."

"It's not something that smacks you in the eyes," Jerry said. "It's not something that takes you by storm. It evolves over time. I think one of the things that pushed me in my discernment was when we didn't have a [full-time] priest and I was doing the daily Communion service. I would give a reflection. I gave one on a man who was only able to forgive his brother after the brother became ill. A woman came up to me afterward and said she had asked her mother [who was dead] for forgiveness, and she believed that the mother gave it."

Jerry began the formal diaconate process, but found it even more challenging than he had expected. He often put in a 40-hour week studying for the twice-monthly class sessions at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, which Lorraine also attended. At one point during the second year,

See JOURNEY, page 14

Planning a wedding before summer 2002?

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Priest never anticipated popularity of song ‘On Eagle’s Wings’

Ordained in 1980, Father Joncas has since written dozens of pieces of liturgical music. But he is best known for “On Eagle’s Wings.

CNS PHOTO BY JOHN STRANGE, NC CATHOLIC

Father Michael Joncas, who composed the hymn “On Eagle’s Wings,” speaks at a diocesan conference on music in Chapel Hill, N.C. He wrote the popular liturgical song 20 years ago.

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (CNS) — It began as a song for a friend’s dead father, but in the 20-plus years since “On Eagle’s Wings” was written, the hymn has taken on a liturgical life of its own.

It is played at funeral liturgies, but also at baptisms, weddings, and during weekend Masses. Native Americans and Catholic members of the U.S. Air Force have claimed it for their own because of its references to eagles and flying.

All of this surprises the song’s composer to no end.

“I am surprised first of all that it took off at all,” Father Michael Joncas told the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese, in an interview after a liturgical workshop in Chapel Hill.

“In hindsight, 20 years later, I think I understand some of the reasons why. It’s a very expansive, wide-ranging kind of melody. In that, it probably gives an aural, auditory image of eagles,” he said.

“Now, I never would have guessed this, but because eagles have such a strong American connotation, the Native American community also picked up the song,” said Father Joncas, a priest of the St. Paul-Minneapolis Archdiocese. “They found this as something that could connect Christianity and their own native traditions.”

Even members of the Air Force have found connections to “their own armed service vocation” in the song.

But the song began much more humbly. Father Joncas explained that he was visiting a fellow seminarian at The Catholic University of America in Washington. When the two returned from dinner, they received a message that the friend’s father had just suffered a fatal heart attack.

In between getting the friend onto an airplane home and the father’s wake service, Father Joncas had written the song, basing the lyrics on Psalm 91. He sang the song publicly for the first time during the wake.

Ordained in 1980, Father Joncas has since written dozens of pieces of liturgical music. But he is best known for “On Eagle’s Wings.”

He said that while he is surprised by its success, he is not surprised that so many people related to the song.

“It’s Scripture. It’s not really a poem of mine. It’s Psalm 91, and the refrain is a series of phrases from the Old Testament,” he said. “I believe that Scripture as the word of God is able to bear multiple meanings. So many different contexts from the same text, taking on different resonances.”

Ironically, the priest said, if he could do it again, the song would be drastically different.

“My standards were different than they are today,” he explained. “I know more about music, I hope I know more about life, I hope I know more about the Lord. The stakes of writing become much higher.

“Back then it was very clear,” he said. “I prayed the text of Psalm 91 every night. But the triggering mechanism was I wanted to find a way to help my friend at this tough time. As an artist, that was a way to make a gift.”

In fact, Father Joncas has returned to Psalm 91 four times for new musical compositions. He also has written eight “settings” based on the canticle of Mary.

“These are texts that are really inexhaustible,” he added. “You can always find new nuances and new ways of expressing it in song.”

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Bishop Curlin presides at Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Lest anyone wonder how the Diocese of Charlotte is growing so rapidly these days, they had to look no further than three parishes here recently to understand one reason for such exciting expansion.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at three celebrations of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, one of the essential steps by which people of faith prepare to enter as full members of the Catholic Church.

Hundreds of people, their sponsors, family members, friends and parish team members gathered at Holy Family Church in Clemmons on March 4, at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville on March 10 and at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte on March 11 for the celebrations.

The rite is part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the process by which adults become initiated into the Catholic Church through study, prayer and liturgical celebrations.

In his message to those hundreds in the RCIA preparing to enter the church at this year's Easter Vigil, Bishop Curlin spoke of living grace-filled lives dedicated to Christ.

"When you come into the Catholic Church, you must commit yourself to the belief that Jesus loves you and is the center of your life," the bishop said at one of the celebrations. "He gives meaning to what we celebrate."

Individuals engaged in the RCIA who have not been baptized are called catechumens. They prepare for the initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. Baptized Christians of other faith traditions preparing for either or both confirmation and Eucharist are called candidates.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Sponsors play an essential role in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process. Not only do they walk along the path of faith with those they sponsor; in many instances, they experience a renewed sense of faith themselves.

During the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, catechumens are officially called by the bishop to the sacraments of initiation, to be conferred by pastors at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. The experience represents the belief that God is calling these men and women to the fullness of the church.

Books of the Elect containing the signatures of the catechumens are presented, and following a series of questions affirming their readiness, the catechumens become known as the "elect."

The rite is also significant for the candidates, as their sponsors and catechists testify to their deeper understanding and appreciation for Catholic life. The candidates offer the bishop their names as well, signed on scrolls.

For those involved in the RCIA process, a great deal of discernment takes place. Bishop Curlin likened the experience to searching for something not yet fully realized in people's lives.

"You're hungry for something in your life that you have not found to fulfillment yet," he told one group. "You're looking for something wonderful. You come into our faith to receive a deeper awareness and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ."

Bishop Curlin said there are key ingredients — points of light — that compose the faith lives of Catholics.

"Treasure that light," he urged. "Feed it with the sacraments, prayer, love, charity and God's holy Word."

Bishop Curlin asked all present to recommit their own lives to Jesus on a daily basis, and he reminded the assembly that the Mass — particularly the Eucharist — is the center of the Catholic faith and tradition.

"What we celebrate in the Mass is the presence of the living Christ," he said. "When we celebrate the Mass, heaven comes down to earth, to this very altar."

Editor Joann S. Keane contributed to this story.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Book Review

New books explore Jewish-Christian relations

REVIEWED BY EUGENE FISHER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Christianity in Jewish Terms" is the product of the Jewish Scholars Study Group on Christianity, sponsored by Baltimore's Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies. The group has been meeting regularly for years in an effort to reassess Judaism's understanding of its relationship with Christianity.

In September 2000 the group issued "Dabru Emet" ("Speaking Truth"), a groundbreaking statement of historic proportions that acknowledged, among other things, that "Jews and Christians worship the same God." This has been the Christian claim, of course, but the doctrine of the Trinity has appeared to many Jews to reject the Oneness of the Creator, while the doctrine of the Incarnation is still seen today by many among Orthodox Jews as, technically (if not necessarily intentionally) "idolatry," since it appears to them to raise a human being to the level of divinity.

Perhaps even more controversial in "Dabru Emet" is the affirmation that "Nazism is not a Christian phenomenon," while asserting equally strongly that "without the long history of Christian anti-Judaism and Christian violence against Jews, Nazi ideology could not have taken hold nor been carried out." Still, virtually all of the 200 or so rabbis and scholars approached by the group signed the statement. This is a sign of a growing consensus among Jews that it is time (after decades of successful dialogue with Protestants since the end of World War II and with Catholics since the Second Vatican Council) for Jews, as one put it, "to take yes for an answer."

The book is organized around 11 themes from the "Dabru Emet" statement. Each theme is discussed first by a Jewish scholar, who is then responded to by a Christian and a Jewish scholar. The 27 contributors are among the leading scholars in the world in both communities. The result is a sprightly and immensely illuminating dialogue on such themes as the Shoah and anti-Semitism, God, Scripture, commandment, Israel, worship, suffering, Incarnation, redemption, sin and repentance.

In each the point is what Judaism has to say about what Christians say about these topics. Quite often, the authors conclude, what Judaism used to say about Christianity has been found wanting through the closer lens of dialogical understanding. In many ways, then, this courageous book is a call on Jewish tradition not to change its self-definition as such, but to change its way of interpreting Christianity — not an easy task, as those Catholics such as myself engaged in a similar process for our own community can attest!

Meanwhile, Jeremy Cohen of Tel Aviv University is one of the leading medievalists in the world today. He is a specialist in Jewish-Christian relations over the centuries. His two prize-winning books, "The Friars and the Jews" and "Be Fertile and Increase, Fill the Earth and Master It," have brilliantly evoked not only the disputations between Jews and Christians but also the profound and positive influence each has had, theologically, on the other.

In "Living Letters of the Law" he narrates engagingly how Christian writings from Augustine to Aquinas "fashioned (an image of) a Jew on the basis of (their) reading of the Bible," from age to age, and how "this hermeneutically crafted Jew assumed distinctive character and power in Christian thought and culture." For those seriously interested in Jewish-Christian relations, it is an utterly fascinating read.

James Carroll's "Constantine's Sword" attempts, and fails to achieve, the grand synthesis of Catholic theology on Jews and Judaism that this book easily provides the reader. But then, Carroll spent a grand total of one year researching his book while "Living Letters of the Law" is the result of a lifetime of study and dialogue.

In the late 1960s and early '70s I attended New York University's Institute of Hebrew Studies and was for the first time in my life (or virtually that of any other Catholic, for that matter) exposed to how Western history looks from the perspective of the Jews, the one "outsider" group allowed to survive under Christian domination.

Cohen's book explains the theological underpinnings of decisions by generations of church leaders about Jews in Christian society. It is a must for anyone who wants to understand where church teaching was before the Second Vatican Council overturned all previous Christian reflection since St. Paul and set the church on the course of the "dialogue of mutual esteem" that has resulted in the revolutionary progress in Catholic-Jewish relations and, therefore, in the response to that revolution by the authors and editors of "Christianity in Jewish Terms."

***CHRISTIANITY IN JEWISH TERMS,* edited by Tivka Frumer-Kensky, et al. Westview Press (Boulder, Colo., 2000). 438 pp., $30.00.**

***LIVING LETTERS OF THE LAW: IDEAS OF THE JEW IN MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY,* by Jeremy Cohen. University of California Press (Berkeley, 1999). 451 pp., $24.95.**

Word to Life

March 18, Third Sunday of Lent
Cycle C Readings:
1) Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Psalm 103:1-4, 6-8, 11
2) 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
3) Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I'm a terrible shopper at estate sales and country trade days. I'm overwhelmed by the mind-numbing array of items, mystified to know many people see them as "collectibles." On those rare occasions when I go, I wander the aisles aimlessly, idly considering here a back issue of Life magazine, there an incomplete socket set. My purchases are mostly confined to smoked turkey legs and funnel cake and nut-covered frozen ice cream treats.

That's why I am always amazed to read about someone who finds a Gutenberg Bible in a trunk purchased at an estate sale for $10 or a missing Rembrandt masterpiece hidden beneath an ugly amateur oil painting of fruit on a table. I can never imagine myself paying close enough attention to notice the little signs that indicate to the careful buyer the possibility of such a spectacular find. I am too distracted by the variety of it all, too put off by the conviction that in such a mass of tacky junk there could never be anything truly beautiful or valuable.

In this Sunday's first reading, we are told that God speaks to Moses upon noticing that he has "turned aside" from the routine of tending his flocks to pay attention to a bush which seems to be on fire without burning up.

Lent is a call by the church for all of us to "turn aside" from the million and one things which distract us, from our preconceptions about where true beauty and value can be found, and to pay attention to the signs of God's presence.

Life holds treasures for those who pay attention to the signs that indicate the presence of something extraordinary beneath the surface. Let us turn aside in the days ahead and attend to those signs.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 18 - 24, 2001

Third Sunday of Lent, Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12, Luke 13:1-9; **Monday (St. Joseph),** 2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16, Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22, Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24; **Tuesday,** Daniel 3:25, 34-43, Matthew 18:21-35; **Wednesday,** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday,** Jeremiah 7:23-28, Luke 11:14-23; **Friday (Abstinence),** Hosea 14:2-10, Mark 12:28-34; **Saturday,** Hosea 6:1-6, Luke 18:9-14

Readings for the week of Mar. 25 - 31, 2001

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; **Monday (Annunciation of the Lord),** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday,** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday,** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday,** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Abstinence),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; Saturday, Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

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Video reviews

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Battle Beyond the Stars" (1980)

Young volunteer Richard Thomas goes on a hunt to hire mercenaries to defend a planet threatened with conquest by an intergalactic tyrant. Scripted by John Sayles and directed by Jimmy T. Murakami with some style and humor, it's a moderately entertaining sci-fi action fantasy. Many sexually oriented jokes. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (New Concorde)

"The Broken Hearts Club" (2000)

Sluggish comedy about a gay photographer (Timothy Olyphant) whose co-dependent friendships with three gay buddies (Andrew Keegan, John Mahoney and Dean Cain) are stifling his personal growth and romantic life. Predictable and stereotypical, writer-director Greg Berlanti's boring film showcases an all-gay cast moaning about their lives while actually reveling in the superficiality they purport to criticize. Blatant homosexual theme with some implied sexual encounters, brief drug use and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar)

"Highlander: Endgame" (2000)

Convoluted conclusion to the fantasy series in which immortal humans (Adrian Paul, Christopher Lambert) engage in a final battle with the worst and most powerful immortal (Bruce Payne) as the fate of humanity is said to hang in the balance. The nonsensical plot of director Doug Aarniokoski's lame film is clumsily pasted together with melodramatic performances and kitschy special effects. Intermittent stylized violence, a sexual encounter with fleeting nudity and a few instances of crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Dimension)

"Meet the Parents" (2000)

Amusing romantic comedy in which a male nurse (Ben Stiller) meets his teacher girlfriend's (Teri Polo) tony parents (Robert De Niro and Blythe Danner) for the first time and everything that can go wrong does. With a scenario ripe for comical misunderstandings, director Jay Roach's sprightly paced film scores with laughs despite some predictability. Comically intended minor violence, reference to a live-in relationship, brief drug references and some crass language with much profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

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"Get Over It"

"Get Over It" (Miramax) is a teen romance in which a high school senior (Ben Foster), crushed when his girlfriend dumps him, gradually springs back thanks to the encouragement of his best friend's younger sister (Kirsten Dunst), who gets him involved in a school production of ``A Midsummer Night's Rockin' Eve." Director Tommy O'Haver spins a comic romance of little distinction save for a few sprightly song-and-dance numbers. Some sexual innuendo, brief comic violence, crude references, fleeting substance abuse and an instance of rough language and profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Regis Philbin donates $2.75 million to Notre Dame

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Television personality Regis Philbin, a 1953 University of Notre Dame graduate, has given his alma mater $2.75 million for the creation of a studio theater in the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

Construction of the center will begin later this year on the south side of campus and will be completed in 2003.

The Regis Philbin Studio Theater will be home for lab and performance art productions in Notre Dame's department of film, television and theater. The 100-seat facility will feature sophisticated lighting and sound systems and has been designed for maximum technical and seating flexibility.

The 123,000-square-foot DeBartolo center will also include a 900-seat concert hall, 350-seat main stage theater, 200-seat cinema theater and 100-seat organ and chorale hall.

Holy Cross Father Edward A. Malloy, Notre Dame president, said that over the years Philbin has been "among our most generous" alumni.

"With his time, talent and resources, Regis has made numerous contributions to the university and our surrounding community," he said. "We are most appreciative of this latest gift, which will do much to enhance our growing commitment to and reputation in the dramatic arts."

Philbin, host of the game show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" and his own morning talk show, received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Notre Dame in 1999 in recognition of his previous gifts to the university and his service as host of an annual fund-raising broadcast on behalf of the Center for the Homeless in South Bend.

He and his wife, Joy, have two daughters — Jennifer, a 1996 graduate of the university, and Joanna, a second-year student in the Notre Dame Law School.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope beatifies Spanish martyrs, urges end to Basque terrorism

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified 233 martyrs of religious persecution in 1930s Spain, entrusting to their intercession an end to the country's modern-day scourge of Basque terrorism.

As 30,000 mostly Spanish pilgrims in St. Peter's Square interrupted him with sustained applause March 11, the pope said terrorism is "the enemy of humanity" and an inherently losing tactic.

"Terrorism is born of hate and in turn feeds it; it is radically unjust and increases the situations of injustice; and it seriously offends against God and the dignity and rights of persons," he said.

"No motive, no cause or ideology can justify it," he said.

Basque terrorists in northern Spain have killed some 800 people in their three-decade campaign for a separate homeland. The latest victim, a 25-year-old Spanish policeman, died March 9 in a car bomb attack near San Sebastian.

The martyrs recognized at the March 11 ceremony — the largest beatification ever — included priests, nuns and lay men and women who were killed between 1936 and 1939 in Spain's civil war.

Though they died at the hands of militants in a period of civil conflict, the pope said the martyrs were targeted solely for their religious beliefs.

"The newly beatified that are raised today to the altars were not involved in the political or ideological struggles, nor did they want to get involved in them," he said. "They died exclusively for religious motives."

Most of the new martyrs were killed in the Diocese of Valencia, where religious persecution was particularly intense, but hailed from a total of 37 dioceses. Two of those killed were originally from Uruguay and are their country's first beatified laywomen.

The church investigation of potential martyrs requires proof only that they died for their faith; no miracle or certification of a life of heroic virtue is needed, as is the case for normal beatifications.

Nonetheless, all of those beatified March 11 had also led lives of extraordinary holiness, the pope said, and without exception explicitly forgave their executioners.

Their martyrdoms "sealed lives interwoven with work, prayer and religious commitment in their families, parishes and religious congregations," he said. "One can say that their exemplary conduct was like a preparation for the supreme confession of faith that is martyrdom."

The pope said it was important for the church to keep alive the memory of the martyrs because they gave convincing testimony to Christian hope and serenity in the face of difficulty.

"May their blessed memory remove any form of violence, hatred and resentment forever from Spanish soil!" he said.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Confronting the problem of suffering for the first time

My son called me from college the other day, a bit shaken, although he did a good job hiding his feelings.

He had been to visit his grandmother — my mother — in the hospital, where she was trying to recover from a serious, rather sudden burst of problems.

My son attends college in the same city where his grandparents live, while I'm now some distance away. I'd been down the previous weekend, had seen my mother and visited with my son, but because of his work schedule he'd not had a chance to see her himself at that point.

But Thursday morning, my father called and told me to get in touch with my son and see if he could get to the hospital. It seemed, at that point, rather grave.

So he went, as his grandfather reported to me later, nicely dressed, relaxed, although obviously a little scared. He stayed for an hour, until the time came to draw some blood.

I couldn't get in touch with him until late that night. "I was shocked," he told me from his dorm room. "She looked so much worse."

It was, I knew, a frightening experience on a number of different levels. It's scary to see someone who'd been fairly strong three weeks ago now confined to bed, in a severely weakened state and completely dependent on others. It's scary, as a young and vigorous person, to confront the reality of life in its totality.

Many of you have encountered mortality in personal ways. Perhaps you have struggled with serious illness yourself or had a friend in that situation. Maybe you've seen poor health or accidents take their toll on close relations or friends.

There are certain things that remain nothing more than words and ideas until you look at someone whose blood runs through your veins and witness, in their struggles, something in your own future, something you'd really rather not think about.

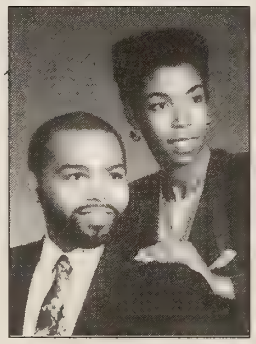
That's what my son saw when he visited his grandmother. Her condition affected him, certainly, but beyond that, what shook him was facing the shape of the road on which all of us travel.

But of course, Lent shows us the deeper dimension to this. Lent began, if you remember, with ashes on your forehead and words ringing in your ears: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

It's enough to stop you in your tracks. But for the Christian, those words and that brush of ashes aren't the end — they're just the beginning. The road we travel during Lent is one that takes us through some pretty heavy darkness, following right beside Jesus.

Ash Wednesday, you see, was only the beginning. Easter, coming so soon now, is about light, not darkness, about the healing of everything that was broken and the gift of a life that, this time, will never end.

We just need to open our eyes and see.



Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

The generation gap

The generation gap, particularly in the area of popular music, is as wide as it's ever been. Watching the Grammy Awards recently, it was clear that we were not in the know on most popular artists. Even with teens under foot we felt really "out of it" regarding today's pop stars of music.

When our teen children are in the car with us, they immediately change the radio station to something more "in" that what we have it set to. And it doesn't take very long before the curmudgeon comes out in one or both of us. We try to avoid phrases like "Turn that trash off!" But sometimes it just comes out. This didn't happen purposefully. Despite our promise of old to stay current so we could always relate to our kids, we have become old fuddy-duds about music. How did this happen?

As magical as the radio airwaves were when we were teens, with personalities like Dick Biondi and Herb Kent who were pied pipers of our generation, there seems more power in the fairy dust of music today. It's not just the radio; it's also MTV and other music video programming that mesmerize our youth with images, sound and in-your-face messages about sex, violence and personal gratification. Popular music seems to us curmudgeons more menacing than the music of our youth. And we have some fears about what the messages may normalize in the minds of our children.

Our parents' generation had similar fears. But we don't see ourselves as having the same stiff backs as that generation had when we were young, wild and free. The music of our youth that road the edge of decency (and even went over it) is rather tame compared to today's listening fare.

It pains our ears when we hear it. And it's easy to just turn on the "Golden Oldies" station.

Because we have to parent our youths, we must be careful about how we draw lines in the sand. We have no desire and see no need to be completely up-to-date with the music of youth today. But, to avoid becoming completely irrelevant we must bear with the music and engage our youths in meaningful discussion about the messages without being condescending.

Of course, this kind of openness goes both ways. As a family we share the airwaves. Negotiating what radio station to listen to in the car is part of that sharing. So, our kids bear with the "Golden Oldies" as much as we bear with their music. We find ourselves not at war over music. We also find ourselves actually enjoying some of the music of today.

Picking up our son after school, he hopped in the car, immediately changed the radio station. A song that we had discussed was playing. Knowing that we had serious issues with it, he quickly changed the station back to the "Golden Oldies" station. No need to do battle — no words necessary. We're simply learning to coexist — the curmudgeon and the rapper.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JAMES P. LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Julia's Gift

Julia Elizabeth is my youngest niece, now fully 8 years old. She is smart and beautiful. More importantly, Julia has a gentle kindness. Oh, she can be tough. Two older brothers have taught her how to be assertive. But at the heart of this young girl is a sweetness and helpfulness I treasure.

A typical image comes to mind. After shopping with my niece and nephews, we return to their home and the boys hurry in with barely a thought about helping to bring in the bags of food they will later enjoy. It is Julia who makes sure that the door is held wide open for her Uncle Jim, who is laden with all the groceries.

When the day is done, and prayers are all that stand between tiredness and sleep, Julia is attentive to pray for all those whom others might forget. She might be exhausted, but there always seems to be time for one more prayer for that very special person or intention. Julia's sweetness is also experienced through generosity. And that spirit of giving became clear just last week, once again, in her commitment to someone she will never know.

Julia has been blessed with long, blond hair. Never cut, it runs straight down her back to her waist. People often stop her in stores to comment on her striking mane. Julia blushes a little, but not-too-secretly loves the attention. Her eyes and face shine at the mention of her beautiful tresses.

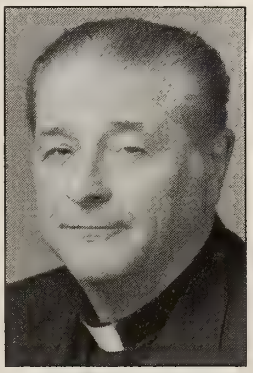
Last week Julia, who loves to read, spotted a story in the newspaper about children with cancer. The article talked about a group called "Locks of Love." This non-profit organization creates custom-fitted hairpieces for children who experience various kinds of medical hair loss. Often the chemotherapy used to treat cancer, for example, results in serious loss of hair. It's tough enough carrying the burden of illness, without also dealing with another blow to self-confidence. Approximately three hundred children have been helped so far. "Locks of Love" (1-888-896-1588) has arrangements with a number of hair salons to cut and style volunteers, most of whom are children. At least ten inches of hair is needed, and it takes the hair of twelve donors to make just one hairpiece for each patient.

Julia read the story and got very quiet. Minutes later she sought out her Mom and asked for permission to offer her own hair for a child in need. Julia loves her hair a lot. But she knows that someone needs it more, and she said a little wistfully, "It will grow back in time."

Listening to my sister describe Julia's decision to offer her hair made me think of the wonderful classic O. Henry story "The Gift of the Magi." It's a tale about the true spirit of giving. And it suggests that giving what we can easily do without is fine, but giving something that really matters to us means much more. I like the way Julia is giving. She's giving something she loves and treasures to someone she'll never know, someone who can never say thank you. She's giving because already, at 8 years of age, Julia knows something about empathy. She may not know the word yet, but she certainly has the ability to imagine what it's like to go through something painful and difficult, to feel someone else's pain, and most importantly, to do something to help relieve the burden.

I love Julia's beautiful golden hair. But I love her golden and giving heart so much more.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. In our parish we have what appears to be a local custom concerning adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Easter.

Most of us recall that after Mass on Holy Thursday evening, adoration took place at what we called the altar of repose until around midnight. After this there was no adoration at this altar or any place else until the Easter Vigil. It was a beautiful way to be reminded of that period between our Lord's death and resurrection.

Here the repository is so arranged that adoration continues all day Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Have the rules changed? Why must we always be so quick to compromise our traditions? (North Carolina)

A. No, there has been no change from the sacred Triduum ceremonies that you remember.

The Sacramentary (Missal) notes that after the transfer of the Eucharist to the place of reposition Holy Thursday evening, people should be encouraged to continue adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for a suitable period during the night, "but there should be no solemn adoration after midnight."

After Communion on Good Friday, says the Sacramentary, the Eucharist is returned to its place outside the church (in the sacristy or separate oratory) or, if circumstances require, in the tabernacle. Before the Easter Vigil, "Communion may be given only as viaticum."

Obviously, prayer is encouraged during these days, even in church. But by the church's ancient traditions and current rubrics, something special is happening in the church's life during these hours symbolized by the separation of the Eucharist from the church. Thus, the Eucharist is intended to be reserved after the Good Friday liturgy only for Communion to those who are dying, not for "solemn" or public adoration.

Q. My daughter's morality teacher told her class that if a woman cannot have children, she cannot marry in the Catholic Church or have her marriage blessed in the church.

This upset many students. I can understand not blessing a marriage in which one of the partners does not want children. But why punish someone who may have already gone through a grueling disease or surgery, or has been born with a problem that makes her sterile? (Indiana)

A. For some reason, many Catholics and non-Catholics are confused about this area of Catholic teaching.

Your daughter's teacher is mistaken. Sterility, the inability on either the man's or woman's part to have children, is no obstacle to marriage.

One would think a little looking around would prove that. Thousands of couples, for example, marry in the Catholic Church when they are long past child-bearing age.

Part of the problem may result from confusing sterility and impotence. Sterility is an obstacle in the natural internal processes of generation which prevents conception of a child.

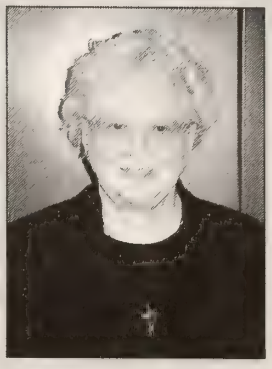
A woman who has had a hysterectomy, for example, or a man who produces no sperm, is sterile in the legal sense of the word.

Impotence on the other hand is the permanent inability to have sexual intercourse because of a physical or emotional defect in the man or woman.

Permanent and irremediable impotence is an impediment to marriage. Sterility is not.

As you note, an explicit intention not to have children is a different matter. In the teaching of our church and (until recent times) in many civil law traditions, openness to at least the possibility of children is an essential element of any valid marriage.

Lenten Reflection



SISTER BERNADETTE SVATOS, OSF
GUEST COLUMNIST

The golden blossoms of the kingdom

Two weeks ago on the first Sunday of Lent, I was driving on I-40 on my way to Clemmons for the celebration of the Rite of Election for the catechumens from the parishes of the Northern Region of the diocese. The golden blossoms of the forsythia along the roadway were a sight of beauty. They heralded for me a touch of divinity. What had been barren these past months were now full of glory.

Earlier that morning, I had participated in the liturgy with the pastor and the people of God at St. Pius X in Greensboro. The liturgical environment in the sanctuary was a contrast to the view before me. Barren branches had been artistically arranged in pots as a striking Lenten reminder of this penitential season. They seemed to be a call to make fruitful the barrenness of our spiritual lives by our works of penance during this time.

In the liturgy for the third Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the first of three scrutinies for those in a final stage of preparation for entrance into the church at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. These scrutinies are rites for self-searching and repentance in the lives of the elect. (These scrutinies are also conducted the next two Sundays.) We, too, as the people of God scrutinize the hold sin has over us in our lives.

In the Liturgy of the Word for this third Sunday of Lent, there exists the option of two sets of readings for the day. In one, we hear the parable of the barren fig tree. In the other option from John's Gospel, we hear of the thirst for living waters from the Samaritan woman at the well. In either reading, we are confronted with our great need to be refreshed by the waters of God's graces. We are in need of deepening our relationship with Divinity in the interior holy ground of our being. Both readings contain powerful imagery of who we are and of who we are called to be as the chosen of God.

I am reminded by these Scripture passages of two scenes from my life. I salivate as I remember the fruit of the ripened figs stolen from the bushes surrounding the chaplain's house on the Incarnate Word University grounds when I was a student years ago in San Antonio. My classmates and I walked daily to and from class past those figs, anticipating their ripened deliciousness. The enjoyment of tasting was heightened by the time of waiting.

The other event of remembrance is standing in the desert in the Holy Land where the Great Rift begins, with its massive sand dunes and the sensory feeling of being thirsty. (The Great Rift is a geological phenomenon that begins in the desert of the Holy Land and continues into East Africa.) As I ponder the barrenness of the fig tree and the eternal desire for the fountain of living water, I ask myself the questions of how to tend the barren branches of my life and how to best use the flowing fountain of living waters to become who I am called to become and to help bring about the kingdom.

As a Third Order Franciscan, I think of the early 13th-century church, a time of various penitential movements. Among the number of penitents of this day was St. Francis of Assisi. Francis in 1209 had been given oral approval by Pope Innocent III for the Gospel form of life for his friars of the First Order. At this time he had also been given papal permission to preach penance and conversion. We are told by his early biographers that enthusiastic men, women, clergy, married, single and children surrounded Francis and asked that he give to

SEE REFLECTION, PAGE 15

JOURNEY, from page 7

a compilation of problems caused him to nearly drop out.

"When I left Hickory that weekend, I didn't even take the books for the next session," he said.

But he and Lorraine talked and prayed about it, and he went to see his mentor, the late Rev. Mr. Jos Vandermeer, a deacon at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

"He said, 'You can't quit now. You've come this far,' " Jerry recalled. "I got the idea in my head that I'm going to do the best I can. If it's all right, it's all right. If it's not, I know I did my best. Then Lorraine got cancer, and my marks really suffered. When she got better, my marks got better."

But Lorraine's condition deteriorated, though she has continued ministering to others who are ill.

"I think this ministry has helped us to understand that we're all vulnerable to dying," she said. "God didn't give me this illness. It's a part of life. For me, having a terminal illness has totally changed my spirituality. It has given me a great sense of peace, knowing that I'm not alone, that Jesus is taking this journey with me. I'm ministering to two ladies right now who have cancer. I've never met them in person. I talk to them on the phone."

She looks at Jerry. "I have the best caregiver in the world. I feel so blessed, not only in my family, but in my friends. Those are the things that sustain me."

"We have two families, our family and the family at St. Margaret," Jerry said.

That family was at St. Margaret for Jerry's ordination. Friends, family, priests who used to pastor St. Margaret, and former parishioners came from out of town and from other states. Former St. Margaret deacon, Rev. Mr. Robert Dotson, who is now in Charleston, S.C., helped Jerry vest in his alb and stole. Betsy Vandermeer, Jos Vandermeer's widow, gave Jerry Rev. Mr. Jos's four-volume set of the "Liturgy of the Hours" as an ordination gift. Others gave the gift of themselves.

PHOTO BY JOANITA M. NELLENBACH

Bishop William Curlin lays hands on Jerry La Pointe during Jerry's ordination at St. Margaret Catholic Church on March 9.

Katie Yurko helped serve refreshments at the reception following the ordination. She was deeply moved by the ordination, she said, by "the way they made it special for him and his wife."

George Pastore was one of the altar servers. "Just knowing Jerry and working with him and having him as a mentor, I felt so proud that he asked me to serve at that Mass," George said. "He's just a good person, and I'm glad I know him."

Nancy Porter was a Eucharistic minister at the Mass. "I was moved by the whole celebration, and I was moved when Jerry gave Lorraine a kiss. It was so moving to me that Jerry worked so long and so hard. He and Lorraine have a spiritual togetherness and they and their family brought us all together in a spiritual way."

Carmelite hopes anniversary renews scapular popularity

BY CINDY WOODEN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Karol Wojtyla received the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel when he was about 10 years old. As Pope John Paul II, he is still wearing it, 70 years later.

The pope is expected to write about the scapular and Marian devotion in the coming months as Carmelites around the world mark what may be the 750th anniversary of the scapular.

The anniversary is connected to a pious tradition that Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite, in 1251 and gave him the scapular, an apron-like brown piece of fabric that fits over the head.

Over time, lay people joining confraternities connected with the Carmelites also received the scapular. As its popularity grew, its size shrank.

Today the small scapular has two stamp-sized cards — one with a picture of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the other of the Sacred Heart of Jesus or of St. Simon — sewn onto brown fabric and connected with brown ribbons.

In homilies and books, in speeches and on Web sites, the Carmelites are careful to explain that doubts surround the historical authenticity of St. Simon's vision; no written account of it appeared before the late 1300s.

At the same time, "we have no proof that the vision did not happen," said Carmelite Father Redemptus Valabek, a professor in Rome and an expert on Carmelite spirituality and Marian devotion.

The Carmelite priest, a native of Connecticut, promotes the scapular, but with a clear view of reaching modern men and women and ensuring the devotion does not stray into superstition.

Although not nearly as popular as it was 40 years ago, the scapular is still second only to the rosary as a frequently used Marian devotion, Father Valabek said.

The scapular's origin was as part of the Carmelite habit, a symbol of belonging to the order and living its rule.

The tradition that Mary told St. Simon anyone wearing it would not go to hell makes sense if one realizes that wearing the scapular meant striving with one's whole being to live the Gospel, Father Valabek said.

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REFLECTION,
from page 13

them too, a way of life. This, Francis did. In an existing writing known as "The First Letter to the Faithful," he states that herein lie the words of spirit and life, and he calls blessed those who do the works of penance.

What are these works he describes? They are love of God, love of neighbor, hatred of our vices and sins, reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, and bringing forth the fruit of good works. He then emphasizes that those who do penance are "the children of the heavenly Father, the spouses of the Holy Spirit, and the brothers and mothers of Our Lord Jesus Christ." (Cf. Matt 12:50)

The Gospel message has remained the same throughout the centuries. This Lent, may we deepen our relationship with the passionate gardener who waters and prunes the holy ground of our being. As we consider the justice and mercy of our heavenly Father, may we, the barren branches, by our works of penance bring forth Christ into our world. May the golden blossoms of the kingdom flourish.

Sister Bernadette Svatos, a Franciscan Sister of Rochester, Minn., is Northern Region coordinator of faith formation in the Diocese of Charlotte.

RECONCILIATION,
from page 5

though the struggle continued with each passing moment.

"I had to go back to square one: 'Did I even believe in God? Maybe God is just a psychological crutch some wise person dreamed up a long time ago. Maybe terrible things happen because there is no God at all,'" she recalled of her thoughts.

Six months had passed, and Marietta painfully and gradually reached a realization that her faith does exist and that it does matter — that she does indeed believe in a God who loves his people and gives them all they need to get through tough times.

"I knew that Christians are called to pray for their enemies, and he certainly fit that category," Marietta said of the kidnapper. And so, as she continued to pray for Susie and her safe return, she also began to pray for her abductor. That, Marietta believes, had a dramatic and divine effect on her.

"I discovered something that maybe you already know," she told her audience. "The more you pray for someone, it's our hearts that get changed. And the more I prayed for him, the more I realized how important it was for him to experience the love of God in his life."

Plus, she said, her prayers included a petition that the kidnapper would take good care of her daughter. If he still had her, she said, she prayed he would return her to her family. And if he no longer had her, she prayed he would have the courage to come forth.

"I won't kid you," she said. "Forgiveness is hard work. It takes daily, diligent discipline. Anybody who thinks forgiveness is for wimps has never tried it, because it is hard work. But I am here to tell you, it is worth it."

Marietta learned how valuable forgiveness had become in her life when, a year to the minute that he snatched Susie from her sleeping bag, the kidnapper called Marietta.

He was smug and challenging on the phone, boasting of the control he had over the situation. But he became completely undone when, in a calm voice and spirit, Marietta told him that she was praying for him. She asked him what she could do to help him through this ordeal. She listened with compassion as he broke down and wept.

And in doing so, she and her daughter's kidnapper talked for more than an hour — long enough for Marietta to realize more fully than ever before that her heart had been transformed.

Transformation

With law enforcement hot on the kidnapper's trail after that call, clues led them to a 26-year-old named David Meirhoffer. Officials working the case hoped that if Marietta agreed to a face-to-face meeting with him, he might give himself up by confessing to what happened to Susie.

"It was a great blessing to have the chance to go out and say to David that I forgave him, that God forgave him and that God was giving him this opportunity to receive the grace he needed to become the man God had created him to be," she said.

Meirhoffer was seemingly unfazed by that meeting, Marietta said. But because he had incriminated himself in recorded telephone conversations to the family, police had enough evidence to proceed with him in custody. A search of his home yielded more evidence. And a phone call from an FBI agent confirmed what Marietta and her family had feared for a year: a search team had found the remains of a little girl in the same area that another of Meirhoffer's victims was found.

"It was the concrete proof of what I had already come to know in my own heart: that in spite of all this time David had been talking about exchanging Susie for a ransom ... and all this time we had been searching for her, she was already safe at home in the arms of the Lord."

Soon after his meeting with Marietta and knowing she had gone to the authorities begging for life imprisonment rather than the death penalty for her child's kidnapper, Meirhoffer confessed to killing Susie and three other children. Three days later, he hanged himself in his cell.

For Marietta, it was sad ending to a heartbreaking saga that took her youngest daughter away, shook her faith and threatened to destroy her family.

The family buried Susie's remains in Montana, and Marietta met David's mother to grieve with her, "as two mothers who had lost their children." She returned home with a profound loss, yet with a newfound sense of God in her life.

Living the faith

Today, Marietta calls Three Forks, Mont., her home. She travels throughout the country sharing Susie's story at churches, schools and other venues. For her, God's mandates of reconciliation and forgiveness far outweigh society's need for revenge and justice.

As a founding board member of Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, she continues to help people in their own grief and rage — and hopefully, their road to healing. Along the way, she has grown to appreciate all of life as sacred gifts from God and has become a staunch opponent of the death penalty.

"What I had finally come to understand was that to kill somebody in Susie's name would be to violate and profane the goodness and sweetness and innocence of her life," she said of her family's own experience. "I'm not advocating forgiving violent people and then putting them back on the street. But we don't have to kill people in order to keep society safe."

And while she knows that her Susie is in heaven, she hopes David was able to sense God's compassion as well.

"I had to remind myself over and over and over again that however I felt about this person, in God's eyes, he was just as precious as my little girl," she said. "That's the kind of God that I believe in: a God who is crazy about each and every one of us, no matter who we are and what we have done."

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Pope says God's power will prevail over forces of evil

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The forces of evil try to attack the church as well as individuals, but Christians can be sure that in the end God's power will triumph, Pope John Paul II said.

"For the church, which frequently feels the weight of history and is besieged by evil, the mother of Christ is the shining emblem of humanity redeemed and wrapped in the grace which saves," the pope said.

At his March 14 general audience in the Paul VI Audience Hall, the pope spoke about the passage from the Book of Revelation in which a woman is about to give birth and a dragon waits to devour her child.

While Christian tradition often presents the woman as Mary, he said, the passage primarily is about the church.

"The Marian interpretation does not contradict the ecclesial meaning of the text," he said, because Mary is the symbol of the church.

In the story, as in history, good and evil confront each other, the pope said.

"Mary, her son and the church represent the apparent weakness and smallness of love, truth and justice," he said. "Against them there has been unleashed the monstrously devastating energy of violence, lies and injustice."

However, Pope John Paul said, the end of the biblical passage proclaims that the final winner of the struggle will be given to "the salvation and power, the kingdom of our God and the authority of his anointed one."

Parents' influence leads son to permanent diaconate

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — The first time Rev. Mr. Patrick Vallandingham heard his father speak publicly was at a father-son banquet at his father's church in West Virginia. But, through positive reports and feedback from the people in and around his hometown who heard the Baptist preacher speak, it was as if Rev. Mr. Vallandingham had heard every one of his father's sermons. Because of his parents' ecumenical marriage, the Vallandingham children, raised Catholic, did not attend their father's church. But it was then, Rev. Mr. Vallandingham believes, a seed was planted.

"Back in the early '50s, we were restricted from going to a non-Catholic church, and it was never made an issue. Even though I grew up in a home of mixed religions, there was a divine respect between Mother and Dad as far as religion was concerned. He supported my mother in everything she did with us. He was a very good speaker and was sought after from all over the area. He would travel the circuit and would fill in for other ministers in denominations other than the Baptist religion."

After his father passed away, the father and son remained linked through memories and the sermon notes he left behind. Rev. Mr. Vallandingham often reads those notes, yellowing with age, and he still derives comfort from them. Early in his ministry as a permanent deacon, he made reference to them and honored his father's memory through them.

"Looking at some of his sermon notes, you can see 'Catholic' all over them. Just prior to his death, he had communicated to my mother about the possibility of becoming Catholic. He didn't make it but came awfully close. If there is such a thing as conversion by desire, my father was there. What a blessing it would have been for my father to see me ordained a deacon."

The seed planted by his father and nourished by his own Catholic faith and experiences grew and blossomed, and Rev. Mr. Vallandingham was ordained in the Diocese of Charlotte's first diaconate class in 1983 and began his ministry at his home parish, Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

Courtesy Photo

Rev. Mr. Patrick and Ann Vallandingham

It was actually the family's second time living in North Carolina. They had been living in West Virginia, their home state, where Rev. Mr. Vallandingham worked his way up from the operations department to the vice-presidential position in a local bank, when they decided to move to North Carolina. "We had traveled through this area and had thought it would be a nice place to live," remembered Ann Vallandingham.

They settled in Charlotte, and he went to work for First Union as an operations manager in the building where the old diocesan pastoral center was located. In fact, Rev. Mr. Vallandingham's old office was where Bishop Emeritus Michael J. Begley's office was. "After I was ordained, it would bring back memories when I would come to the old pastoral center."

Unfortunately, they were not able to stay in Charlotte long. They moved back to West Virginia to be close to Rev. Mr. Vallandingham's father, who had cancer. "With my father's death, even though I was greatly touched, I walked away with a new understanding about death, and I took those feelings with me to my ministry."

After his death, they moved back to Charlotte, and he was able to go back to work at a similar position at his old job. He then moved to another bank in Charlotte, and after nearly five years with that bank, he and his family moved to Salisbury. Even though they were reluctant to leave a city they had grown to love, they also fell in love with their home.

The diaconate entered into his life several years after that, and he welcomed it openly. "I had reached a point in my life where so much had happened to me, and I began to be appreciative in my faith of all I had — family, children. God had done so much for me, and it became more important for me to walk in my faith. I wanted to tell the Lord that I was appreciative for all he had done for me and my family and a way to say that was to respond to the call of service in the church."

The couple entered the program not knowing what to expect. "Since he had been involved with a charismatic prayer group in Charlotte, serving in the church was a natural progression for him to take," said Mrs. Vallandingham. "It was a positive experience for us, and now, it is just a part of our lives." Rev. Mr. Vallandingham served as the first assistant director of the program and has been vicar of the Charlotte region for over a year.

The couple introduced the diaconate to their hometown in a bittersweet fashion — at Rev. Mr. Vallandingham's mother's funeral, over which he presided. "I walked up in my alb and stole, and everyone did a double take." No longer was he the young boy the hometown people knew as "little Pat" who used to work at his father's Pepsi-Cola bottling plant. "I was much older than I was then, and I was also taking a double-take because I hadn't seen any of them in a while. My mother's death was a source of blessings for a lot of us to come together again to say good-bye."

With a 36-year career in banking behind him, Rev. Mr. Vallandingham retired in 1994 and began to work full-time for the church. Three years ago, he began taking care of the financial end of a friend's business.

"There is a delicate balance because he has a regular job and is also a deacon. There are times when he has to leave work to go to the church. I help by trying to make things as easy for him as possible," said Mrs. Vallandingham.

"Aspects of my faith are paramount in my life; it really means something to me internally," said Rev. Mr. Vallandingham, father of three and grandfather of four. "I look forward to going to church and doing things for people, which wasn't my experience before. The permanent diaconate has been a great source of grace and blessings for Ann and me."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

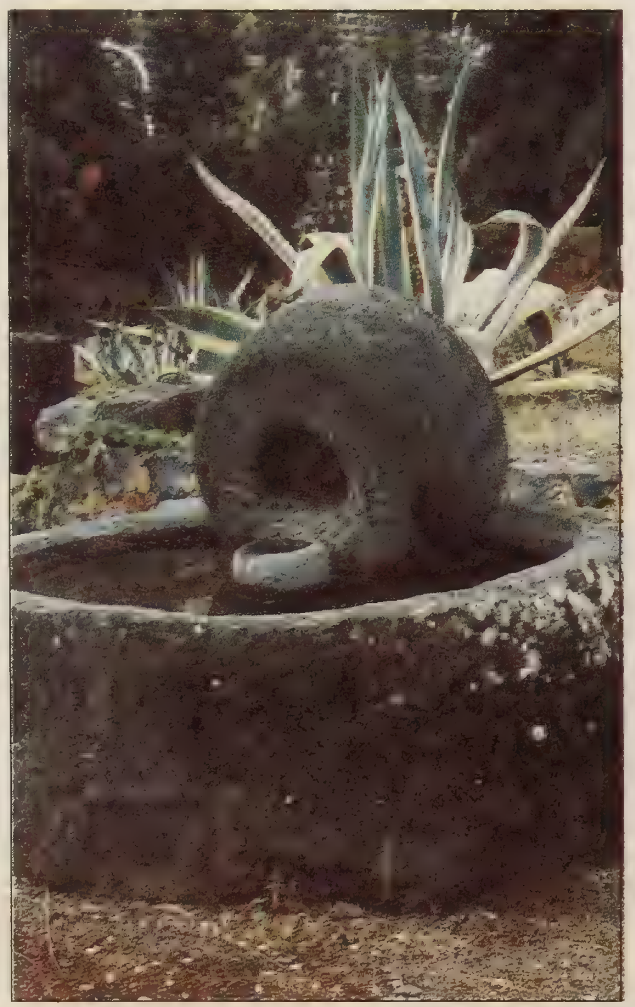

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Lent 2001

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

— John 4: 13-14

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 23, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 28

Inside

Irish Catholics share faith, heritage, history ... Page 5

Pope ordains nine new bishops ... Page 15

Local News

Those with disabilities honored at Mass ... Page 7

Faith accompanies Northerner down South ... Page 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

> **"Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"**
>
> **– John 8:12**

Experts ponder immigration influx at statewide conference

By Jimmy Rostar
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — Understanding who they are as a diverse people of family, community, faith and culture is a basic yet essential step in reaching out to immigrants as people who wish to call the United States home, said members of a panel addressing a statewide conference on immigration.

The state's first Legal Immigration Forum was hosted by the North Carolina Governor's Hispanic/Latino Advisory Council and the North Carolina Legal Immigration Coalition March 16 in Greensboro. The statewide conference gathered experts in the fields of government, law, religion, industry and education to ponder practical solutions for improving an immigration system that has been in place for nearly a half-century.

During their panel presentation "Latinos in North Carolina," four advocates for Hispanics said in their daily experience with those they serve, they encounter a wide variety of people who hunger for a sense of home, job security and social belonging.

And while the people with whom they work are varied in their backgrounds and experiences, the panelists said all immigrants to this country share in a common thread of hopes, expectations and needs.

"We are a very different people from many different countries," said Katie Pomerans, a native of Uruguay and an advocate for Hispanics who now coordinates North Carolina State University's NC AgrAbility program in the Triangle. "Some of us have been here for many years and have raised families here. And some of us are just arriving, trying to establish here, trying to learn to live in a new culture and a new environment, and trying to survive."

While the economy has changed dramatically since the current immigration system was established in 1952, the visa system has stayed static, conference organizers said. Long-term problems have resulted, they said, including such issues as legal work authorization, proper citizenship credentials, and fear and mistrust of the people that immigrants encounter in the very land they hope to make their home.

Discussions included those on immigrants from a plethora of places across the world who come to this state, while the conference focused particularly on the tremendous influx of Latinos who are calling North Carolina home these days, either permanently or for the time being.

Jesuit Father Paul Brant, chair of the Immigration Committee of the Governor's Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, ministers to Hispanics in 16 counties within the Diocese of Raleigh. On the "Latinos in North Carolina" panel, he said in his experience with a mostly Mexican population, he meets people who fight for survival from financial ruin in their homeland.

"The bad economic situation in most of the Latin American countries has forced the people to leave the land there because it's not able to support them anymore," Father Brant said. "A Mexican worker here can earn in one day what he earns in two weeks in Mexico. As long as you have that, they're going to be coming here."

The panel discussed topics that included the basic needs, expectations and desires of immigrants who come here.

Ilana Dubester, executive director of the Hispanic advocacy organization Vinculo Hispano, said documentation is part of Hispanics' dream for a better life.

"They are making a leap of faith that one day, perhaps, they will be doing everything that they are doing now, only with a little piece of paper that says that they are allowed to stay here," said Dubester, who works with Hispanic family members one-to-one on such issues as healthcare and social security.

The panel members said a strong family connection exists in Hispanic culture, and many workers are finding expensive and often dangerous ways of bringing their families into the United States to be with them. For many immigrants, they said, the dream will always include being in Latin America, though conditions force them to find new homes.

"I don't think there is an immigrant who doesn't dream of going home and sharing what they accomplished in their life," said Pomerans. "(But) their plans are for here, for establishing their whole family here, for having a job, for giving their children the best possible education."

Dr. H. Nolo Martinez, director of

See IMMIGRATION, page 4

Photo by Larry Chance

Jeff Heath applies beeswax with a copper stylus to an intricate pattern on an egg during a Pysanka Egg Writers Retreat at Holy Family Church in Clemmons. Parishioner Ann Michel led the retreat, which weaves spirituality into the Ukrainian style of egg decorating. See story, page 9.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Residents make their way through flooded village

Villagers row though flooded streets in the village of Geten in western Ukraine March 15. Tens of thousands of homes in more than 240 villages and towns have been hard hit by recent flooding in Ukraine.

Some church policies alien to Hispanics, says N.M. bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Many Hispanics are kept away from the sacraments by church practices and policies alien to them, said Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M. Church authorities need to be more flexible about procedures associated with baptisms, annulments and weddings, he said in a March 14 phone interview. He added that government legal procedures for people seeking U.S. residency also present pastoral problems. The Mexican-American bishop was interviewed on issues he raised in a Feb. 23 speech at a Miami meeting of the National Institute of Liturgy for Hispanics.

Church groups to participate in alternative summit in Quebec

OTTAWA (CNS) — Canadian church organizations will participate in an alternative summit in Quebec City in the days before leaders of 34 governments in the Americas gather for the Summit of the Americas. The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Rights and the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America are members of coalitions that plan to take part in the Second People's Summit of the Americas, April 16-21. The heads of governments from North and South America will meet in Quebec City from April 20-22 and are expected to sign the first draft of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. Under the umbrella of the "Hemispheric Social Alliance," the alternative summit will bring together representatives of more than 400 organizations opposed to the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas.

Asian traditions can renew church, says theologian

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Asian nations offer diverse religious traditions "which can renew and strengthen the Catholic Church," said Father Peter Phan, president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. These traditions include a commitment to family, stability, respect and a sharing lifestyle, he said. They are also influencing the United States because millions of Asians have arrived since World War II, he added. Father Phan, a professor of religion and culture at The Catholic University of America in Washington, gave the Archbishop Peter Leo Gerety lecture March 8 at Seton Hall University.

Pilot program offers intensive study of Christian classics

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Through a pilot program called Traditio, 20 top college students from across the country will study important texts of the Christian tradition this summer at the University of Notre Dame. The program — designed to further the integration of faith and learning — was developed and is directed by Eleonore Stump, professor of philosophy at St. Louis University. She and Notre Dame provost Nathan Hatch received a $600,000 grant from Pew Charitable Trusts to cover the expense of students' travel, books, board and housing at Notre Dame, where the program will be held this year. Each student will also receive a $3,000 stipend.

Church in Sierra Leone launches AIDS prevention campaign

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — The Catholic Church in Sierra Leone is working to prevent AIDS by educating people about how the disease spreads. "The AIDS epidemic is spreading fast. The church has therefore become concerned, because the more it spreads, the more it affects our parishioners in different parts of the country," said Father Theophillos Momoh, a priest of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Freetown, the coastal capital of Sierra Leone. Following a workshop in early March in collaboration with the ministries of health and education, the church embarked on sensitizing parishioners on the dangers of engaging in activities likely to cause the spread of the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

Speaker discusses improving male-female collaboration in church

CHICAGO (CNS) — Improved collaboration among women and men in the Catholic Church must start with moving the site of decision-making out of the rectory or other locations closed to women, a speaker told a national gathering of women March 12. Leodia "Lee" Gooch, program manager for evangelization and parish outreach in the Human Rights Office of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, spoke on the second day of a three-day meeting in Chicago. The meeting was convened by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Women in Society and in the Church to consult with some 150 women holding diocesan leadership positions.

Friars resolve land-use dispute with National Park Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement announced March 8 that they have "amicably" resolved a land-use dispute with the National Park Service. The controversy involved an area of land where the Appalachian Trail crosses the property of the friars' Graymoor headquarters. Adjusting an easement of 58 acres granted the Park Service in 1984, the agreement adds a little more than seven acres and returns almost two acres of the original easement to the friars, leaving 63.28 acres covered out of the total of about 400. The friars, who received $116,500 for the original easement, will be paid $25,680 for giving up any right to develop the added acreage.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 24
Attending Leadership Training Program
St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte

March 25 — 11 a.m.
Mass
St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden

March 26 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of the Annunciation, Albemarle

March 28-29
LARCUM Ecumenical Dialogue
Catholic Conference Center, Hickory

Diocesan planner

March

28 WINSTON-SALEM — Schools in the Winston-Salem area are having Lenten reconciliation services on the following dates: St. Leo School, 333 Springdale Ave., this morning at 10 a.m. and Our Lady of Mercy School, 1 East Banner Ave., at 10:30 a.m. on March 30. Call the schools for details.

29 WINSTON-SALEM VICARIATE — Churches in the vicariate are having Lenten reconciliation services on the following dates at 7 p.m.: Our Lady of Mercy, 1919 S. Main St. in Winston-Salem, tonight; Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, Corner of Cherry and 3rd Sts. in Winston-Salem, April 5; Our Lady of the Rosary, 619 S. Main St. in Lexington, and Holy Family, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. in Clemmons, April 6; St. Benedict the Moor, 1625 E. 12th St. in Winston-Salem, April 10 and Good Shepherd, East End of Kirby Rd. in King, April 11. Call the churches for details.

30 ASHEBORO — The diocesan Boy Scouts of America Catholic Camporee is taking place today through April 1 at the Woodfield Scout Reservation. All parish and other Cub Scout Packs and Scout Troops are invited to participate in this yearly event. For additional information, contact Henry Wallace at (704) 792-9329.

DENVER — Holy Spirit Church, 537 North Hwy. 16, is hosting a fish fry this evening and April 6 from 5-8 p.m. All-you-can-eat and carry-out fried fish, French fries, bread and sweetened tea are on the menu for the two-day gathering to benefit the church. For details, call (704) 483-6448.

SYLVA — The youth of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., are presenting the Living Stations of the Cross tonight at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (828) 586-9496 or Beth Harcourt at (828) 586-0463.

31 BOONE — The diocesan Office of Faith Formation is presenting the 5th Annual Boone Education Conference today

Canadian church group urges education about refugee rights

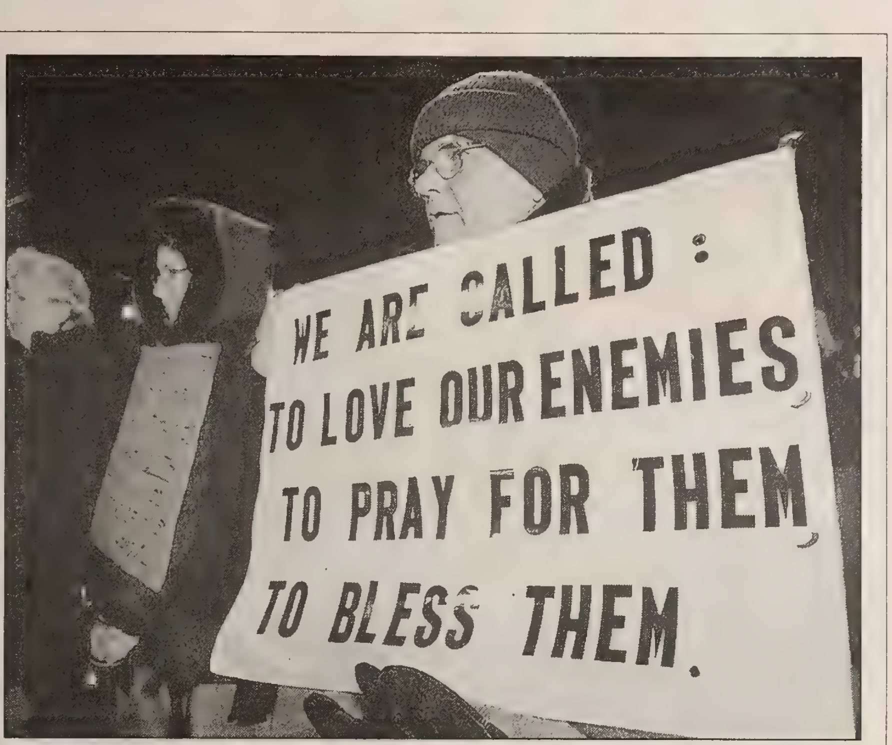
OTTAWA (CNS) — The federal government should be more active in educating Canadians about the rights and needs of refugees, a Catholic Church group told a House of Commons committee studying a proposed overhaul of the Immigration Act. "Many causes, including high-profile media coverage of human smuggling, queue jumping and other abuses, combine to produce a negative public opinion that is hostile to refugees," said Bernard Daly, chair of the permanent refugee committee of Notre Dame Cathedral-Basilica and a former assistant general secretary of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daly, a retired former publisher of the Catholic Register in Toronto, was among presenters at a mid-March hearing of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration.

College students once again spend break helping others

WASHINGTON (CNS) — This year, while hundreds of thousands of college students flock to the beaches during their spring break, a growing number of college students are taking part in service projects. Instead of drinking beer and sunbathing, they'll be building homes, tutoring students, registering voters, visiting the sick and elderly, and volunteering in homeless shelters and soup kitchens. Students are spending the week in projects dubbed "Alternative Spring Breaks," "Spring Break Out" or "Appalachian Outreach," helping people in rural areas in the United States and Central America. These service projects require a lot of advance planning. Students have to fill out applications, get on waiting lists, and take part in prerequisite training seminars and fundraising projects before taking off.

NCCW offers leadership institutes for Catholic women

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Council of Catholic Women is offering leadership institutes on "Spirituality and Service" for Catholic women at seven sites around the United States this year. The daylong program — described as part training, part retreat — is designed to help Catholic women reflect on their faith in the light of Catholic social teaching, exploring the link between service and the principles of Catholic social thought. Sessions scheduled for 2001 are: April 7, Portsmouth, N.H.; May 5, Moses Lake, Wash.; May 19, Austin, Texas; June 2, Stevens Point, Wis.; June 22, Davenport, Iowa, and Boise, Idaho; and Sept. 22, Springfield, Ill.



CNS PHOTO BY KAREN CALLAWAY

Activists hold vigil before execution in Indiana

Bob Dhoore, a Catholic from Notre Dame, Ind., joins a vigil protesting the execution of Gerald Bivins outside the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City March 13. Bishop Dale J. Melczek of Gary, Ind., was a witness to the execution of Bivins, who was put to death by lethal injection for a 1991 murder.

Ukrainian Catholic aid workers urge help for flood victims

MOSCOW (CNS) — Ukrainian Catholic aid workers in the impoverished former Soviet republic are appealing to Catholics abroad for help in coping with flooding that has killed at least six people and damaged more than 33,000 homes. "They called the 1998 flood the biggest flood of the century, but this one is even bigger," said Father Ken Nowakowski, president of Caritas Ukraine, in a telephone interview March 14 from the Ukrainian Catholic Church's headquarters in Lviv. "In February, we had a huge amount of snowfall, and then what happened was last week there were torrential rains that melted all this snow. That, along with the rain itself, caused the flooding," he said.

Updates for Mass seen as opportunity to examine goals of liturgy

MANTECA, Calif. (CNS) — The Vatican's first revision in 25 years of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal gives Catholics an opportunity to take a new look at the liturgy and reforms initiated by the Second Vatican Council, said the U.S. bishops' top liturgy official. Father James P. Moroney, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Liturgy, discussed the revised rules in a February talk to about 1,000 participants at a Stockton diocesan liturgy workshop in Manteca. Stockton Bishop Stephen E. Blaire invited Father Moroney to give the workshop for laity and a session for priests as the first major events of the diocese's observance of 2001 as a "Year of Liturgical Catechesis."

Holy See decries Italian threat to cut power to Vatican Radio

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Holy See denounced a threat by Italy's environmental minister to cut off electricity to Vatican Radio over alleged electromagnetic pollution and said ongoing bilateral negotiations were the proper means to resolve the dispute. In a statement March 17, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, called it "surprising" that an Italian government official spread misinformation and suggested "initiatives that are contrary to the spirit of negotiations." Willer Bordon, the environmental minister, said March 16 he would order the Italian electricity company to suspend service within 15 days if the radio's transmission antennae continued to violate Italy's very strict radiation standards.

CRS sends food to thousands of displaced in southern Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services Sudan sent food to thousands of displaced people in southern Sudan's Diocese of Rumbek after renewed fighting between government-backed soldiers and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army. Responding to an urgent appeal by Bishop Cesare Mazzolari of Rumbek for food, water, and other relief supplies, in mid-March CRS Sudan delivered 60 tons of lentils, vegetable oil, bulgar wheat and other supplies to the Bahr el Ghazal region in the western part of southern Sudan, said David Snyder, media relations adviser with CRS, the U.S. bishops international relief and development agency. The Sudan program is CRS' biggest project, with most of the funding coming from the U.S. Agency for International Development, he said.

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beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way. Based on the theme "Our Baptismal Call and Response," Anne Trufant will share her sense of God's call in her life and will engage in fellowship and spirituality with participants. The deadline for registration is March 26, and for information and registration, call Peg Ruble, Central Regional Faith Formation Coordinator, at (704) 391-0445.

CHARLOTTE — A Catechist Recognition Workshop for catechist training is being held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., today beginning with registration from 8:15-8:45 a.m., Mass at 9 a.m. and modules presented during two sessions from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. Any adult involved in parish ministry or seeking personal enrichment is invited to come for the four Phase I modules offered for the catechist certification process with the topics of the sacraments, Scripture, morality and creed. For more information and to register, call Marylin Kravatz, Southern Regional Faith Formation Coordinator, at (704) 370-3247.

April

1 ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Church, 919 Haywood Rd., is sponsoring a ministries fair to be held today following the 10 a.m. Community Mass. The joint Mass is being celebrated in the parish gym in lieu of the four regular weekend Masses and is intended to allow the church membership to greet each other as one church family. Following Mass, the 16 church ministries are being represented by displays throughout the building to familiarize people with the ministries and to encourage participation. For details, call (828) 252-3151.

2 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the ministry center and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on April 3 at 7 p.m. in the office building. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight, not April 7, at 7:30 p.m. with Father Frank O'Rourke. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next mass takes place on May 7. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

4 CHARLOTTE — Bishop William G. Curlin is presenting a Lenten evening of reflection at St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. The evening includes prayer, Scripture reading, a homily by the bishop, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. Call (704) 535-4197 for details.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is hosting a bereavement education session entitled "Grief: Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow." All are invited to come and explore how feelings of grief and loss continue sometimes long after the first year for many people and how one can deal with those feelings. For further details, call B.J. Dengler at the church at (704) 364-5431.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., is hosting Dr. William Rabil as he leads a presentation on the Shroud of Turin tonight from 7-8:15 p.m. at the activity center annex. The talk concerns biblical, medical and scientific accounts of the shroud as a theoretic "fifth gospel." For further information, call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

IMMIGRATION,
from page 1

Hispanic/Latino Affairs for the Office of the Governor, moderated the panel. "One of the things that is unique about the immigrant population is their behavior," he said. "Theirs is a behavior that is a result of, as I understand it and as we have seen it, their immigration status."

Father Brant agreed. He likened the Latino experience of displacement to the biblical Exodus story. "These people have been through the desert," he said of those to whom he ministers. "Some of them have seen people die. They've been turned back several times and have had to cross again. They're survivors, these folks, and that explains a lot (about their behavior)."

When it comes to basic needs, the panelists spoke of documentation, healthcare, education, and labor and law issues as key. They also spoke of North Carolina as being a favorable place to host its new residents.

"I hear from a lot of clients that they are very grateful to be here and for the opportunity," said Dubester. "People are very hopeful about North Carolina, are very thankful to be here and find it a good place to live with lots of opportunities."

Father Brant said depending on the future economic situations in their homelands, many immigrants may return to Latin America — though many will stay here in the States for good.

"We're going to have a permanent Hispanic population in any case, and they are going to have the same expectations for the future as any other person living in North Carolina does," he said.

In a March 2000 report, the U.S. Catholic bishops named the Diocese of Charlotte as having the largest percentage of increase in the Hispanic population between 1990 and 1996 among all U.S. Catholic dioceses. The Diocese of Raleigh was listed fourth.

Vincentian Father Vincent Finnerty, director of Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte, said educational meetings such as the forum provide an opportunity to look at how individuals, the church and other institutions, and society as a whole can reach out to welcome strangers in a new land.

"The big problem with the immigration law is that many people come as strangers here," he said, "but they're not able to come as documented people, and so they live in great insecurity and fear during the time that they're here."

Father Finnerty said the church has long taken a leadership role in outreach to immigrants and that the church here in North Carolina is currently providing tremendous outreach to Hispanics.

"The church must continue to be aware of its role — that Hispanics will come to us because they have confidence in the church," he said. "As long as we try to respond to their needs, then we have power with them, and as a result, the voice of the church becomes strong in society to advocate for Hispanics' rights."

Msgr. Jerry Lewis, the Diocese of Raleigh's vicar general who addressed the forum from a faith perspective, agreed that the church holds an important responsibility.

"Certainly through our Catholic social ministries and by helping them with immigration questions, we can be advocates," he said in an interview. "We might not change the government ourselves, but we can be a part of that advocacy.

"This is a long-term struggle, but we in the church can put ourselves behind these people to say that they are human beings, they've got to be treated with dignity, and they have a right to justice. We have a moral force to keep pushing for that."

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Jesuit Father Paul Brant, far left, addresses the Legal Immigration Forum March 23 in Greensboro. Seated from left with Father Brant is Ilana Dubester, Dr. H. Nolo Martinez and Katie Pomerans.

ST LEOS SCHOOL

PHOTO BY SUSAN DE GUZMAN

From Winston to Washington

St. Leo School students and faculty mailed a care package to President George W. Bush recently which included a giant card, two school cookbooks (one for Laura, the president's wife, and one for his mother, Barbara) and other school memorabilia. This project was organized by Resource Specialist Linda Fatale, who is the school's 2000-01 "Teacher of the Year." Pictured are teacher Linda Fatale with fifth-grade students. This project was part of a nations day celebration for Catholic Schools Week.

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Irish Catholics share faith, heritage, history

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — It was a wonderful day for a parade. With a shelter of clouds and blue skies, hundreds of people from Charlotte and the surrounding areas turned out to watch this year's annual St. Patrick's Day parade, sponsored by Dyer-Hart Productions and the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Mecklenburg County Division. The parade is just one of the projects in which the group of Irish Catholic men who comprise the AOH is involved. Several other organizations benefit from the group whose origins reach all the way back to Ireland.

The AOH reportedly began several hundred years ago during the 16th century when Catholicism in Ireland had been outlawed by Queen Elizabeth I, and she declared Anglicanism as the religion of Great Britain. Citizens and priests caught practicing their Catholic faith were executed as violators of the laws created against the Irish. In response to the laws, many people practiced their faith in underground societies and were guarded and protected by dedicated Irish laymen. Thus, the AOH, in its earliest forms, began.

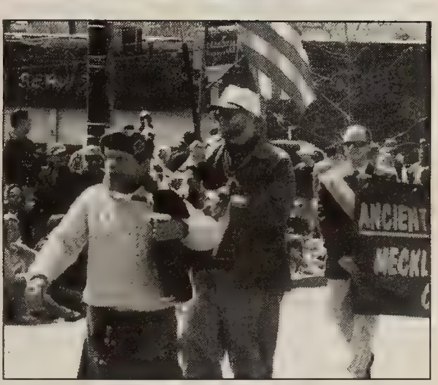
After thousands of Irish people immigrated to America and were met with similar hostility and discrimination, the men, who had been a part of those first secret societies which protected the Catholic faith and its believers, officially formed the AOH in America in 1836 in New York. Their job was to protect churches and clergy from violence and to support new immigrants in finding jobs, homes and other resources.

Today, the AOH is the oldest and largest Irish Catholic lay organization in the United States with divisions extending into Canada and Mexico. "Hibernia" is the ancient name for Ireland, and the promotion of history and customs comprises a large part of the organization. Charitable works performed by members of the group throughout the United States and promotion of the Catholic faith and Irish heritage is at the forefront of the AOH's philosophy.

With the motto "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity," the AOH strives to not only keep its members educated and steadfast in their faith but also to inform the public about the rich and varied history of the Irish people and to improve religious and political conditions in their native land.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS
MECKLENBURG - DIVISION I
CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Photos by Alesha M. Price



The annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Charlotte is one of many projects in which the Ancient Order of Hibernians' Mecklenburg County Division is involved.

The AOH's motto is "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity."

In North Carolina, several divisions exist, including one in the western part of the Diocese of Charlotte, which was the first in the state. The AOH Buncombe County Cross and Shamrock Division received its charter in June 1993, and since then, other groups have formed with members of that first division.

Activities in this division include two Communion breakfasts a year, the annual St. Patrick's Day party, an annual ball game and picnic, work with the Asheville Buncombe County Christian Ministry and other charities, and a recent addition, a retreat.

"We started the retreat this year for personal and spiritual growth, and it was very successful," said Bill Mitchell, president of the Cross and Shamrock Division. "Also, at this year's St. Patrick's Day party, we awarded Dr. James H. Mullen, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, the Irish-American Man of the Year award for his leadership and service."

Mitchell said that the organization has helped him to establish and maintain friendships, to concentrate on his own spirituality and to learn more about his Irish-Catholic background. "The national office stresses that we emphasize our Irish heritage, which is Catholic, and you can't separate the two. We hope that with the celebration of our heritage that we will see other groups celebrating their heritage as Americans."

In the Charlotte area, the AOH Mecklenburg County Division received its charter in 1996 and is involved with Charlotte's St. Patrick Day parade and other major charitable and social events. With state president Tim Lawson involved in this group, the division sponsors the Emerald Ball, an annual charity dance and concert benefiting Holy Angels, and Project St. Patrick, a national program in support of seminarians in the nation and in the Diocese of Charlotte. In addition to the charitable works, the group is also involved in the spiritual, social and personal development of their members through workshops, festivals and other gatherings.

Michael Slane's job as AOH state director is one of support and encouragement to all divisions in the state including his own, the AOH Guilford County Division, which received its charter in 1999. "I work with promoting and developing the divisions of the AOH and looking to create additional divisions. I act as an intermediary between divisions by visiting divisions around the state," said Slane. "We are fairly new, so we are mostly devoting ourselves toward development and organizing. We are an organization that promotes fraternity and charity among Irish-Catholic men and the education of our own

See IRISH, page 14

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Catholic school students win national engineering contest

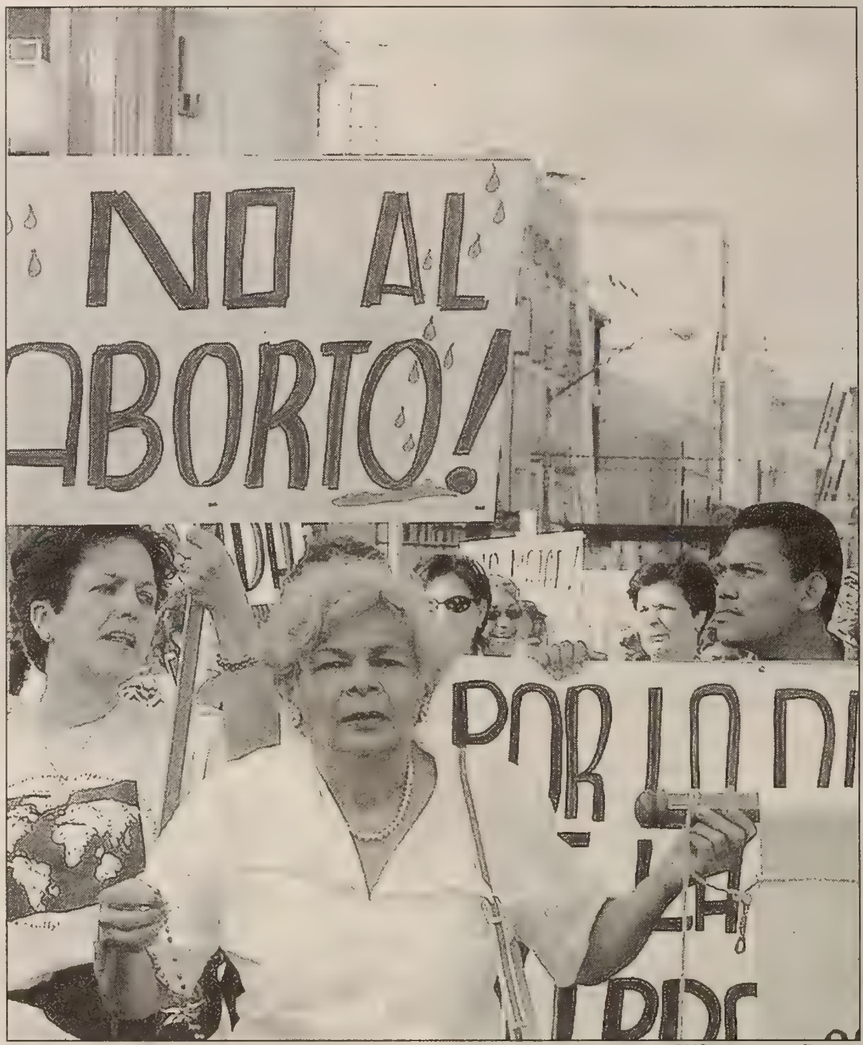
CHICAGO (CNS) — Three eighth-grade students at St. Barnabas Elementary School in Chicago have won a national competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers. Katherine Dunham, 13, Meredith Messerle, 13, and Dan Cullina, 14, won first place in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition for their floating city, "Maropolis," which travels the world's oceans in the year 2500. Some 26,000 students nationwide participated in the ninth annual competition. Each of the three winners received an IBM laptop computer and a visit to the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., this summer.

Archbishop proposes St. Maximilian Kolbe as communications patron

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Luxembourg's Archbishop Fernand Franck proposed St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest and newspaper editor who died in a Nazi concentration camp, as patron saint of social communications. "It seems to me the life of Maximilian Kolbe predestines this martyr to become the patron saint of the means of social communication," Archbishop Franck said March 15 during a weeklong plenary meeting of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Convinced that modern tools of communication could be used to further the church's message, St. Maximilian founded and edited two highly successful periodicals in his native Poland and another successful monthly magazine in Japan.

Longtime Florida Catholic journalist dead at 80

MIAMI (CNS) — Marjorie Fillyaw Donohue, who spent nearly her whole life reporting on the church in South Florida and became known as the "walking encyclopedia" of Miami archdiocesan history, died March 12 after a three-month battle with brain cancer. She was 80. Her funeral Mass was scheduled for March 17 at St. Rose of Lima in Miami Shores, with Miami Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski and other priests of the archdiocese concelebrating.


NO AL ABORTO!

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Anti-abortion activists protest in Panama

Catholic anti-abortion activists protest in Panama City, Panama, March 12. They were seeking to pressure Congress for laws restricting abortion in the Central American country.

Ukrainian Orthodox leader says papal visit won't weaken church

ROME (CNS) — The leader of one of Ukraine's Orthodox churches said he is not worried that Pope John Paul II's June visit to Ukraine will weaken the Orthodox Church in his country. Patriarch Filaret of Kiev, head of the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church, said, "We do not have any fear" that the pope's visit will cause Orthodox to join the Catholic Church. "Ukraine is a territory which has had dealings with Catholicism for 1,000 years. The choice of what faith to belong to already has been made both by the Catholics and by the Orthodox," the patriarch said in a March 15 interview with the Italian newspaper La Repubblica. With the papal visit, "I do not think Orthodox will run to convert to Catholicism," he said.

Longtime music director lands L.A. cathedral music post

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Frank Brownstead, music coordinator for the Los Angeles archdiocesan Office for Worship since 1986, has been named director of music for the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, effective July 1. "As a musician of the highest caliber, Frank has been selected director of music for his sound musical, liturgical and pastoral judgments, appropriate criteria ensuring that the highest quality of music will be celebrated in the cathedral church," said Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik, pastor of the cathedral, which is slated to open in September 2002. Brownstead said he was thrilled by and looking forward to the challenge of his new, full-time role.

Director of 'Jesus in Art' show has expertise in TV commercials

WASHINGTON (CNS) — What's someone who directs TV commercials for a living doing overseeing an important feature-length documentary like "The Face: Jesus in Art"? Peter McGowan replies that, while not abandoning commercials altogether, he's going the "long-form" route from here on in. He's been based in Detroit for many years, having directed scads of commercials for Chevrolet, Geo and Budweiser. But it was a childhood friend from McGowan's native Cleveland, Bill Baker — now the president of PBS' New York City flagship station, WNET — who thought McGowan would like to branch out and film a documentary. Baker commissioned McGowan to direct "The Body of Christ," a half-hour summation of a Houston art exhibition that served as the inspiration for "The Face."

Pope names Cardinal Egan to council on Vatican finance issues

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York to a council of 15 cardinals that deals with Vatican financial issues. Joining Cardinal Egan as new members of the Council of Cardinals for the Study of Organizational and Economic Questions of the Apostolic See were Cardinals Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, England, Ivan Dias of Mumbai, India, and Thomas Williams of Wellington, New Zealand. The appointments were announced at the Vatican March 10. The council is convened, usually twice a year, to review Vatican budget reports and discuss extraordinary financial problems of the Holy See.

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Those with mental, physical disabilities are honored by community at special Mass

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

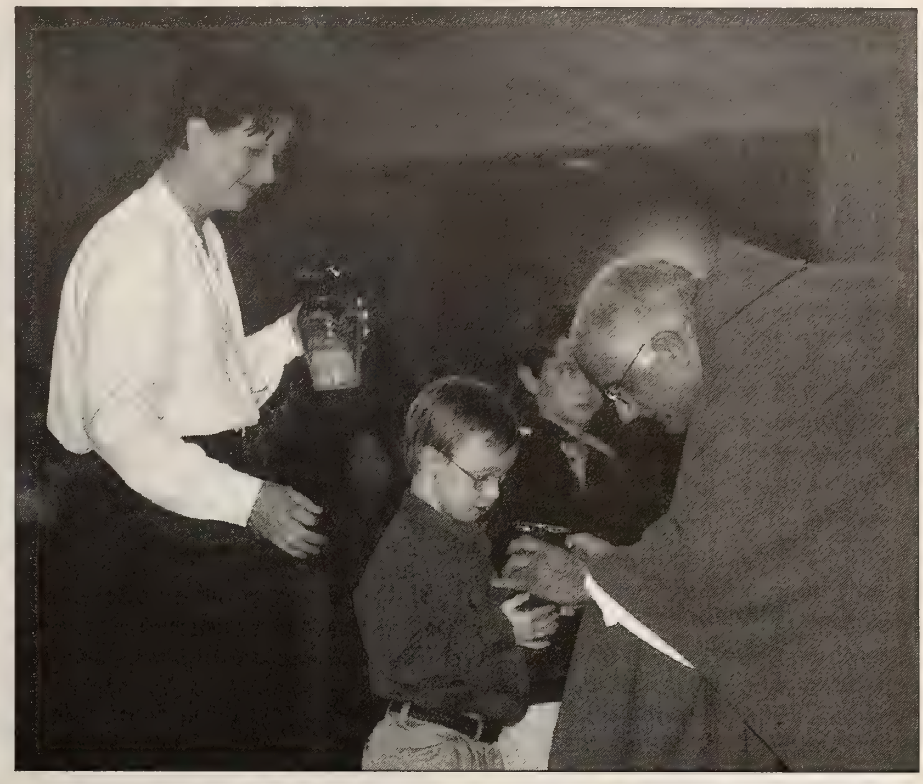

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Adam Utterback, 7, who has Down syndrome, joined his family in bringing up the gifts to Father Richard Bellow and Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning during a Mass sponsored by the disABILITY ministry at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte on March 18. Also pictured is Adam's mother, Allison Utterback.

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Men from the Teresa B. Hall Group Home of the United Methodist Association for the Retarded in Charlotte played handbells for the congregation at St. Gabriel Church at the Mass sponsored by the disABILITY ministry on March 18.

CHARLOTTE — Beth Kennedy, a 16-year-old sophomore, goes to school every morning like other teens her age, participates in extracurricular activities and attends concerts. She worries about her appearance, clothes, music and other things over which teen-age girls obsess. However, Beth experiences life a little differently than others. She has Down syndrome.

In order to bring awareness of those with mental and/or physical disabilities and the gifts they can bring to parish life, the disABILITY ministry of St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte sponsored a Mass on March 18 in honor of the National Arc Sabbath Sunday Mental Retardation Awareness Weekend. Beth and others with mental and physical disabilities throughout the community demonstrated their skills by participating in the Mass.

"We decided to do something to celebrate our brothers and sisters in Christ with mental retardation. We have done social things in the past and felt that it was time to do something spiritual," said Father Richard Bellow, pastor of St. Gabriel. "This was sort of a culmination of many things we try to do in support of our brothers and sisters in Christ who we might think are different but are very much the same. This is our way of making people aware of how special they are and how they have a place at the Lord's table."

Featured in the Mass were mini handbell concerts from men and women from group homes of the United Methodist Association for the Retarded, the processional played by Brent Seisler and the recessional, "How Great Thou Art," sung by Brian Johnson. Beth shared her talent by reading the first and second readings during the Mass, and 7-year-old Adam Utterback, who has Down syndrome, brought up the gifts with his family.

Adam's father, Terry Utterback, and Beth's mother, Mary Kennedy, both belong to the disABILITY ministry at their church. Led by Connie Andrews, the ministry has sponsored several other activities including a dance, bingo games and information sessions to educate, inform and entertain the parishioners, family members and community friends and those with mental and physical disabilities.

The ministry began in April 1995 with the support of Father Ed Sheridan, now pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Hickory, who knew of several parishioners who had children or immediate family members with disabilities. The group banded together and began presenting ecumenical workshops to the public and inviting churches of all denominations to join them to learn more about disabilities and how they might start disability ministry programs in their own parishes and churches. Since then, other Charlotte churches have also formed similar ministries, including St. Matthew Catholic Church in Charlotte, said Utterback, father of three.

"Father Sheridan felt like this was an unrecognized part of our parish, and he wanted us to put together a ministry that would minister to them and help demonstrate the gifts they bring to the parish," continued Utterback.

Since its beginnings, the ministry has worked toward improving church life and enacting change in their parish and in the community as well. Wheelchair-accessible doorways and ramps, handicapped parking spaces and automatic front doors have been added for those with physical handicaps. Also, through a grant from the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilties, they were able to have an auditory system installed for the hearing-impaired.

"This has opened the Mass to many more parishioners because now they can use their hearing aids, and those who don't have hearing aids can benefit from the hearing assistance program," said Utterback.

Although they have made many strides, the group continues to work toward incorporating those with mental disabilities more fully into church life. "It has taken a little longer to get the mentally handicapped involved in church, but I think we are starting to make some progress," said Mary Kennedy, mother of two. "I think with the Mass that we have made a big step because so many parishioners were able to see what these people are capable of doing and achieving. I think that the mentally disabled, with their absolute love of the Lord, can bring so much to the church."

Utterback agreed: "People with mental and physical disabilities can give a great deal to church with participation in the Mass and can be active participants in all facets of church life. It's our job to bring about awareness to make everyone receptive to them being active participants in the liturgy."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Raleigh bishop discusses death penalty issue from church perspective

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

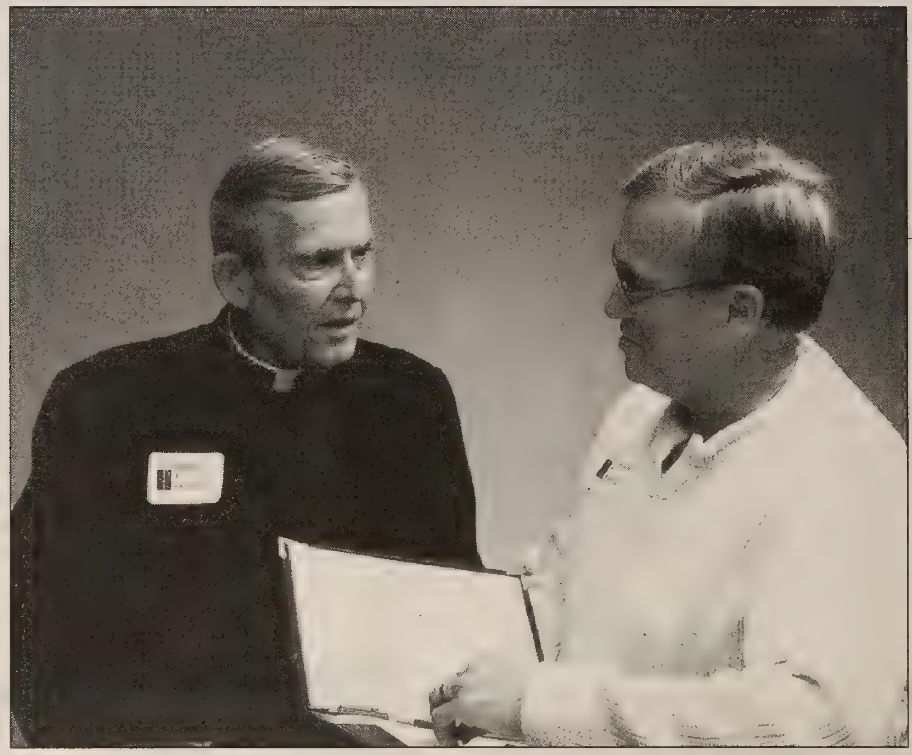

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh shares stories with Bill Matevie, program director of the Diocese of Charlotte's prison ministry and jail chaplain for the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office.

BELMONT — The Catholic Church's long and conflicted relationship with capital punishment has come into a new light especially in the past quarter-century, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh told an audience at Belmont Abbey College.

Bishop Gossman spoke as a guest of the college's Bradley Institute of the Study of Christian Culture, which presents timely issues from ethical, theological and philosophical views to the wider community. Looking through historical and ecclesiastical lenses, Bishop Gossman said the death penalty is but one element of a troubled criminal justice system in this country.

"Our nation has 2 million people in jail, one of the highest percentages of any civilized country in the world," he said, adding that drug offenders compose a high percentage of today's prison population. "It's really become a moral question for a lot of people: that a nation like ours has no other way to solve its problems than to incarcerate people.

"The death penalty is only one part of it (the criminal justice system) that needs fixing," he added. "So many times one gets the impression ... that our system is much more interested in punishing people than it is on rehabilitating them or correcting them, even though we call it the 'criminal justice system.'"

Bishop Gossman noted that while many people — including Catholics — still favor the use of the death penalty, a significant number of people are pointing out and listening about the flaws in its employment.

The bishop spoke of the Catholic Church's views on capital punishment, citing largely from "The Death Penalty: An Historical and Theological Survey," by Dr. James Megivern, a Catholic, a Scripture and theology scholar, and a University of North Carolina-Wilmington professor of philosophy and religion. The book is an exhaustive study of Western Christian thought on the subject.

Bishop Gossman noted that the earliest Christians literally followed Jesus' plea for nonviolence. "But once Christianity was recognized by the Roman Empire (in the fourth century) ... the Catholic Church was no longer an underground operation," he said. "It now had the sanction of the Roman Empire, and it immediately began to use the existing structure to deal with the issues, the troubles, the problems and the other things that laws are meant to deal with."

That existing structure included executing for capital offenses — including infidelity to the church. But capital punishment became even more prevalent with the church's preaching of the first Crusades in the late 11th century, the bishop said.

"It made heroes out of those Christian men who were willing to go to the Holy Land and kill the infidel," he said, adding that St. Thomas Aquinas in several of his 13th-century writings sanctioned the death penalty's use, thus further cementing the church's approval of capital punishment when society deemed it necessary.

While the debate over capital punishment varied across the world over the ensuing centuries, many of the faithful in the U.S. Catholic Church, including the hierarchy, were "perfectly willing to accept the statement, the fact, the teaching that the state has the right to take the life of a criminal for certain crimes" well into the 20th century, he said.

With the sweeping reforms of Vatican II in the mid-1960s, however, came a gradual shift in the church's thoughts on capital punishment. Several papal documents took issue with the use of capital punishment, and the U.S. bishops eventually stated their opposition to its use in a general statement.

Bishop Gossman said Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago changed many hearts — and angered many others — with his "consistent ethic of life" theory, which held that God equally loves all people: certainly the innocent, but also the guilty, regardless of their sins.

"The foundational principle of our faith is that all of life is sacred," Bishop Gossman said. "It comes from God. It must be protected. ... Retaliation and revenge have no place in the world that God created."

In addition, he said, the U.S. bishops have since published more specific — and more opposing — statements regarding the use of the death penalty, including last year's "Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice. A Statement of the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

Bishop Gossman's message at the Bradley Institute gathering was the latest public statement from North Carolina's two Catholic bishops on the death penalty. In the March 9 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, Bishop William G. Curlin, now concluding a diocesan Lenten pilgrimage in Italy, published a letter to the parishioners of the diocese asking for a heartfelt examination of the death penalty.

"Surely other means of punishment, rather than state-sanctioned violence, can be used to protect society, ensure criminals answer to both vicitms and society for wrongful deeds, and assist in the rehabilitation of the criminal," he wrote. "Violence is not the way to solve or answer for crimes; violence only leads to more violence."

The letter was reprinted in the March 12 issue of The Charlotte Observer.

Bishop Gossman cited the papacy of Pope John Paul II as a period of significant influence on the church's change of thought on the death penalty, pointing to the pope's 1995 "The Gospel of Life" and the subsequently revised "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

"(The pope's) own comments concerning the death penalty represented a rather significant change from the traditional," Bishop Gossman said. "The Holy Father said, 'Punishment ought not to go to the extreme of executing someone except in cases of absolute necessity when it would not be possible otherwise to defend society from its members and that such cases are, at best, very rare if not practically nonexistent.'"

Bishop Gossman said the change of heart about using the death penalty is far from an easy one, but rather a decision that takes serious reflection on the Gospel teachings on forgiveness, God's boundless love for every person and the need for reconciliation.

"Some people say he was soft on

Continued NEXT PAGE

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from PREVIOUS PAGE

crime," the bishop said of the way Jesus encountered sin and sinners. "But he wasn't soft on crime. He shifted the focus of judgment in these matters to a higher level where there is absolute knowledge."

"Jesus spoke of forgiveness, he lived forgiveness, he taught forgiveness," the bishop said. "Sometimes I wonder that if we really find human forgiveness so hard to come by, then that's why so often we find it so hard to believe that our God's love is so available, even to the worst of us."

Bishop Gossman acknowledged that the church's moral point of view is not always easy to accept, even for many Catholics, but that one need only to read through the New Testament to find Jesus' teachings on God's law.

He closed his presentation with a statement by Megivern that in the bishop's estimation summed the predicament perfectly: "Killing killers to show that killing is wrong has always been the oddest possible way to try to teach the value of human life, and there is certainly nothing whatsoever in the teachings of Jesus Christ to justify it."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Pysanka egg ministry keeps symbolism alive

By LARRY CHANCE
CORRESPONDENT

CLEMMONS — It is an enduring sign of life, the simple egg. Many cultures consider it to be the original source of creation. The egg has been beaten, scrambled, fried, made into soufflé, whipped into meringue and at times, lobbed at unpopular public figures. For people of faith, especially those from Ukraine or of Ukrainian decent, the egg, decorated with rich ornamentation, symbolizes the rebirth of man, represented by the Resurrection of Christ.

For Ann Michel, a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Clemmons, decorating eggs in the style of Ukraine has become a personal ministry — a craft to be shared along with her Catholic faith. She shares her craft and faith through a series of Pysanka Egg Writers Retreats, such as the one she held last Saturday at her home parish. Michel began writing Ukrainian eggs after taking a class in 1984 at Winston-Salem's Sawtooth Center. She likens the process of writing pysanky eggs to repetitive prayer, such as the rosary or a novena.

Around 1990 she offered her first retreat at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem, her parish at the time. "Maybe the Holy Spirit is guiding me," she said. Thinking back about her initial reasons for offering such a retreat, Michel felt that faith and her love of crafts are two aspects of her life that could be shared. "Wouldn't it be nice that they do this in a parish setting?"

PHOTO BY LARRY CHANCE

The Pysanka tradition is deeply rooted in Ukrainian tradition, dating back to the acceptance of Christianity in the region, in 988 A.D. Throughout Ukraine, the mistress of the house would write her pysanky in the late hours of the evening. Prior to beginning the process, she would spend holy day, a day without sin. She would offer specific prayers and work in total silence.

During her retreats, Michel often plays spiritual music in the background, while participants quietly apply beeswax with a copper stylus, and various dyes to their eggs.

For her, writing pysanky helps to keep alive symbolism, which she feels that society has turned away from in recent years. "God wanted me to do this because we're losing our symbols." She cites an essay by Anthony E. Gilles, who says, "One principal shortcoming of the modern age is our ignorance of the symbolic dimension of life." He says, "For the Christian water is a powerful sign pointing to spiritual cleansing, wholeness and rejuvenation. ...When integrated into the Sacrament of Baptism, however, water becomes a powerful symbol which actually does what it signifies ... water actually does make us clean from Original Sin, whole in God's sight and spiritually rejuvenated."

In many respects, decorating Ukrainian eggs is a way to remind Pysanky egg retreat participants about the long tradition of symbolism in the church.

Familiar Christian symbols used on the eggs include the Alpha and Omega, the cross, INRI ("Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"), even a net to illustrate the notion that Christ commanded his Apostles to become "fishers of men."

Pysanky egg writers who exchange the eggs with friends and family consider the act to be a prayer for the person who is receiving the egg. At the conclusion of her retreats, Michel leads the group prayer for a blessing upon their completed work. They pray for God to bless the work of creation manifested in the symbols and designs of the eggs. The prayer also asks for blessings upon the artists, the homes where the eggs are displayed, and for the people who receive the eggs from the artist.

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Book Review

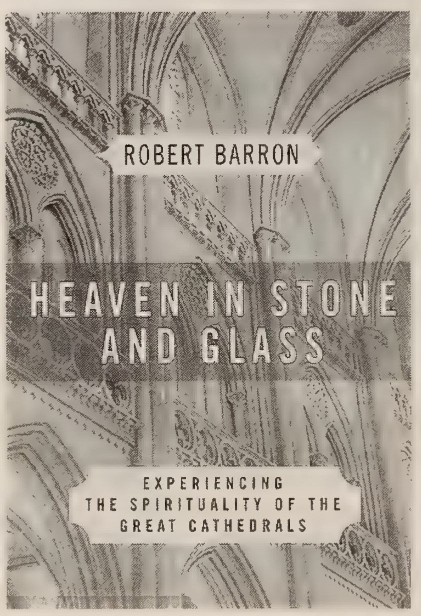
Book on cathedrals offers meditative pilgrimage

REVIEWED BY MARK LOMBARD
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The world's great Gothic cathedrals seem at odds with the minimalist, iconoclastic spirit of today, and, for many, have become simply museums of the medieval period.

HEAVEN IN STONE AND GLASS: EXPERIENCING THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE GREAT CATHEDRALS, **by Father Robert Barron. Crossroad Publishing Co. (New York, 2000). 128 pp., $16.95.**

It is to recover the story that these repositories of the Christian spirit hold that Father Robert Barron has written the short but illuminating "Heaven in Stone and Glass: Experiencing the Spirituality of the Great Cathedrals."


ROBERT BARRON
HEAVEN IN STONE AND GLASS
EXPERIENCING THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE GREAT CATHEDRALS

In it, he leads the reader not on an architectural guided tour of the engineering genius of the Gothic structure but rather a meditative pilgrimage through the cathedral, directing attention to its windows, towers, vaults, naves, labyrinths, altars, gargoyles, buttresses and facades, and teaching "how to read" its specific spiritual, transformative language.

Today, as "heirs of the Enlightenment and the age of technology," the society has lost its sense of the symbolic and the transcendent and is "spiritually hungry," writes Father Barron, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, a professor of theology at Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill., and the author of several books, including "Thomas Aquinas: Spiritual Master," which won the Catholic Book Award for Spirituality in 1997.

Cathedrals, he writes, can be vehicles for teaching the faith and focusing the soul's journey. "To know the Gothic cathedrals is to know the Christ in whose form and image they are. To see, touch, walk around, study and pray in a Gothic cathedral is to apprentice to the Son of God."

With the reader, Father Barron visits Notre Dame of Paris and cathedrals in Chartres, Amiens, Reims, St. Denis, Cologne, York, Lyon and Lincoln.

The cathedral serves the faithful as a metaphor of faith, Father Barron writes. The building can be read as:

— A port of safety, of peace and of light from the dangers and the blindness outside its walls.

— A ship to carry one toward the fullness in Christ.

— A picture, seen through its rose window, of harmony, radiance and the Christ-centered nature of the universe.

— A witness, through its overall structure, of the cross as the center of Christianity and the Christian life.

— A medium, through the stone and wood carvings and glass etchings, between the plant and animal life of earth and heavenly bodies to the supernatural dimension of God's creation.

— A place of the "mysticism of otherness," seen in its "staggering verticality."

Father Barron also aims a critical eye toward today's church architecture, saying that since the Second Vatican Council the "iconic element has been undervalued." Many churches today, resembling "living rooms or shopping malls," are "largely empty spaces, void of imagery and color, places where the people gather but not places that, themselves, tell a story," he writes.

"Heaven in Stone and Glass" explores, but not in great depth, the significance specific architectural details had for medieval times and how they are relevant today. But what makes it valuable is its ability to redefine this sacred, mystical space as not a place merely to visit, but to experience as a pilgrim struggling to find direction and gain strength to continue the quest for and to God.

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Word to Life

March 25, Fourth Sunday of Lent
Cycle C Readings:
1) Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
Psalm 34:2-7
2) 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
3) Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the pre-dawn light, the brown-and-white station wagon speeds along the flat, incredibly straight roads of southeastern New Mexico. Once again we are on our journey to visit my parents, 12 long hours away in Colorado.

Toward the end of the first hour of our trip, a sighing, mournful little voice from the farthest seat in the back is the one to pose that fateful question that we know is the first in a seemingly endless series, "How much longer is it to Grandma's house?"

The names of the towns we have to pass along the way have become part of one of the games we play to pass the time. Over the years each town and village looming on the horizon has become our children's personal sentry, pointing the way toward our destination.

In the second seat two other voices join in with, "Have we passed Vaughn yet? When are we going to eat breakfast? Are we almost at Grandma's house? How soon will it be until we cross the mountains?"

The questions and the miles roll on until finally at day's end three children tumble out of the car into the warm arms of adoring grandparents, who have longed for sweet kisses from their sticky, wrinkled angels.

My husband and I look at each other. At last we have made it to Grandma's house — a journey completed! The joy that existed in those hugs of loving welcome lives forever in my heart and memory.

Life and Scripture are filled with journeys. When we read the beloved story of the Prodigal Son in today's Gospel reading from Luke, we see a different story of journey and welcome. This familiar story of the rashly extravagant young man who wastes his inheritance, grieves his father deeply, angers his self-righteous older brother, but finally comes to his senses, is dear to us.

It's a perfect model to understand the generosity of God. Remember, Jesus uses this parable to answer critics who are annoyed with his constant welcoming of, and eating with, sinners. Each character in the story can be a sentry like those small towns on a distant horizon, guiding us toward forgiving arms of God during this blessed season of Lent and preparing us for the glorious mystery of Easter.

QUESTIONS:

How many of us find ourselves on the road home to the Father this Lent? Can we point out the way to someone who seems to have forgotten how eagerly he awaits?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Mar. 25 - 31, 2001

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Joshua 5:9-12, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; **Monday (Annunciation of the Lord),** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38; **Tuesday,** Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12, John 5:1-3, 5-16; **Wednesday,** Isaiah 49:8-15, John 5:17-30; **Thursday,** Exodus 32:7-14, John 5:31-47; **Friday (Abstinence),** Wisdom 2:1, 12-22, John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30; **Saturday,** Jeremiah 11:18-20, John 7:40-53

Readings for the week of April 1 - 7, 2001

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11; **Monday (St. Francis de Paola),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday,** Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (St. Isidore),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (St. Vincent Ferrer),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday (Abstinence),** Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (St. John Baptist de La Salle),** Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

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Pope welcomes proposed document on Internet

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said a proposed Vatican document addressing ethical concerns raised by the Internet was "very timely" and could be a great help to Catholics in facing "the many challenges of the emerging 'media culture.'"

"The church cannot be a mere spectator of the social results of technological advances, which have such decisive effects on people's lives," he said March 16 to participants in a plenary meeting of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

The council's members discussed a draft outline of the document during the March 12-16 meeting. No deadline has been set for its publication.

The document will likely address broader cultural and philosophical issues raised by the Internet, as well as traditional concerns like pornography, privacy and intellectual property rights, meeting participants said.

In his address, the pope said technology advances, globalization and the deregulation and privatization of media "present new ethical and indeed spiritual challenges to those who work in social communications."

"These challenges will be met effectively by those who accept that 'serving the human person, building up community grounded in solidarity and justice and love, and speaking the truth about human life and its final fulfillment in God were, are, and will remain at the heart of ethics in the media,'" said the pope, quoting from the council's 1997 document, "Ethics in Communication."

Russell Shaw, a U.S. journalist and council consultor who presented the Internet document's draft outline at the meeting March 14, said he expected the new document to take an overall positive approach, recognizing the Internet as "a technological marvel which has the capacity for doing a lot of good."

The document is "not intended to be just one more negative criticism of new technology and media," he told Catholic News Service.

While encouraging the positive aspects, the document will take note of problem issues like pornography, invasion of privacy and copyright infringement — but not only those, Shaw said.

"These are serious problems and any responsible discussion of Internet ethics has got to talk about these things," he said. "But I've also come to believe there are deeper ethical issues involved."

The deeper issues spring from the decentralized technological structure of the Internet itself, which "opens up all sorts of value-oriented issues and realities," Shaw said.

In many ways, he said, the Internet's design lends itself to and reinforces a "libertarian ethic," which advocates absolute freedom of expression and action.

Such an approach stands in sharp contrast to Catholic principles, Shaw said.

"The church for a long time has been talking about community, the common good and solidarity. There's no room for these things in a system of absolute libertarianism or absolute freedom of expression," he said.

Shaw said civil authorities have found it virtually impossible on a national level to ensure that the Internet serves the common good because of the technology's "boundary-less character."

"I think there's the need for some new forms of international cooperation and international agreement," he said.

In addition, the Vatican document probably will examine the global cultural implications of the Internet, in light of the technology's dominance by English-language and Western industrialized nations, he said.

The issue also was raised directly by Pope John Paul in his Jan. 1 World Day of Peace message.

"He said that the new information technology can be and is instrumental to intercultural dialogue," Shaw said. "But he also said — and this is the negative side — that the new technology lends itself to forms of cultural domination, cultural imperialism, cultural homogenization."

Shaw said that probably the best long-term solution to the threat of cultural domination is to help other countries and cultures come "up to technological speed" so that they can defend themselves.

The U.S. journalist said that the Vatican's attempt to unravel the Internet's ethical implications involved much work in uncharted waters.

"What I've found in working on this project is that you open up one door and all of a sudden you see you're looking at a very large vista. It's a whole series of interrelated issues and realities," he said. "From that point of view, it's quite complex to analyze and rather difficult to talk about. But I think we can begin to talk about it."

CNS photo from Paramount Pictures

"Enemy at the Gates"

"Enemy at the Gates" is a chilling fact-based World War II story about the deadly cat-and-mouse game that developed during the Nazi siege on Stalingrad between a skilled Russian sniper (Jude Law) and a more experienced Nazi major (Ed Harris) specifically sent to find and execute the young marksman. With Jean-Jacques Annaud's flat direction, the narrow focus on the two mortal enemies reduces the war to a mere backdrop while the subplot's romantic triangle (involving Law, Rachel Weisz and Joseph Fiennes) seems contrived. Much intense wartime violence and a sexual encounter. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says Mary is model of faith through trials

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Blessed Virgin Mary's pilgrimage of faith is a model for all people whose journey toward God passes through the difficulties and injustices of life, Pope John Paul II said.

While chosen by God and filled with his grace, Mary knew uncertainty and pain, the pope said March 21 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

Hers was a journey of faith "which knew the portent of the sword that would pierce the soul, passed through the tortuous paths of exile in Egypt and of inner darkness when Mary did not understand the attitude of the 12-year-old Jesus in the temple, but kept these things in her heart," he said.

Mary's pilgrimage led her to the foot of the cross, he said.

"In a certain sense, she died as a mother with the death of her son," but with his Resurrection she gained "a new motherhood," becoming mother of the church.

Mary walks ahead of the church and of every believer on the path that leads to salvation in Christ and to eternal life with God, he said.

"We turn to her so that she would continue to guide us toward Christ and the Father, even in the dark night of evil and in moments of doubt, crisis, silence and suffering," Pope John Paul said.

The pope, quoting Martin Luther, said the Magnificat, Mary's hymn of praise to God, offers a model of how everyone should love and praise God.

"From the moment God looked at her with love, Mary became a sign of hope for the multitude of poor, of (the) least of the earth who would become first in the kingdom of God," he said.

"The church follows Mary and the Lord Jesus, walking the winding paths of the history to raise up, promote and value the immense procession of poor and hungry, humiliated and oppressed women and men," he said.

Attending the audience was a group from the Diocese of Charlotte that was concludnig a Lenten pilgrimage in Italy led by Bishop William G. Curlin.

During the audience, the pope greeted 700 participants in a meeting of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

"You have come together to grow in a deeper understanding of your mission and to support one another as you seek to live out your commitment to Christian holiness, to feminine holiness," he said.

The pope told them the church has a special need for their commitment and talents at the beginning of the third millennium.

"Women, in fact, are uniquely gifted in the task of passing on the Christian message in the family and in the world of work, study and leisure," he said. "Catholic women who live by faith, hope and love and who honor God's name in prayer and service have always played a central role in transmitting the genuine sense of Christian faith and in applying it to every circumstance of life."

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

A threat is an action you must act on

You already know the story. On March 5, a 15-year-old boy in Santee, Calif., the town next to mine, walked into his high school with a pistol and shot 15 of his classmates. Two died.

As I write, nobody has any idea why he did it. He had been teased a lot. He was a loner. As times goes on, the theories will grow and multiply.

Still, one tragic fact is obvious right now. The young boy had told people that he was going to do it. Perhaps 20 people heard him joke about taking a gun to school. It is reported that he even asked some to join him. Then he laughed it off, saying it was a joke, saying he didn't really mean it.

He meant it.

Why didn't any of those kids tell? I have not interviewed any of them but I do know the way the mind works, and there are some common reasons people keep that sort of information to themselves.

—First, they don't want to believe it. The idea that somebody you know, a kid you hang around with, would go to school and start shooting is just too awful to believe, so you don't.

—Second, you feel that if you tell and the kid gets in trouble it will be your fault. After all, he was just talking, and words aren't actions. He probably isn't really going to do it. It doesn't seem fair to get somebody in trouble for something he probably won't do.

There are two important things to remember here.

—First, people are responsible for their actions. That includes teen-agers.

—Second, words are actions.

If you threaten to kill someone, that is an action. It has effects. Threats damage people's trust and sense of safety, even if no actual violence follows. Reasonable, responsible people don't ever make that kind of threat. People who do should be held accountable.

You don't need to know the future, whether the person making the threats will or will not actually come to school with a gun. If he says he will, those words are action enough, and you must report them to somebody in authority.

Telling your parents isn't enough — they may be just as inclined as you to hope it won't happen and keep it to themselves. No, you need to tell someone who is part of the organized safety net around your school — the principal, a counselor, a teacher or the police.

I direct an emergency mental health service, and over the years our staff members have seen a number of teens who made threats, were reported and brought in for counseling.

Were they serious when they made the threats? Some were, some weren't.

Did coming to see a therapist embarrass them? Probably.

Did getting reported ruin their lives? Absolutely not. Not one of those kids later went out and shot up a school — an act that scars lives by the hundreds.

In San Diego, at least 20 teens went to bed wishing they had called somebody. If you are ever in a situation where you hear someone making threats like that, remember that the threat is an action and that people are responsible for their actions.

Then be responsible for your own actions. Make the call. The lives of your friends may depend on it.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Music therapy, more than comfort

If we want to talk about the great gifts the Creator bestowed upon creation, music would have to be near or at the top of the list.

Much has been written about the joyful gift of music almost since the beginning of recorded words. I could write a column quoting saints such as Ambrose and Augustine, great thinkers like Thomas Carlyle and geniuses from the ancient world — all reflecting on the marvels of music.

The bottom line would be, as Joseph Addison wrote back in the late 1600s in commemorating the feast of St. Cecilia, "Music is the greatest good that mortals know, and all of heaven we have below."

More recently, attention has been placed on music as a healing balm. King Saul, in the Old Testament, knew this, which is why he solicited young David to play his lute for him. Down through the centuries, this healing effect of music has been affirmed in many documents.

But what's different now, in these days of scientific emphasis, is that the medical establishment has taken notice of this. Proof of this is how the emerging field of music therapy, once considered just a pleasant diversion, is gaining great respect as a healing profession.

"Music therapy is on the books as hard science," according to a report in The New York Times. New respect for music as therapy has developed because proof of its value can no longer be denied.

The Times reported, for example, that scientists have "discovered that Muzak piped into a New York City intensive care unit seemed to help lower the mortality rate 8 percent below the national average." Even more astounding, "lullabies played in a neonatal nursery might have helped premature infants gain weight and spur their discharge home."

I am a believer, and not just because I personally have found such peace and healing in music. My son Frank and his wife Judi are both music therapists. They got their degrees back in the early '80s from New York University and have worked in this healing profession ever since.

I have seen and felt the beneficial effects of their work, so linked with music, which has been called by many through the ages "the tonic of the soul."

It's no mystery to Frank and Judi why medicine is now looking much more seriously at the health benefits of music therapy. They point out that the medical profession is now much more open to alternative methods of healing.

"Instead of being afraid of the unexplained, doctors and scientists have become curious and are making more of an effort to understand" how music, prayer, spirituality, meditation, yoga and such connect with ill and hurting people in ways that traditional medicine has not been able to, Frank told me.

Music, said Judi, "reaches people who cannot be reached by verbal communication. It touches deeper than words. It does more than elicit emotions. It connects people with their emotions. Sitting and listening to calming music is not stillness, but a very active interaction." It is a starting point for healing.

Being a music therapist is a special kind of privilege, said Frank, because it means you lead people to "a sense of engaging in a medium that relates to us on all levels, helping one get unstuck from being locked solely in a thinking mode. With music therapy, you merge thought with feelings, and that's what's so powerful about it."

Music, I have found personally, is a most effective and wonderful medication.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE,
DIRECTOR, THE CHRISTOPHERS

Going to Church

I was heading over to church one Sunday morning to help with Communion. When I got to the sacristy, I realized that the priest celebrating Mass was just completing his homily. So I decided to take a step outside to enjoy the pleasant weather.

As I went out a side door I bumped into two sheepish teen-age guys who were leaving. They clutched in their hands copies of the parish bulletin: parental notification of the fact that they had been to church. "Busy day?" I asked them. "No," said the older boy, "we're just bored." They mumbled good-bye and took off.

Watching the two of them retreat, I started thinking about some of my own friendships over the years — and the elements that make those relationships work. It certainly isn't excitement: friends sometimes bore each other. It isn't intellectual: sometimes our conversations are dull beyond belief. It isn't the richness of our personalities: we can be annoying, obnoxious and difficult to be around. It isn't power or money: we haven't got much. In fact, it's less a "feeling" of friendship than a commitment to be friends: our desire to be loyal and our decision to be there for each other.

And friendship, I think, is at the heart of our spiritual lives, too. Sometimes going to church can be boring, dull and intellectually vacant. And if we're expecting exciting entertainment, we will surely be disappointed. Rather, we are there because our friend God has invited us to be there. If we are true friends, we take that invitation seriously. That means we reject all the nonsense we use as excuses for staying away, like:

"I'm really busy." There are 168 hours in every week. We somehow find the time to eat, to sleep, to go to school or work, to play sports or pursue hobbies, to be with people we care about, to take care of a great number of personal obligations and preferences. In fact, we find the time for everything we really believe is important. If our God and His people are important to us, we will also make the time to be there.

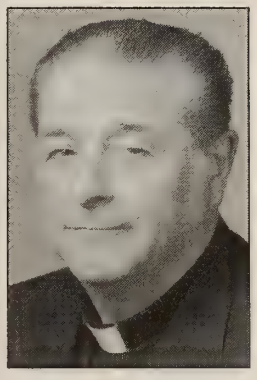
"But the sermons are so boring." Give me a break. If we switched off everyone and everything that's boring in life, we would stay home in bed. Assume the speaker is trying hard. Shouldn't we try to listen? And more to the point: we are not just there for the homily. We go to be part of a community that needs us. We go to get closer to God, who never bores us or gives up on us.

"I can find God in many places. I don't need a church to pray." That's true. But let's be honest: if we don't go to church, how much serious praying do we really do? And further, where else can you go to receive Communion? Are they giving It out someplace else? More importantly, Jesus told us in no uncertain terms: I want you to gather with other believers to celebrate My life.

"I used to go, but I had a really bad experience at church." We have all had some bad experience at church. But again, let's compare our experience of God's friendship with the rest of our lives. If every time we had a poor experience with our parents, siblings or friends, we said, "That's it, this relationship's over," we would have none at all. But we keep working at relationships that matter. We forgive, we compromise and we try to love again.

If we give the same energy to our love of God and His people as we give to our friends and family, maybe we would find that the boredom that put us off wasn't really inside the church, but inside us. And that's something we can change if we are willing. After all, it's for a Friend.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Sundays and Lent

Q. At our parish elementary school, children are taught that Sundays do not constitute part of Lent. Therefore, what they give up for Lent they may have on Sunday.

I've been told this is true, but I've also heard that, even though including Sundays makes Lent longer than 40 days, one should still observe any sacrifices made during that time. Is there any correct teaching on this? (Illinois)

A. There is no "correct" teaching on this, though there's a lot of discussion about it every year. Any extra self-denial or prayer or good works undertaken for Lent is purely voluntary. One is bound only by what one wishes to be bound by.

One might resolve to abstain from candy or beer, for example, on Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent, much as the church now has only a few specific Lenten days obliging Catholics to fast and/or abstain from meat.

As you imply, part of the uncertainty may be traceable to the confusion over the number of days. Probably imitating our Lord's 40 days of fast in the desert as described in the Gospels, the period of penance before Easter has been traditionally "40 days" since at least the fourth century.

How those 40 days were calculated differed from place to place. At first, in the West, Lent was six weeks of fasting every day but Sundays, adding up to 36 fast days. A few centuries later, four days were added, starting with Ash Wednesday, to make a total of 40.

There's a lesson in the interesting fact that the concern over exactly 40 days seems to have developed as the emphasis on the season turned more toward the obligation of fasting and away from the original purpose of these weeks, which was to prepare the minds and hearts of Christians for a worthy and joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection — and our resurrection with him.

Does this say something about the way to look at your question? We, in a special way, pray, deny ourselves and do good for each other during Lent to unite ourselves more closely with the cross of Christ and to rejoice more fully with him in his risen life.

To carry out these resolutions every day, including Sundays, manifests perhaps a somewhat more enduring commitment for these six weeks. To do them every day except Sunday is also good.

Liturgically, of course, Sundays are unquestionably a part of Lent. But in accord with ancient Christian custom, Lent now ends on Holy Thursday evening, before the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The sacred triduum has its own identity from then until the Easter Vigil ceremonies. So, even with Sundays, Lent is again much closer than before to the old "40 days."

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Lenten Reflection

FATHER JOHN
AURILIA, OFM CAP.
GUEST COLUMNIST

Palm Sunday: A passing glory!

The event we call Palm Sunday is usually called "The Triumphal Entry." It was a prophecy of the ultimate triumph of Christ. There are, however, a few shadows hanging over Palm Sunday. St. John the Evangelist skillfully places Jesus' prediction of his own death immediately after the triumphal entry, perhaps to remind us that every time we celebrate Palm Sunday, we are also aware of Good Friday.

The text I am referring to is John 12: 20-37, which describes glory and defeat, success and failure, joy and sorrow, salvation and condemnation, life and death, light and darkness. The shadow of the cross is more visible than the green of the palms, even on Palm Sunday.

There was a cross ahead of Jesus. This "hour" was the crucifixion, just five days away. Death was that monstrous, hideous enemy, which would crush the life out of Jesus and break the hearts of his disciples. The shadow of judgment is a necessary evil in some circumstances, when the world is indifferent to the light and chooses darkness. "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." (Jn 12: 30-32) Jesus uttered these words with great sadness. The very next day, Jesus wept over Jerusalem and its coming judgment.

The light shone brightly on that Palm Sunday, but very few saw it and it was changed into darkness for many. The shadow of rejection overwhelms the whole spectrum. Jesus had just, that very day, experienced the triumphal entry, had heard the hosannas, and had been welcomed as a king, but not everyone felt the same way. Palm Sunday ended on a sad note, "yet they did not believe in Him." What does it take to believe, for heaven's sake!

Life has its shadows over Palm Sunday. Life is also full of light, because Good Friday must become Easter Sunday. A successful person is one who can lay the foundation with the bricks that others throw at her or him. I really like, in spite of the shadows, to keep the green branches of Palm Sunday and stay away from the crosses of Good Friday ... and why not?

The story of Captain Cook comes to mind as we recall Jesus' love story. Captain Cook was an Englishman who circumnavigated the world. Wherever he landed, he was noticed by the boatmen to go up away from them a bit, and he was seen to take little packets out of his pockets and keep on going around, throwing them out of his hand unto the soil. He belted the world with English flowers. Other navigators were surprised to find English flowers where they could not have dreamt of seeing them. Whenever and wherever we sow the seeds of kindness and goodness, others will see the flowers. Let us not forget that the young man called Jesus who was king on Palm Sunday, who died on Good Friday and resurrected on Easter Sunday is the same Jesus who "went about doing good."

Capuchin Father John Aurilia is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Rally hails Catholic University's first NCAA championship

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 300 students, faculty and staff crowded around the steps of old McMahon Hall on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington to hail their men's basketball team, which won the NCAA Division III championship March 17 in Salem, Va.

The March 20 rally was punctuated with applause, cheers and shouts of joy as Cardinals' head coach Mike Lonergan, himself a Catholic University alumnus, spoke about his job, his team and his school.

After he was interviewed for the job nine years ago, Lonergan said, he went to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, next to the Catholic University campus, and prayed "that Father Friday and Mr. Talbot would hire me."

Father Robert Friday, the school's vice president for student life, and Robert Talbot, the university's athletic director did. Nine years later, the school has its first NCAA championship team.

With the 76-62 win over William Paterson (N.J.) University March 17, Lonergan, with 177 victories, became the winningest basketball coach in the school's history, beating out its first coach, Fred Rice — who needed 19 seasons to reach 176 wins.

"By winning we've been able to give some more exposure for our university. This is a nice place, and I don't think enough people know that," Lonergan said.

Lonergan confided that, as he was interviewed for the job, he was hoping that other officials at the university had forgotten his name because, as a student, he had spray-painted his name on a campus building.

He thanked all the fans for supporting the Cardinals, but especially "the people who were with us when you could look into the crowd and count 30 to 40 people."

The Cardinals' Pat Maloney was named the most valuable player of the NCAA Division III tournament. "Some of the guys don't have the stats of a Pat Maloney but they've contributed to our team from the first to the 15th man," Lonergan said.

Division III schools do not give athletic scholarships and do not lower admission standards for prospective students who are expected to play sports.

Talbot said there are 380 Division III schools in the United States. And after a 16-game winning streak to close out the season, including a three-game Colonial Athletic Conference tournament, and the six-game NCAA tourney, "at 7 p.m. last Saturday night, we were the only team left standing," he added.

Vincentian Father David O'Connell, Catholic University's president, read from a letter he wrote to Lonergan and the team. "From your very first days on this earth, family and friends have told you that you should use your 'God given' talents to their fullest, and as individual players you have," he said.

"This year as a team you have been together in times of great adversity and, just like in your last few games, you have come from behind to capture victory when it seemed nearly impossible to do so," the priest added.

Personal tragedies that rocked the team included the deaths of Lonergan's mother and uncle, the death of a Catholic University football player in an auto accident, and the death of forward Brian Meyer's sister, Amanda; she was buried the week of the championship game.

IRISH,
from page 5

people of our true Irish history."

Through support of the Irish Children's Christmas Charity, which supports children of political prisoners in Ireland, Slane said that one area of focus is the peaceful settlement of political and religious unrest in Ireland. "The AOH is for peaceful settlement of issues in Northern Ireland through negotiation and peaceful methods of any kind."

While the men are busy with the development of new divisions, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is also hard at work. The LAOH Mecklenburg County Division #1 — St. Brigid was installed as a division in June 1998. The division president, Margaret Shannon, was involved in the LAOH in New York, and after moving to Charlotte, she helped to establish the first division in the state. The ladies are involved with charity work and have been working toward their state charter. "We started a division in Greensboro and started one in Wilmington, and we are growing now," said Shannon.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Margaret D. Latsko, mother of Swannanoa pastor, dies at 89

SWANNANOA — Margaret D. Latsko, 89, died Friday, March 16, 2001 at a healthcare facility. She is survived by her son, Father Andrew Latsko, a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte, her many nieces and nephews, and her loving friends of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.

She was born in Beaverdale, Pa., and was the daughter of the late Michael and Mary Sumrick Vojtko. She was an integral part of the St. Margaret Mary Church and a member of the School House Center of Folsom, Pa., She was preceded in death by her husband, John, in 1964.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held March 19 at St. Margaret Mary Church. A viewing and wake service was also held at the church. The graveside service and interment was at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, Pa..

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 3 Louisiana Ave., Asheville, NC 28806 or St. Margaret Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, Swannanoa, NC 28778.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Music Ministry: Part-time position for growing 800-member parish. St. Mary's Church, Shelby and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain is seeking qualified person proficient in organ and with vocal ability to work with cantors and choir. Responsibilities include one Saturday evening service and two Sunday services (one in Kings Mountain and one in Shelby). Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to: St. Mary's Music Search Committee, 818 McGowan Rd., Shelby NC 28150 or Fax: (704)487-0187. For more information on our parish, visit www.rc.net/charlotte/stmaryshelby

Faith Formation Coordinator: Part-time. This position is for grades K-6 and Confirmation Program. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Pleas send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Ann's Church, 3635 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Principal: Archdiocese of Atlanta. St. John Neumann Regional School, located in Lilburn, Georgia. This SACS accredited school serves 500 students in grades K-8. Position offers opportunity for innovative, highly motivated instructional leader. Qualifications: Master's degree in Educational Administration, at least three years of administrative experience, certifiable in Georgia. Competitive salary and benefits; effective July 1, 2001. Submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to: Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Atlanta, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308-1984.

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Pope ordains nine new bishops, including two North Americans

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the feast of St. Joseph, Pope John Paul II ordained nine new bishops, including two from North America, and told them to care for the church as Joseph cared for Jesus.

Before the pope placed his hands on the heads of the new bishops March 19, he asked them to "care for the holy people of God with the love of a father."

Among those kneeling before the pope in St. Peter's Basilica were Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, a 49-year-old native of Cleveland, appointed nuncio to the Dominican Republic and apostolic delegate in Puerto Rico; and Bishop Marc Ouellet, 56, a native of Quebec named secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"If, at times, you should encounter difficulties and obstacles, do not hesitate to be willing to suffer with Christ for the good of his mystical body," the pope said in his homily.

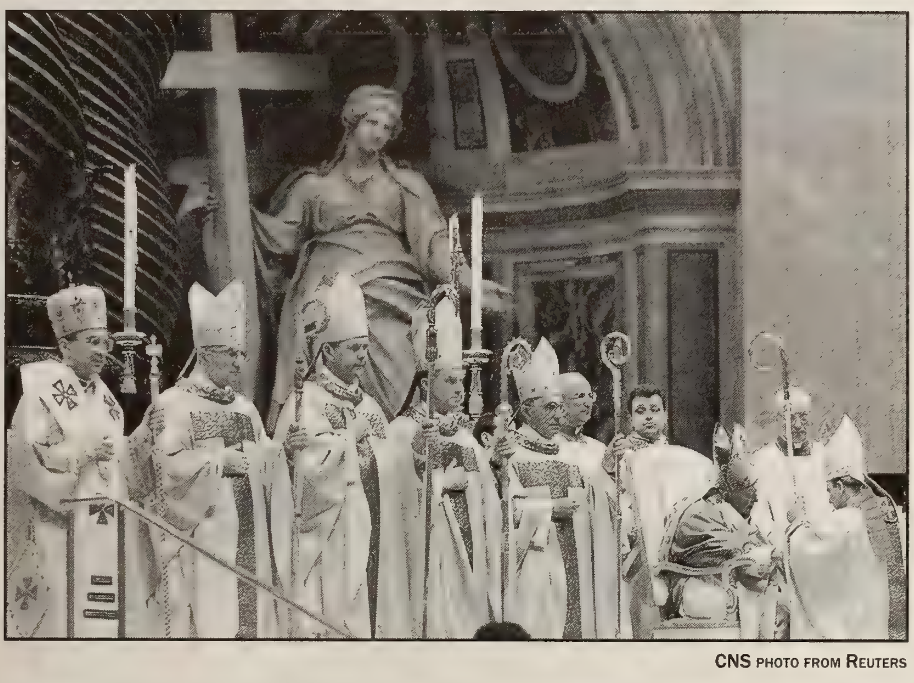
"The Lord, who will not fail to give you his grace, today consecrates you and sends you as apostles into to the world," he said. "Carry engraved on your hearts his words, 'I am with you always,' and do not fear."

Pope John Paul told the new bishops to keep St. Joseph as a model for their ministry.

"He, a faithful and wise servant, accepted with obedient docility the will of the Lord who entrusted to him his family on earth so that he would care for them with daily dedication," the pope said.

While fulfilling the earthly role of being Jesus' father, Joseph knew his place was "totally relative to that of God," he said. Joseph, like every other person, was called to be a disciple of Christ, and he did so by watching over and providing for Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The pope addressed each new bishop briefly in his homily, offering thanks for the service they have given in the past and prayers for their new ministries.



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope John Paul II presents a bishop's staff to newly ordained Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino as five others stand by March 19. From left are Bishop Djura Dzudzar, Bishop Marc Ouellet, Bishop Tomasz Peta, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio and Archbishop Fernando Filoni. The pope ordained nine new bishops at the ceremony.

He thanked Archbishop Broglio, who had served as chief of staff to Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican secretary of state. He prayed that the new archbishop would be "a witness of the affection of the successor of Peter among the dear peoples" of the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, "at the doors of the American continent."

The pope told Bishop Ouellet his new post at the council for Christian unity is one "of particular importance because of the very noble goal which inspires it and because of the renewed hopes which the celebration of the jubilee year raised in the souls of many Christians."

Through 46-year-old Auxiliary Bishop Djura Dzudzar of Mukacheve, Ukraine, Pope John Paul said he wanted to send greetings to the entire Ukrainian nation, "a country which, God willing, I will have the joy of visiting soon."

The pope is scheduled to visit Ukraine in late June.

The pope ordained six other new bishops March 19:

— Italian Archbishop Fernando Filoni, 54, nuncio to Iraq and Jordan.

— Polish Archbishop Henryk Nowacki, 54, nuncio to Slovakia.

— Italian Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, 52, prelate of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Pompei.

— Polish Bishop Tomasz Peta, 49, apostolic administrator of Astana, Kazakstan.

— Italian Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo, 58, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

— Italian Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, 53, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

International business conference brings U.S., Mexican officials to Charlotte

BELMONT — Charlotte's business community will be exposed to international expertise April 2-3 when the Going Global International Business Conference convenes.

Sponsored by the new International Business Studies Program at Belmont Abbey College, the conference will focus on production and logistics in the United States and Mexico and will explore how textile production might be brought back to the Western Hemisphere from the Far East.

Dr. James Giermanski, an Abbey graduate and an internationally known expert on international business, directs the program at the college and has organized the conference. Giermanski is frequently interviewed by news media because of his international business credentials. He has also consulted with state, provincial and national governments in the United States and Mexico.

Among the topics to be covered are U.S. policy and textiles; new Mexican customs changes; new job creation; border crossing issues and problems; new U.S. legislation; management issues in Mexican production; and more. Top American and Mexican officials and business leaders will be the conference presenters.

The conference has been endorsed by the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, the American Yarn Spinners Association, the U.S. Export Assistance Center, the Charlotte World Trade Association, and chambers of commerce representing Charlotte, Gaston County, Belmont and Matthews.

The conference will be hosted at the Renaissance Charlotte Suites hotel. For conference registration and other information, call (704) 825-3922.

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St. Joan of Arc Church plans ministries fair

ASHEVILLE — St. Joan of Arc Parish has announced plans for a ministries fair to be hosted on Sunday, April 1, following a 10 a.m. community Mass in the parish gym.

The 16 church ministries will have table displays arranged throughout the building, representing a wide variety of interests and parishioners, from Catholic Daughters to karate, bereavement to parish celebrations, and Hispanics to Hibernians.

Sandwiches and finger foods will be served from the church kitchen and diverse desserts will be placed on each ministry table, adding interest and encouraging progression throughout the exhibits.

The community Mass that precedes the fair will be celebrated in lieu of the parish's four regular weekend Masses and is intended to allow the church membership to greet each other as one church family.

Father John M. Pagel, pastor, said he anticipates that the event will not only familiarize parishioners with various aspects of church ministries, but will also encourage increased participation.

For further information, call (828) 252-3151.

Faith accompanies Northerner down South

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — As Rev. Mr. Timothy Rohan poured the water on his newest grandchild Samuel's head during his baptism this year on March 10, his namesake, his 4-year-old grandson Tim, gazed in wonderment at his grandfather, a permanent deacon. Young Tim was interested not in this sacrament of initiation but in his grandfather's vestments. Out of curiosity, he asked him, "Why do you wear a dress?"

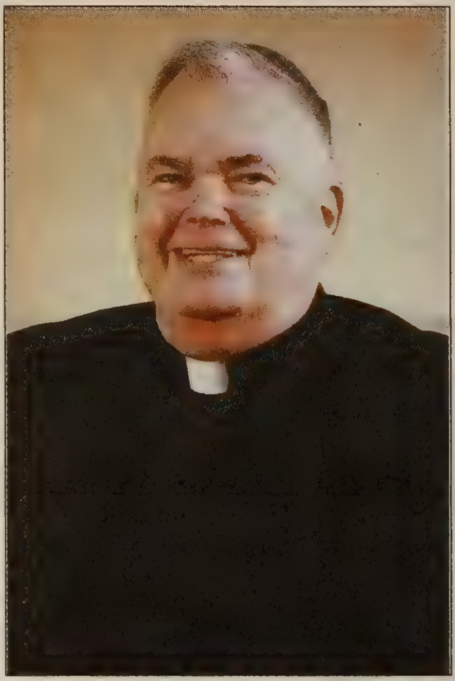
The intermingling of family and faith has been the source of comfort and joy for Rev. Mr. Rohan since his childhood days in New York to his days as a father of five and grandfather of five and during his nearly 13 years as a permanent deacon. Moreover, ministry and family have complemented and supported each other throughout his life.

"One of the great gifts that the permanent diaconate has given to our family is that he has baptized all five of our grandkids and has given first Communion to our oldest granddaughter Patty," said wife Eileen Rohan. "It affects the children in a special way to have him in the role of clergy, and for him to have been able to be the minister of the sacraments has been phenomenal for our family."

As a young Catholic growing up in Brooklyn, Rev. Mr. Rohan never dreamed that his life would take him in the direction of ordained ministry in the state of North Carolina. Faith was at the forefront of the couples' lives in their childhood neighborhood. Groups of youth and teens played, prayed and studied together during the post-World War II era.

"Religion was always principle in both our homes, and we learned the true meaning of being disciples of Christ from our parents," said Rev. Mr. Rohan. "And later on, our children had the same upbringing that we did."

Mrs. Rohan agreed: "The melding of our spirituality came early on, and through the influence of the Eucharist and the sacraments, we received additional comfort and blessings. Back then, everything was done in a group; there were no one-on-one couples."



Rev. Mr. Timothy Rohan

The couple was married in 1958 after Mrs. Rohan completed nursing school. Throughout the courting phase of their relationship, Rev. Mr. Rohan would take three buses to visit his future wife. "It was a traveling romance," he joked.

During that time, Rev. Mr. Rohan had begun working for Western Electric in the mailroom and had started attending college at night and earned a degree from St. John's University. He eventually worked his way up the proverbial ladder to a position as a senior computer specialist, while the family began to expand. The Rohan children grew up in a house in the same neighborhood that their parents did and experienced almost the same type of upbringing complete with Catholic values and education.

The reality of moving to North Carolina came as somewhat of a shock to the family who had to relocate with Rev. Mr. Rohan's company, and they did not know what to expect. It was an adjustment for all involved. "We didn't know anyone in North Carolina, but we looked at it as an opportunity for us to start fresh in new surroundings in the bigger house that we had wanted for our growing family," he remembered. "However, our kids were in culture shock. They thought we were moving to a place like 'Green Acres.'"

Mrs. Rohan recalls the adjustment to continuing to raise her children in a more rural area rather than an urban one surprisingly more unsettling than before. "We felt that the children had too much freedom. In Brooklyn, we always knew where they were because they played in the same block, whereas in Greensboro, they could be anywhere; although they were with friends, they could be at the park, pool, anywhere."

However, the fledgling Catholic faith in the western area of the state offered a sense of comfort and nostalgia for times past. "We found a different spirituality in this area than in New York. Faith had become lax as far as rules and doctrine, and when we moved here, we found that it was like our church was years ago. We felt our children had moved into a more structured church, and our church became strong to us again," said Mrs. Rohan.

That renewed sense of strength propelled the couple to become involved in ministry at their home church, Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro, and in the community. Mrs. Rohan began working with Hospice of Greensboro, while Rev. Mr. Rohan was elected to the parish pastoral council and also worked with Eucharistic ministry and as a lector.

Involvement with the permanent diaconate came when Father Joe McCarthy, then associate pastor of OLG, gave a talk about the ministry during Mass one Sunday, and Rev. Mr. Rohan's curiosity was piqued. With encouragement from Msgr. William Pharr, then pastor, he was ordained in the diocese's second diaconate class.

Since that time, Rev. Mr. Rohan has been involved with the adjunct chaplaincy program at Moses Cone Hospital, marriage preparation, ecumenical prayer services, prison ministry and various other diaconate duties. He retired from Western Electric, now known as AT&T, in 1990 and became the business manager of OLG. After seven years of service to the church, he unofficially retired for the second time to devote himself fully to his diaconate ministry. Through it all, Mrs. Rohan has been by his side in support of the ministry.

"The key to a successful marriage is to make God the head of the home. The marriage cannot fail if this is so," said Rev. Mr. Rohan, who has been diaconate vicar of the Greensboro region for the past four years.

"Our morning prayers and our work with perpetual adoration at Maryfield Nursing Home have become a tremendous source of comfort for us which we would have never experienced had it not been for the permanent diaconate," said Mrs. Rohan. To be able to see the clerical end of the church and to share what we have as givers as well as receivers has been very special for both of us."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

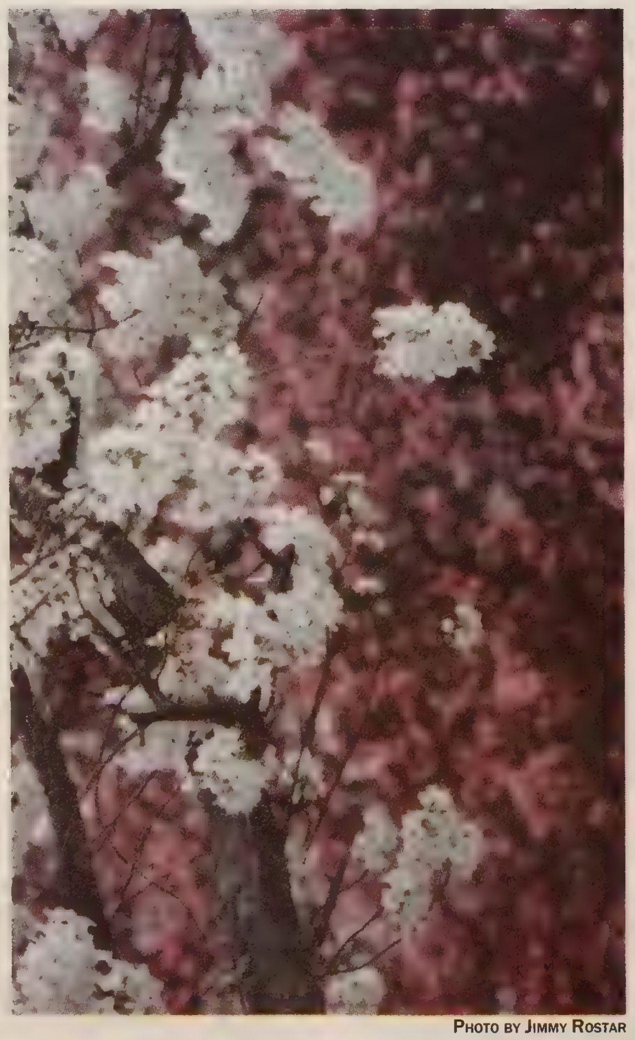


PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Lent 2001

" ... the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may be amazed.'"

— John 5:20

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD
Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

March 30, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 29

Inside

Romero left legacy of justice, says speaker ... PAGE 5

Belmont Abbey welcomes new monks ... PAGE 7

Local News

Faith formation experienced in community, says priest ... PAGE 9

Deacon's faith spreads through ministry ...PAGE 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

> **"I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord."**
>
> **– Ezekiel 37: 13**

2ND Annual
WOMEN'S DAY
of
Prayer
and
Renewal

PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE
ILLUSTRATION BY TIM FARAGHER

Mothers, grandmothers, daughters join in spiritual, uplifting renewal

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — Women of various ages, races and backgrounds gathered together in the spirit of oneness to listen to other women speak about their lives and to walk their faith journeys together. Over 200 women came to St. Matthew Church, the host of the second annual Women's Day on March 24, in recognition of womanhood. This is the second celebration of its kind at the parish, and this year, the format was changed slightly to accommodate a crowd composed of women from parishes in the Piedmont-Triad area and other surrounding areas.

"We wanted to keep it fresh and new this year. Last year, we had breakout sessions, and we heard from the women that they wanted to remain in a large group setting this year," explained Kathy Murray, a member of the parish steering committee. "Many times, when you attend these events, you sit with people you know, and you never get to meet anyone. We decided to get people to change tables, so they could become acquainted with other women."

Love and doves floated around the room throughout the day. Participants were asked to write their names and the names of women they admire and respect onto slips of paper later stapled into a love chain that was passed around the room to reflect the strength of all women and the links that bind them together. Doves adorned with the attendants' wishes, dreams or heartfelt prayers were taped onto a "dream tree" on a wall in the parish center, said Murray.

"I felt that this would be a spiritual day and good day to get closer to my faith," said Carol Marchand from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Monroe. "Men have their outlet, but women need some type of interaction with spiritual partners. We have this spiritual need in our lives, and this brings it a little closer. I feel good about this and would recommend this to my daughter."

In keeping with the theme, "Empowered by Love," the day included testimonies from three parishioners and a keynote address from Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, pastoral associate at St. Matthew and head of the steering committee. Kathy Bartlett, Heather Martin and Lori Summeral shared aspects of their lives and demonstrated how women could grow in love of self and neighbor through the power of prayer and a dedication to their faith.

"I talked about how God shows his

SEE WOMEN, PAGE 8

Cultures blend as Hispanics mix with U.S. society

WASHINGTON(CNS) — As the growing number of Hispanics interact with their U.S. surroundings, the result is mutual contact ranging from intermarriages to blended ways of thinking and acting. Within the church, this contact has given rise to a Hispanic theology and has influenced ways of experiencing and understanding faith. Many Hispanic leaders use the term "acculturation" for the mutual influence of two cultures that come into close contact. Spanish-born Carmen Aquinaco notes that acculturation goes beyond learning each other's mother tongue. "It means learning each other's cultural language. To think in Spanish means to think from and within Hispanic culture," said Aquinaco, a Catholic journalist who has lived in the United States for 20 years and is on the executive board of the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry.

Catholics must fight racism in church, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics must work to ensure that no one is excluded from their communities and that people of all races and cultures feel the church is their home, Pope John Paul II said. Marking the March 21 U.N. celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the pope said, "it is obligatory" that religious communities join international efforts to fight racism. Speaking at the end of his weekly general audience, Pope John Paul said international treaties, conferences and the upcoming U.N. World Conference Against Racism are "important steps on the way toward affirming the fundamental equality and dignity of every person and for peaceful coexistence among all peoples."

Cardinal urges courage in seeking Northern Ireland peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Boston's Cardinal Bernard F. Law called on Americans and on all parties in Northern Ireland's turmoil to have the courage to keep working for peace. In his annual statement issued on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, Cardinal Law said the situation in Northern Ireland calls for following the Roman proverb, "Festina lente," meaning "make haste with due deliberation." Cardinal Law, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy, acknowledged the progress that has been made toward implementing the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement but said three areas of special concern warrant attention: the role of the police, decommissioning of weapons, and demilitarization of the North.

CNS photo by Ed Zelachoski, Catholic Accent

Polish Peroghi pack parish freezer

Bernie Moore of St. Stanislaus Parish in Calumet, Pa., adds another dozen peroghi to a freezer packed full with the Polish dumplings. Last year, the church grossed about $10,000 selling more than 23,000 peroghi.

New museum opens at Knights of Columbus headquarters

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — After nearly four years of planning and building, the Knights of Columbus has opened a major museum at the organization's New Haven headquarters. "Now that we're into our second century of service, this was the time to preserve and share with the public what our heritage is," said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, head of the 1.6-million member group, the world's largest Catholic fraternal order. Museum director Larry Sowinski said one of the principal goals of the Knights of Columbus Museum, which officially opened March 10, is to tell the story of the Knights and their effect on American and world history.

Jewish leaders donate Holocaust menorah to Baltimore seminary

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Hoping to strengthen the bonds of understanding and mutual respect between Jews and Catholics, prominent Jewish leaders have donated a menorah to St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, commemorating millions of lives lost in the Holocaust. A replica of similar menorahs given two years ago to Pope John Paul II and the North American College in Rome, the Yom Hashoah Menorah was presented to Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chancellor of St. Mary's, during a March 5 ceremony at the seminary. Gunther Lawrence, executive director of the New York-based Interreligious Information Center, developed the idea for the project and worked with Israeli sculptor Aharon Bezalel of Jerusalem to design the artwork.

Pope blesses Italian expedition to North Pole

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II blessed members of an Italian expedition that plans to make history by celebrating Mass and erecting a cross at the North Pole on Easter. Meeting with the expedition team March 20 and blessing the cross they planned to carry, the pope said he prayed "that this mission, so arduous and laden with significance, will be crowned with complete success." The expedition had a "clear missionary value," the pope said. "Planting the 'wood of the cross' and renewing the eucharistic sacrifice at the 'ends of the earth,' you intend to recall that humanity finds its authentic dimension only when it is able to fix its gaze on Christ and totally trust in him," he said.

Thousands in China line up for sacrament of reconciliation

HONG KONG (CNS) — The sacrament of reconciliation remains popular among Chinese Catholics, particularly in rural areas where hundreds or even thousands line up for confessions on major church feasts. In the past, many Catholics insisted on receiving absolution before receiving Communion, and their insistence often delayed ordinary liturgies as priests and bishops had to sit for hours hearing confessions, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. A parish priest in China told UCA News one Christmas Eve that he had no idea when he would begin the midnight Mass, because it would commence only after all confessions were heard. Today, though, lay people in rural areas can more readily distinguish those sins serious enough to require confession, Father Song Zunsheng of Urumqi Diocese, northwestern China, told UCA News.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

March 30 - April 2
Pastoral visits to diocesan seminarians

April 4 — 7 p.m.
Lenten evening of reflection
St. John Neumann, Charlotte

April 6 — 7:30 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta, St. Patrick, Charlotte

10:45 a.m.
Mass
Sacred Heart, Salisbury

April 7 — 11 a.m.
Belmont Abbey College Mass

Diocesan planner

April

1 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1 is having a meeting today and every first Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at the Showfety Activity Center at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

2 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on April 3 at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting takes place tonight and April 16 from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of the parish center's conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., is celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Frank O'Rourke. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next Mass takes place on May 7. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

3 GREENSBORO — The Adult Education Program at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 W. Market St., concludes tonight from 7-8 p.m. in the activity center.

Emphasis on lay ministry aiding vocations, says cardinal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The church's emphasis on lay ministry is not diluting vocations to ordained and consecrated life, said Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles. "Just the opposite is taking place. As more and more lay people become involved in ministry, they are a base for vocations to the priesthood and religious life," he said in off-the-cuff remarks during a speech at The Catholic University of America in Washington. The largest group of seminarians studying for his archdiocese come from lay ministry, he added. Cardinal Mahony spoke March 20 on "Charting a Course for Participation in Mission."

Sisters extend 'gift of shelter' to female inmates in California

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — For inmates at the California Institution for Women in Corona, receiving their daily meals used to mean enduring long waits in outdoor lines, standing under stormy skies or beneath the blazing sun. Today, these women are protected from harsh weather thanks to an awning donated by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. The new awning was formally presented during a March 14 blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremony in the prison's main yard. Invited guests included Auxiliary Bishop Gabino Zavala of Los Angeles, Sister Suzanne Jabro, a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, who is director of the archdiocesan Office of Detention Ministry, and several inmates.

President, cardinals officially open pope's cultural center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Seven cardinals and President Bush presided over the March 22 ceremony and ribbon-cutting that marked the grand opening of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington. Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, president of the center dedicated to the Catholic faith, told the audience of about 1,200 guests in a huge tent on the grounds of the center that the pope insisted it be located in Washington instead of any of several other suggested sites, including Warsaw or Krakow in Poland. "He sees Washington, D.C., as the crossroads of the world," Cardinal Maida said. "The center's location here will allow it to impact and shape the many events that transpire here."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Statue of Pope moved in Montevideo, Uruguay

A 13-foot-tall bronze statue of Pope John Paul II is moved to a new church in Montevideo, Uruguay, March 24. The one-ton sculpture was situated at a church built on a spot were the pontiff celebrated Mass during his 1988 visit to the country.

Churches fear helicopters used by Colombian military

OTTAWA (CNS) — Churches in Canada fear surplus Canadian helicopters now in the hands of Colombia's military may be used to commit human rights violations. "The Canadian churches have documented how helicopters have been used in the past in operations that have targeted the civilian population," said Archbishop Roger Ebacher of Gatineau-Hull. Archbishop Ebacher represented the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America at a news conference on Parliament Hill March 20. He and representatives of Amnesty International Canada, the Canadian Labor Congress and the ecumenical disarmament coalition Project Ploughshares claimed that "gaping loopholes" in Canada's export controls had permitted the surplus military helicopters to end up in the hands of Colombia's "repressive" military.

Chilean bishop provides proof of executions under Pinochet

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — Retired Bishop Carlos Gonzalez Cruchaga of Talca has provided evidence of 20 unlawful executions of people arrested at La Moneda Palace the day Gen. Augusto Pinochet ousted Socialist President Salvador Allende. Bishop Gonzalez said he received "consistent information" explaining that on Sept. 11, 1973, 35 people were arrested at La Moneda Palace and 20 of them were executed two days later. In an eight-point document containing information provided by a former military officer who remained anonymous, Bishop Gonzalez said that the 35 Allende collaborators were arrested and sent to the "Tacna" Army regiment. After two days, 20 of them — regarded as "communists" — were sent to the military camp Peldehue outside Santiago and executed.

Trial begins in 1998 murder of Guatemalan bishop

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Amid tight security, a panel of judges began the trial of five people accused of the 1998 murder of Auxiliary Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera of Guatemala City. One of the accused, Father Mario Orantes, a diocesan priest who shared the bishop's house and is alleged to have assisted the murderers, sat impassively in the packed courtroom March 23. He arrived in court in a wheelchair, dressed in a bathrobe and felt slippers. He has been confined to a city hospital since his arrest more than a year ago. Three others — retired Col. Disrael Lima Estrada, 58, a former head of military intelligence; his son, Capt. Byron Lima Oliva, 30; and former presidential guard Jose Obdulio Villanueva — sat motionless as the judge read out the charges against them of "extrajudicial killing." At a nearby table sat the late bishop's housekeeper, Margarita Lopez, accused of conspiracy in the murder.

Rev. Mr. Paul Teich is presenting "Growing in Prayer" which focuses on the necessity of sincere and heartfelt prayer during the season of Lent, and in doing so, how one can prepare for Holy Week. For further details, call the Church at (336) 274-0415.

4 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., is having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program from Kids of the Kingdom and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

CHARLOTTE — St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., is hosting a bereavement education session entitled "Grief: Dealing with Loss in the Years that Follow." All are invited to come and explore how feelings of grief and loss continue sometimes long after the first year and how one can deal with those feelings. For further details about this session and the monthly bereavement group meetings, call B.J. Dengler at the church at (704) 364-5431.

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women's annual mini-Lenten retreat at St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., concludes this morning at the 10 a.m. Mass. The ladies ask that attendants bring hors d'oeuvres to share today. Call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022 for information.

SWANNANOA — At St. Mary Margaret Church, 102 Andrew Place, Stations of the Cross are being held during Lent today and every Wednesday after noon Mass and Fridays at 7 p.m., and a special Lenten Mass and simple meal is being held also on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. During Holy Week, the schedule is as follows: April 8 - Palms given out at all Masses; April 10 - 6 p.m. Seder meal with covered dishes; April 12 - 7 p.m. Mass and washing of the feet followed by Eucharistic adoration from 8 p.m. until midnight; April 13 - children's Stations of the Cross at noon, Mass at 3 p.m. with veneration of the cross and a 7 p.m. presentation of the "Heart of the Cross"; April 14 - 10 a.m. blessing of the food and Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. and April 15 - 8:30 and 11 a.m. Masses. For details, call the church office at (828) 686-8833.

WINSTON-SALEM — St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave., is hosting Dr. William Rabil as he leads a presentation on the Shroud of Turin tonight from 7-8:15 p.m. at the activity center annex. The talk concerns biblical, medical and scientific accounts of the shroud as a theoretic "fifth gospel." For further information, call the church office at (336) 724-0561.

5 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, is meeting tonight and April 19 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

8 CHARLOTTE — The Raiders Association from Our Lady of Assumption School is hosting a "Family Day of Golf" today at noon at the Larkhaven Golf Club. The day includes celebrity guest host Ethan Horton, snacks, lunch, drinks and an afternoon of golfing for kids of all ages. A professional golf clinic, clubs and prizes are being provided for the young participants, and the adults can compete to win prizes. For further information, call Diana Kennedy at (704) 548-0568.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on April 12 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on April 22 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Hickory Catholics, Lutherans gather for Lenten worship series

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — As part of her performance at St. Aloysius Catholic Church on Wednesday evening, March 21, actress Olivia Woodford of Asheville played the part of a young girl who sneaks up the stairs of her house during the Last Supper. She finds herself unable to move as she peeks through the door and looks straight into the eyes of Jesus.

"He doesn't smile at me, because that would give me away," she says, "but I think I see him smile with his eyes."

This portrayal was one of six women who recount the events of Jesus' death and resurrection. Woodford performed her drama, entitled "The Heart of the Cross," as part of a joint Wednesday evening Lenten worship series between member churches of the Lutheran/Roman Catholic Covenant Committee.

This service was the third of five Wednesdays, and was attended by members of all four churches in the covenant. The other members of the covenant are Holy Trinity, Mt. Olive and St. Andrew's Lutheran churches. Members from all of the churches were invited to a pasta dinner hosted by St. Aloysius before the service.

The other four weeks, the pastors of each church are taking turns delivering the homily at each other's churches. Each pastor chose a person or persons in history to speak about during the other four Wednesdays, and wrote a homily that talked about the crosses those persons bore during their lives.

Woodford held the 300 people attending this service as spellbound as the young girl felt while looking into the eyes of Jesus. Members of the audience laughed and cried during her portrayals, and gave her a standing ovation when she finished.

Her second monologue was that of a woman named Veronica who saw Jesus carrying his cross and felt compelled to step forward to wipe his face. Veronica says that she doesn't usually attend the crucifixions, "but my wanting to see him is greater than any of my doubts."

Woodford then became Mary Magdalene, watching Jesus die on the cross and remembering how he had saved her from herself when he forgave her sins and told her to go and sin no more. "He had healed my heart," she said, "and I could love again."

Then she became Mary, the mother of Jesus, cleaning him and preparing him for burial. "I knew you never belonged to me, Jesus, and I learned to let you go at each phase of your life," she said. Later she looked down at him and said, "Such a beautiful temple destroyed."

Then came Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus, going to his tomb and finding angels there. "How many times has he said to me, 'I will be with you always'?" she said. "I should have listened." Then she rushes to tell the disciples. "I can feel the grace of God flowing through me as I run." Then, as she encounters disbelief when she tells them what has happened, "They don't believe me," she says. "Their faith is as small as mine has been."

Last came Martha, describing Pentecost and her other encounters with Jesus. First she expresses exasperation at Jesus' response to her when she asks him to send Mary into the kitchen to help her. After all, she says, "somebody has to do the providing."

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

St. Aloysius Church parishioner Karen Vollinger chats with the Rev. William Milholland, interim pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Hickory. Vollinger is a former longtime member of the Lutheran Catholic Covenant Committee.

She is pleased when Jesus later asks her to keep doing what she has been doing — providing meals and lodging for his followers — instead of traveling with his disciples. "I discovered that we each have a place in this world," she says.

In remarks at the beginning of the service, Pastor Robert Shoffner of Holy Trinity said that the gathering reminded him of another time the four congregations had gathered at St. Aloysius. "We filled this worship area when we gathered together to sign our covenant," he said. The signing took place on May 29, 1994, although the covenant was agreed upon in 1991. The committee is planning another gathering for the congregations in May to commemorate the 10th anniversary.

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Holy Tuesday, April 10, 11am	***Chrism Mass: Blessing of the Holy Oils*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Holy Thursday, April 12, 7:30pm	***Mass of the Lord's Supper*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Good Friday, April 13, 3pm	***Stations of the Cross***
Good Friday, April 13, 7:30pm	***Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Holy Saturday, April 14, 8pm	***Easter Vigil Mass*** *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Easter Sunday Masses	*8am, 9:30am,* *11am with Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant, and 12:30pm*

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Romero's legacy centered on 'violence of love,' speaker says

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — During his three years as archbishop of San Salvador, Archbishop Oscar Romero repeated a progressively more urgent plea that justice would prevail over inequality and that the will of God would prevail over the elitism of the powerful, said a professor of history in Greensboro.

Dr. Michael Roberto, an instructor of world history at North Carolina A & T State University, addressed an audience at the Franciscan Center March 15 on the teachings of Archbishop Romero as a theological invitation to social justice in a country ravaged by human rights violations and capitalistic idolatry.

Archbishop Romero was shot while celebrating Mass on March 24, 1980, leaving behind a role as one of El Salvador's most outspoken critics of human rights abuses. His legacy continues to have insightful effects in the country.

Quoting from "The Violence of Love," a series of Archbishop Romero's homilies compiled and translated by Jesuit Father James Brockman, Roberto took his audience through three years of the archbishop's speaking in a loud voice for the poor, the oppressed and the people of faith who comprised the majority in the country yet who were victimized the most harshly.

"In times of global economic crisis, the most profound economic setback and chaos are in third-world countries, and this was certainly the same in El Salvador," said Roberto of the year 1977, the beginning of a period of worldwide economic destabilization and the year in which Romero was appointed as archbishop of San Salvador.

Roberto explained the social, economic and political situation in El Salvador during Archbishop Romero's three years as a church leader: a land with extreme polarization of wealth and political power; a land where 14 families controlled 60 percent of the nation's property; a land where 65 percent of the peasantry was landless; a land where half-hearted reform attempts were squashed by those 14 families and their military allies; and a land where it became commonplace to see the slogan "Be a patriot and kill a priest" slapped on walls of towns, pueblos and cities nationwide.

Roberto said Archbishop Romero's belief in salvation history — the facts and the record of God's relationships with people — guided the archbishop in much of his ministry. That belief, he said, led the archbishop to "become a great Christian and a great realist at the same time — a man who recognized that Christ's redemptive power could not be taken out of the historical process, and anyone who tried to do that was not living the Gospel."

In his early homilies as archbishop, Roberto said, Archbishop Romero cautiously challenged all people to share in the priestly ministry of bringing peace and love to the world. As time progressed, however, Roberto pointed out that the archbishop became growingly and publicly more concerned with the structures in place that were contrary to God's Word.

Roberto shared this excerpt from a December 1977 homily:

"What starts conflicts and persecutions, what marks the genuine church, is the word that, burning like the word of the prophets, proclaims and accuses: proclaims to the people God's wonders to be believed and venerated, and accuses of sin those who oppose God's reign, so that they may tear that sin out of their hearts, out of their societies, out of their laws — out of the structures that oppress, that imprison, that violate the rights of God and of humanity."

Roberto said this period marked a more radical line of thought from the archbishop, a line marking the transcending of his role as a moderate defender of the status quo and pushing toward his becoming an outspoken critic of the country's struggles.

Roberto said the most radical phase of Archbishop Romero's ministry began toward the end of 1978, when he began referring to the "atheism of capitalism" that occurs when people replace God with material possessions, leading to a deterioration in values, integrity and honesty.

Archbishop Romero was again making a strong argument for salvation history, Roberto said, returning to the Jesus' example of his life. "By returning to the idea of salvation history, with Jesus showing us how to live because of the way Jesus lived himself, Romero therefore put Jesus in the context of the struggle in El Salvador," he said.

Roberto said by April 1979, in the spring before the archbishop's own murder, the cleric's homilies became more challenging than ever on the theme of righteous, nonviolent conflict; the church's standing on the side of those who are oppressed; and the invoking of God's inspiration in the face of injustice.

Though the archbishop publicly said in his homilies that he sided with neither the right nor the left, but with the Word of God, "he was signaling his own death" by his statements of belief, Roberto said. And,

See LEGACY, page 15

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Minhthu Ngo Lynagh, Diane Weber and Bridget Brown Johnson chat with Dr. Michael Roberto following his March 15 presentation at the Franciscan Center.

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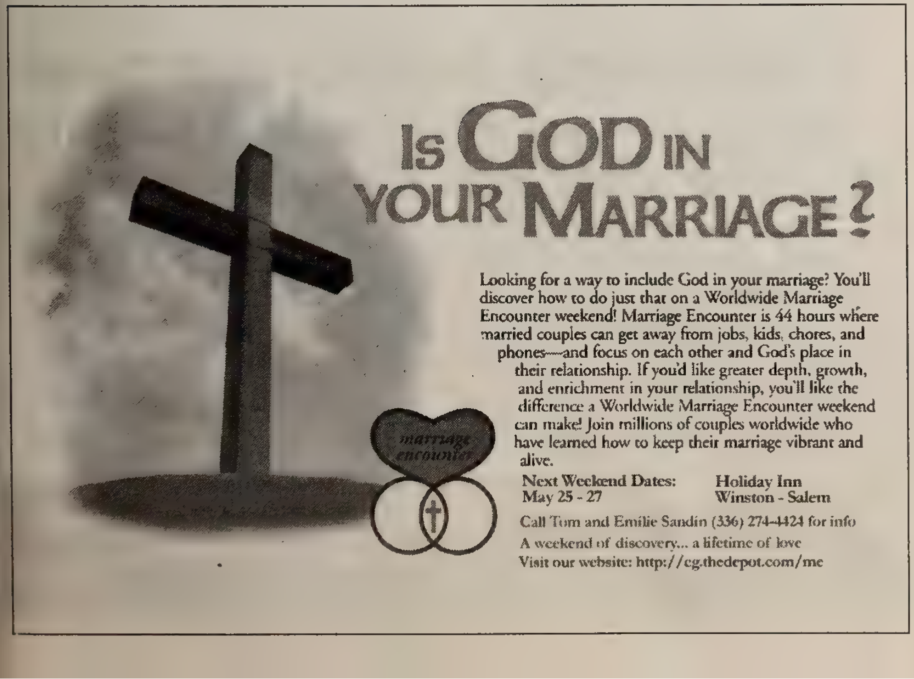

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Sister Barbara Reid wins Sophia Award for excellence

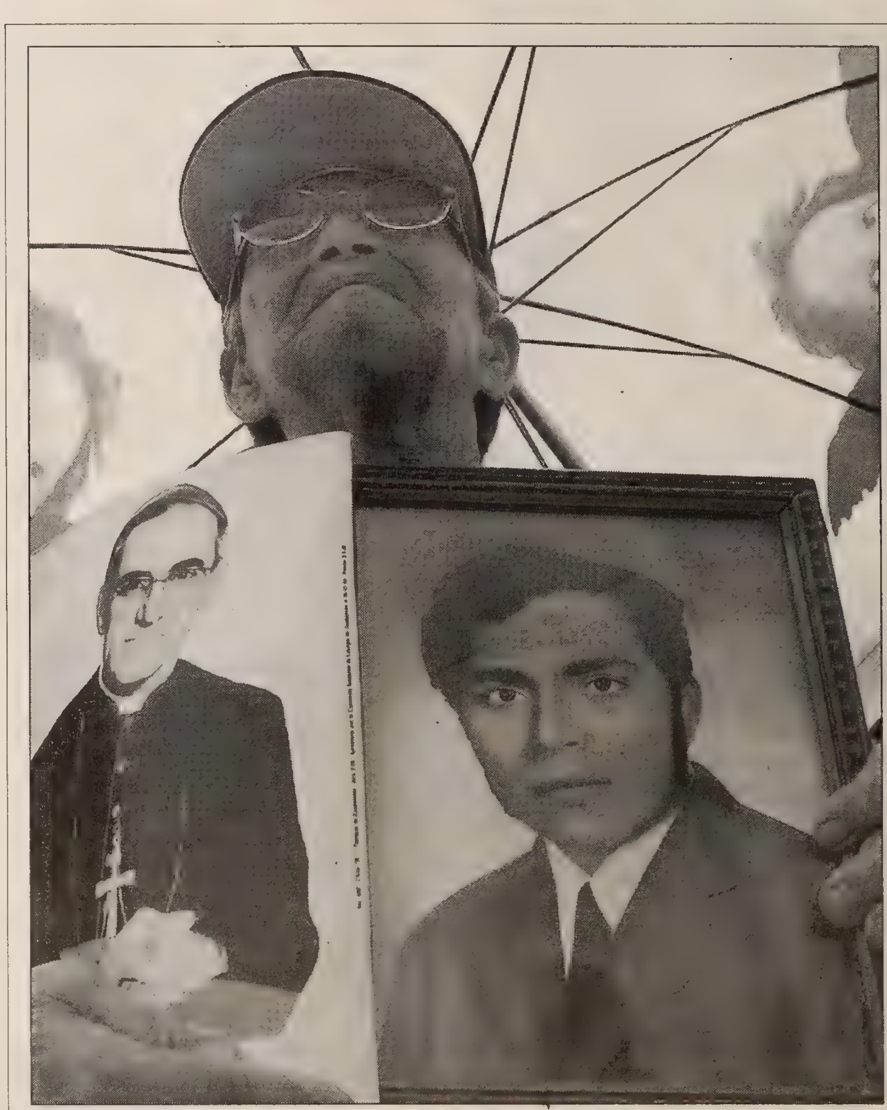
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dominican Sister Barbara Reid, professor of New Testament at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago since 1988, is the 2001 winner of the Sophia Award for theological excellence in service to ministry. The award is presented annually by faculty of the Washington Theological Union "to honor a rising theologian who has made a significant contribution to ministry, through writings and insights," said Franciscan Father Daniel McLellan, president of the union. He added that the award is named for the union's Chapel of Holy Wisdom, dedicated in 1996. "Hence the name of the award — Sophia for wisdom," he said.

Nigerian woman who met pope in jubilee year dies of AIDS

ROME (CNS) — A young Nigerian woman who had an emotional jubilee-year meeting with Pope John Paul II after being forced into prostitution in Italy has died of AIDS. The woman, called "Erica" by the Italian priest who helped free her from the prostitution racket, died March 20 in a Naples hospital at the age of 26. Last May, she was with a pilgrimage of 39 former prostitutes assisted by the Pope John XXIII Community Association. At the end of the papal audience, accompanied by the association's founder, Father Oreste Benzi, she knelt before the pope, embraced him and recited a tearful prayer. "Help women like me get off the streets. ... We are slaves looking for our freedom," she told the pope.

U.S. priest named to Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named U.S. Msgr. Frank J. Dewane undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, the Vatican announced March 22. Msgr. Dewane has served in Vatican delegations to the United Nations and to several major U.N. conferences. Since 1995, he has been an official of the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum," the Vatican's charity-promoting and coordinating office. At the justice and peace council, Msgr. Dewane will deal with a wide range of economic and social issues. In recent years, the council has studied such questions as foreign debt, racism, weapons sales and the role of children in war.



CNS PHOTO BY EDGAR ROMERO

Salvadorans mark anniversary of Romero's death
Enilda Amaya joins a procession marking the 21st anniversary of the death of Archbishop Oscar Romero March 24 in San Salvador. Amaya holds a portrait of the slain archbishop and of her son, a seminarian who was also slain during El Salvador's civil war.

Bishop Lori installed as new bishop of Bridgeport, Conn.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (CNS) — Calling on the faithful of the Diocese of Bridgeport to model their lives on the example of St. Joseph, former Washington Auxiliary Bishop William E. Lori was installed March 19, the feast of St. Joseph, as the diocese's fourth bishop. "With the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, we are called to open our hearts to the Father's mysterious plan of salvation," Bishop Lori said. "You and I are invited to know Christ, who in showing us the depth of the Father's love also reveals the dignity and worth of every person." In his homily, Bishop Lori pledged to help lead the diocese into the new millennium, especially following St. Joseph's example and the vision of Pope John Paul II.

Boggs returns to her beloved New Orleans after stint in Rome

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — Corinne "Lindy" Boggs is back home doing what she loves best — French Quarter aerobics. Boggs turned 85 earlier this month and is shaking off the lingering effects of the "Roman flu," but New Orleans' most famous Catholic still can walk circles around those half her age. After spending three memorable years as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See — an appointment that ended March 1 — Boggs hopped on a plane, stopped in London to visit her eighth great-grandchild (her daughter Cokie Roberts' first grandchild), and then finally arrived home for good on March 3. Since then the only problem she's encountered — other than the ongoing renovation of her French Quarter home that sustained extensive water damage when a third-floor pipe burst last August — is that everywhere she walks, people want to stop and talk.

Father of murder victim speaks out against executions

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. (CNS) — As one victim's father puts it, the scheduled execution of Timothy McVeigh May 16 at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute "won't bring Julie Marie Welch back or any of the 167 others" killed in the Oklahoma City bombing. "When we take Tim McVeigh out of his cage to kill him, we will end up with a staged political event," said Julie's father, Bud Welch, during two speeches March 15 for the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods and students at St. Mary-of-the-Woods College. "It will do nothing more or less for society, and it certainly won't bring me peace," he said. Welch spoke about his spiritual journey since his daughter was killed on April 19, 1995, in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

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June 9 - Holy Family Church, Clemmons
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Belmont Abbey welcomes two monks into community

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

BELMONT — It was a holy and interesting coincidence. Two men professed their first monastic vows and officially entered into the Benedictine community at Belmont Abbey on March 21, the day of St. Benedict's death.

After a year and a day of the novitiate, Brother Emmanuel Slobodzian and Brother Boniface Hamilton became monks, pledging to seek God through monasticism. Priests, family, friends and members of the student body of Belmont Abbey College were present to witness the event at Belmont Abbey Basilica.

"This is a happy occasion for us as others come to embrace this way of life," said Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, spiritual and administrative leader of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College. "One of the things on everyone's mind is vocations, and to have two men (enter the monastery) is a wonderful occurrence, especially since one is an alumnus."

The monks

The alumnus, Brother Boniface, graduated from Belmont Abbey College last year with a bachelor's degree in history, culminating the 25-year-old's life in the secular world. Born in Kentucky and raised in Clemmons, Brother Boniface, formerly Matthew Allen Hamilton, says that it was his mother's influence that ultimately led him to his decision to enter the monastery.

"The moment I was born, she knew I would be a priest. She always implied that but never forced it on me and allowed me to find my own place in the world. By attending a private, Catholic institution, Mother always knew this was some way of God persuading me to become a Benedictine."

He did not hear the call to monasticism until his senior year of college while walking to class. With the monastery standing in the distance, he felt compelled to talk to the vocation director. He visited the monastery and realized that life was leading him in this direction.

"I felt comfortable with the brothers and liked the structure and discipline of the monastery. I didn't need to choose anything else because I felt God had chosen this for me by calling me to the college, sending me to the vocation director, etc. I am no longer Matthew Allen Hamilton doing my own will; I am Brother Boniface trying to do God's will as best I can."

Brother Emmanuel, 58, came to Belmont by way of the subway. Before coming to live in the monastery, his last job was a subway station agent with the New York City Transit Authority. At the age of 21, he joined the New York Police Department in Brooklyn and later quit to attend City College of New York. After receiving a degree in psychology, he worked in the accounting department of a company specializing in ship-inspecting engineering and also worked as a bookkeeper. During this time, Brother Emmanuel, known as Harry Joseph Slobodzian Jr., was married and divorced and made it through that time with the help of friends and family.

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Pictured from left to right, Brother Boniface Hamilton, Abbot Placid Solari, OSB and Brother Emmanuel Slobodzian stand in front of Belmont Abbey Basilica on March 21.

Centering prayer, also known as contemplative prayer, and a Trappist monk retreat are what led Brother Emmanuel to the life of a monastic. "It is a very quiet prayer, and in time, you notice there is a presence. You begin paying attention to God when your mind is quiet and free. After being introduced to this type of prayer, a nun suggested I write to seminaries and asked if I would be open to visiting some. I came to Belmont Abbey"

After living at the Abbey as a postulant, Brother Emmanuel felt an even stronger call to monastic life. "I found that they prayed this type of contemplative prayer, and it was more of a thing where God got through to me, and I realized that through my whole life, God had been doing things for me. I wanted to live for him as he had been living for me."

The monastery

The men enter the monastery as postulants usually for period of at least three months. During this time, they may leave at any time if they feel that this way of life is not for them. They are introduced to monasticism through prayer, Mass, and work with the monks to learn more about their vocation and daily life in the monastery.

After this period, they become novices and are given religious names chosen by them and approved by the abbot. The men are also clothed in the black Benedictine habits by receiving the scapular, a long piece of clothing worn over the shoulders and neck, and the hood.

Brother Boniface chose his name based on the life of St. Boniface and because the saint grew up near the area in Germany of his ancestors. The meaning of the name Emmanuel compelled Brother Emmanuel make it his first choice. It means "God is with us."

"For me, I have become a new person in Jesus by living the life in the monastery, and the name change represents that," said Brother Boniface.

The novitiate, which lasts for a year and a day, is a time for the novices to further explore their decision to enter the monastery and to prepare for their first profession of monastic vows after this period. After profession, the men become juniors, during which time they must petition the abbot should they wish to leave the monastery. During the three-year junioriate, the men attend classes and intensely study the Rule of St. Benedict received during the profession ceremony; they may also be permitted to attend the seminary.

At the end of three years, the decision to take solemn vows commits them for life to the monastic community.

The "Rule"

Written in the sixth century by St. Benedict, the "Rule of Benedict" consists of a prologue and 73 chapters focusing on the spiritual, personal and social lives of monks. It covers such subjects as the role of prayer in one's life to eating habits to virtuous zeal and proscribes a way of liv-

SEE ABBEY, PAGE 8

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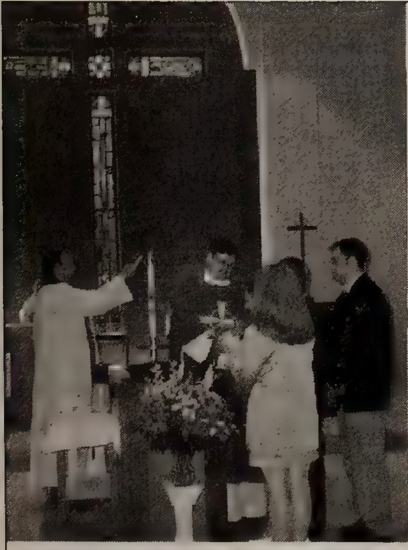

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WOMEN, from page 1

love through our families and friends through their words and actions and how we reflect that love," said Martin, who spoke last year and brought the only male in attendance, her 10-week old son, Patrick. "God intended us to be in relationships with one another, and this day is important because we work so hard as moms and as women. We need to realize that we do make an impact, and we have to get together to talk and relate to one another and show appreciation."

Bartlett shared the inspiring story of her daughter who, through the power of faith, worked her way back from a painful cycle of substance abuse and prison to speaking to youth groups about her journey and teaching faith formation. "I felt the Holy Spirit say that I had to talk about my daughter and show the women that there is hope only in God. Kids are very vulnerable today, and you cannot let go of them. You have to be ready to make tough decisions in order not to lose them," said Bartlett, the parish music director, who shared her gift of singing and songwriting with the group.

"The women's testimonies were a wonderful part of the day because I heard other women talk about what I have experienced and what I felt, and I realized I am not alone," said Clorthia Holiday, a parishioner from St. Benedict Church in Greensboro. "The Catholic Church traditionally doesn't have women's day programs, so whenever I hear of one, I attend because it is a blessing. It is uplifting and healing for Catholic women to get together."

A popular TV icon provided the material for Sister Jeanne Marie's talk, "Bless this Mess: Living with the Reality of Our Lives." She told the women to celebrate their womanhood, be proud of who they are and not to base their lives on what she called the "Martha Stewart Syndrome."

"At what stage or age in our lives do we reach the spiritual maturity to say 'this is who I am, and it is good, not perfect, but good?' Popular icons or the 'Martha Stewart Syndrome' have prevented us from looking at the reality of our lives," said Sister Jeanne Marie. "We are Christian women, women of wealth and dignity who minister to others continuously, but our problem may be that we don't see what we do as ministry instead of chore. What we have to do is maybe change our attitudes.

"Recognize and own your gifts. Ask God to bless your own unique mess, embrace it and love it while you have it. Ask the Lord to bless you because you are so special and unique."

The first woman's day was held last year on the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord and day of the Jubilee of Women in celebration of the Jubilee Year.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

ABBEY, from page 7

ing through humble, contemplative and obedient faith and service.

"It has been a living document since the sixth century and was distilled from previous documents as a way of life that is a rule for beginners," explained Abbot Placid. "It serves as a way of living Christian life for the average person and allows discretion by the abbot to adapt outward expression. It is the fundamental monastic rule in Western Europe and outlines a way of life that any person of good will can live, that over time, will change a person through fidelity to prayer and charity in the community."

The ceremony

The two novices, Brother Emmanuel and Brother Boniface were presented to the abbot and indicated that they wished to make vows during the Mass and profession on March 21, said Abbot Placid.

During the homily, Abbot Placid told the men that they must trust in God's divine plan for their lives and that, even through times of difficulty, the light of Christ burns bright and strong in them.

"Perhaps your generosity, your zeal, in making this gift of your lives today, can rekindle some of that fire in all of us. And yet, we, the monks of Belmont Abbey, have shown you as well how the Lord sustains us especially in our weakness. These men have been faithful to those vows made many years ago, persevering in the monastery until death, sharing in the sufferings of Christ so as to share in his glory. It is gradual thing.

"The things which you propose to sacrifice — home, family, property — you will receive back in new ways, ways in which you will have them forever," said the abbot.

Remember that to do this, you will have to trust and have faith again and again in the faithfulness of God, even when you do not understand it."

The men signed a document on the altar stating that they vow for three years to live the life of a monastic — obedience, stability in monasticism and conversion of one's way of life, a vow which includes the vows of chastity and poverty. The vow of stability means one is bound to the Benedictine community. They signed three times according to the "Rule."

They received a copy of the "Rule" and were then welcomed into the monastic community by their brother monks.

Brother Emmanuel and Brother Boniface, now Benedictine monks of Belmont Abbey, will continue living and working in the monastery and are attending classes. Brother Boniface hopes to be able to move on to seminary, as does Brother Emmanuel, but for now, both are happy in their decisions.

"I have been happy since I arrived here," said Brother Emmanuel. "I want people to know that this place is not just for monks; it is for the people."

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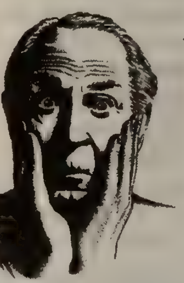

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Faith experience shared with children through rituals, in community, priest says

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

ARDEN — The most effective way of passing the faith on to children is through sharing symbols, rituals and stories in various levels of faith communities, a priest of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., told parents and catechists involved in faith formation in the Diocese of Charlotte's western region.

Father Robert Duggan, a pastor, author and nationally recognized initiation expert, presented "Teaching Kids the Basics of Liturgy" on March 24 at St. Barnabas Church in Arden. Organized and sponsored by the Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team, the program gathered parents and catechists from the Asheville and Smoky Mountain vicariates to share how faith formation, church experiences and children are all essential elements in passing the faith on to future generations.

"Faith is a developmental reality," said Father Duggan. "It is constantly growing and evolving. Faith is all about relationship, ultimately — the relationship that we have with a God who loves us unconditionally in Jesus Christ, and has chosen to be present to us in a special way in a community of believers that we call the church."

For children especially, that experience of church community is an important and formative one, Father Duggan said. He pointed out the various levels of church in the lives of the faithful — the "domestic church," or the family; the small faith community; the parish; the diocese; and the worldwide church — and said the church community is constantly competing with other communities in society, such as the community of consumerism, for the attention and passions of children.

"The communities in which we live are decisive in forming our faith vision, our values, our specific beliefs, our behaviors, and so forth," he said. "We are creatures of our communities."

For parents, catechists and pastors, the challenge is to discover real, engaging ways of instilling the values of the faith community in children.

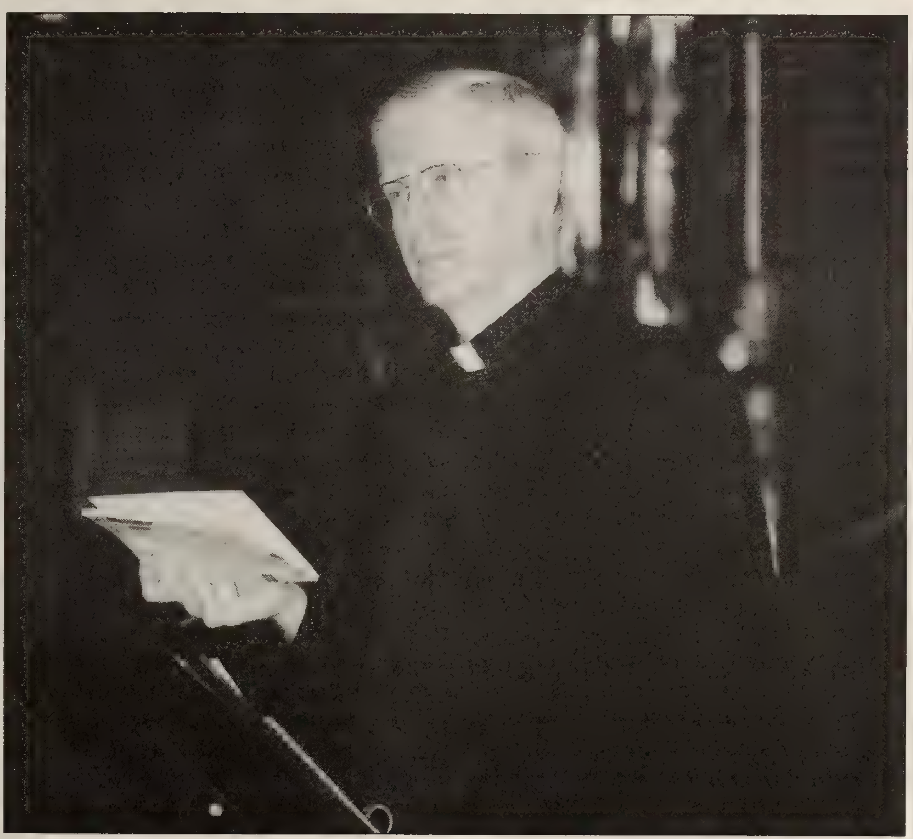

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

"The General Director for Catechesis," a document issued in Rome in 1997 to guide efforts in passing on the faith, teaches that the life of the Christian community itself is the primary form of catechesis, Father Duggan said. He added that in many cases people think of formal structures such as CCD programs as the key means of passing on and absorbing faith, but in reality, most children in the United States receive only about two-dozen hours a year of such education.

"How your Christian community lives is how it happens," he said.

The domestic church is "the fundamental community of faith that shapes our children" he said, adding that those larger realities of church all shape faith. But the most effective and richest experience of sharing faith is the liturgy itself, he said.

"The liturgy is where we are best as church, and in the liturgy there is a dynamic operative which in a privileged way transmits the faith," he said. "Liturgy provides the most holistic learning experience that our church offers, because it is rich in context with stories and prayers and so forth, but it is also rich in the lavish use of symbol that we offer."

Father Duggan said fostering faith experiences for children have long-lasting and profound effects on the shaping of their Christianity. By sharing stories and surrounding children in the church's use of rituals and symbols, parents, catechists and pastors pass on truths of faith that are absorbed at an early age. Those truths, Father Duggan said, make the important leap into an adult's understanding and articulation of the faith later in life.

Quoting from Dominican Father Paul Philibert, a theologian, Father Duggan said the ritual experience landscapes the religious imagination of the child. "We get children with their religious imagination blank, and we landscape it," Father Duggan said. "We put the images of God that will last a lifetime."

"In the early years of life," he said, "the basic categories are being implanted in the psyche of heaven, hell, good, evil, God, death, life. That's being given to children long before they are ready for formal education. They get it by being part of a community that is rich in symbol and ritual."

Rituals such as the Sign of the Cross — traced on the forehead of infants at their baptisms, for example — are integral ways adults can relate to even the youngest children the profound beliefs of the Christian community, he said. "It's from the very beginning," he said, "that we are supposed to use ways of transmitting the depths of meaning contained in our symbol system."

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Book Review

Book takes readers on journey of France

REVIEWED BY **JULIE ASHER**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

I was drawn to Anne McPherson's book by the title and the charming illustration on the cover because I am interested in France and things French — its history, language, culture, society and saints.

So I was delighted to read that McPherson, an Anglican from Canada, shares that fascination.

WALKING TO THE SAINTS: A LITTLE PILGRIMAGE IN FRANCE, **by Anne McPherson. Paulist Press (Mahwah, N.J., 2000). 207 pp., $18.95.**

Since she was 5 years old, she knew France "to be an enchanted country, a place of dreams," she writes.

I thought "Walking to the Saints" would be a colorful little armchair tour of historical pilgrimage sites worth noting for a future trip perhaps, but it is far more than some light, airy tourism book that casts such places only in the best light.

It's about a spiritual journey McPherson says she has been on for years, starting at home in Canada.

Her stops in France along what is the ancient route to the major pilgrimage destination of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, sparked deeper thinking for McPherson on the role of women in the church, feminism and theology, what the saints' lives say to contemporary believers and how the church has changed — or not changed — in 2,000 years.

An added treat are the delicate drawings by Canadian artist Tony Urquhart that open each chapter. They feature details from pilgrimage sites: the capital of an ancient column, the nave of a church, an outside wall of a shrine. The sepia tones of the illustrations add to their charm; the brownish hue extends to the type as well.

McPherson is a free-lance writer and art curator from St. Catharines, Ontario. She and her husband of more than 40 years, Bob, made their first trip to France 35 years ago and have traveled through most of the country. They've spent enough time there to make them "want more and more of it," she says.

For several years now they have owned a house they call "Colomba" in Campagnac in southern France. The story of the house opens and closes the book. It's the starting point for her pilgrimage to Vezelay, Tours, Poitiers, Aulnay and Flaran, Saint-Jean d'Angely and Moissac, Toulouse, Saint-Bernard-de-Comminges, Arles and Saint-Gilles and Conques.

She, of course, talks about the saints associated with these places, including Mary of Magdala, Martin, Joan of Arc, Ragegonde, Bernard of Clairvaux, Sernin, Trophime, Gilles and Foy. McPherson also includes other historical figures, like Eleanor of Aquitaine, and pre-Christian figures, like Minerva.

She describes the feel of the towns and the kinds of people strolling through the streets. She draws in the history of each place, talks about issues in the church then and now, and reflects on what the times might have been like when a particular saint walked the earth, especially how women fared then.

If she doesn't like a place, she's honest, as in her assessment of Tours. It flourished during the Renaissance, she writes, but today is "a quintessential nonentity." On the other hand, Poitiers is "a four-star pilgrimage city" she finds captivating.

If you want more details about each pilgrimage site, how to get there, what the accommodations are, etc., no doubt a number of books address that subject matter. McPherson's book is not meant to be that.

Some readers won't get anything out of her musings, others won't agree with her theological views, but as she writes, "My religious opinions have never followed the beaten track."

I think following her along as she shares her love for France and what she finds as she walks to the saints is worth the trip.

Word to Life

April 1, Fifth Sunday of Lent
Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 121:1-6
2) Philippians 3:8-14
3) Gospel: John 8:1-11

BY **BOZENA CLOUTIER**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

This past fall I traveled to Poland, the country where I was born and spent my earliest childhood. It had been 61 years since I left, fleeing with my family at the outbreak of World War II.

My visit was made at short notice, which was just as well because in previous years when possibilities of returning had come up I got cold feet and did not go. Deep down I feared that the return would engulf me in great sadness at all that had been lost and that the memories I treasured from my childhood would somehow be tarnished by present reality.

But before any of those fears could again paralyze me, I found myself at Warsaw's airport meeting my brother who had flown in from London.

There is only one way I can describe the nine days that followed. They were wondrous. Instead of sadness and regret, I was filled with joy and gratitude at the experiences, adventures, surprises and connections I encountered. Once home I thought much about all this, and it is through the lens of those reflections that I read this weekend's Scriptures, especially the very familiar Gospel story of the woman caught in adultery. The questions raised for me were about expectations and the value of the past in our lives.

It is not difficult to imagine what the woman's expectations were as she was dragged out before Jesus. She must have been terrified, deeply shamed, trapped and stripped of all hope for the future. The past, whether it was a one-time encounter or a way of life, must have weighed on her like a millstone.

What of those among the Pharisees who hauled her to the Galilean teacher? After all, they had a watertight case: Caught "in flagrante," the woman was a heinous sinner and deserved the full ferocity of the law. Their own past and present observance of that law must have given them a sense of moral rectitude. They fully expected to be vindicated.

Yet both sets of expectations were turned inside out. The woman met mercy and unimaginable acceptance. God, through Jesus, was freeing her from the burdens of the past and instead was doing "something new" in her life. These Pharisees, on the other hand, were forced to look into their less-than-blameless past and confront their inner shame. Neither side was condemned. Grace was offered to both.

QUESTIONS:

How can you share Jesus' merciful truth with those you are tempted to throw stones at and condemn? How can you apply Jesus' words — "Neither do I condemn you. Go, sin no more" — to them and to yourself?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 1 - 7, 2001

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, John 8:1-11; **Monday (St. Francis de Paola),** Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, John 8:1-11; **Tuesday,** Numbers 21:4-9, John 8:21-30; **Wednesday (St. Isidore),** Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95, John 8:31-42; **Thursday (St. Vincent Ferrer),** Genesis 17:3-9, John 8:51-59; **Friday** (Abstinence), Jeremiah 20:10-13, John 10:31-42; **Saturday (St. John Baptist de La Salle),** Ezekiel 37:21-28, John 11:45-57

Readings for the week of April 8 - 14, 2001

Palm Sunday, Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14-23:56; **Monday,** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday,** Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Holy Thursday,** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Good Friday (Fast and Abstinence),** Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil),** Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12

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Please pray for the following priests who died during the month of April:

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Rev. Monsignor Charles Gable 1977

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

New play tells life story of Father Solanus Casey

By JOE WINTER
Catholic News Service

HUDSON, Wis. (CNS) — By all accounts, a candidate for sainthood who grew up in western Wisconsin never wanted to be the star of the show.

However, Capuchin Father Solanus Casey, a candidate for sainthood, now has a play written about his life by a Hudson woman with college degrees in drama and theology.

Father Casey was declared "venerable" in 1995, the first of three steps to being declared a saint. He was the first U.S.-born male to reach that stage.

Before he can be beatified, which is the next step, a miraculous healing that cannot be attributed to medical intervention but to his intercession must be authenticated. The final step, canonization, would require a second such authenticated miracle.

"I think the way that he worked with the poor and the needy really has had an affect on me, personally. He was not famous or someone who held a high position in the church," writer Molly Delaney Druffner told the Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Superior Diocese.

Father Casey was a largely unschooled man who got to know the poor while working as a doorkeeper in parishes and church offices. In later years, until his death in 1957, he was sought out by large numbers of people who believed he had gifts of prophecy and healing.

Bernard Francis Casey was born near Prescott, Wis., on Nov. 25, 1870, the sixth of 16 children of an Irish immigrant couple.

The play gives the audience a sense of the history of the Hudson and Prescott areas and of Stillwater, Minn., during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, said Druffner.

She was in the midst of rehearsals as director of a planned March 24-25 staging of her work at St. Patrick Church in Hudson. The multimedia drama requires 20 actors and includes historical retellings, a monologue, comedy, slides, dance and music.

As a young man, Father Casey worked on the St. Croix River near Stillwater in the logging trade, drove a trolley car in Superior, and worked at the Stillwater Prison guarding, among others, the Jesse James gang.

After becoming a Capuchin priest and moving to Detroit, and then to New York City, Father Casey was widely recognized for his services to the poor at soup kitchens, Druffner said.

"His miracles were done in a simple way. He blessed people and prayed for them," she said, adding that he never sought the spotlight.

Druffner called the rehearsals extensive and said the cast of actors, who are from St. Patrick's and other area churches, has often prayed together.

"This play is important because he lived right here and he had first Communion in our (St. Patrick's) parish," said Barb Ruemmele, who helped with Druffner's research.

"He helped people with all different kinds of problems. He did it by praying; he never wanted to draw attention to himself," added Ruemmele, who directs the local chapter of the Father Solanus Guild.

"She asked me to put together a skit on his life. That was about a year ago," Druffner said. "But when I did the research, I found that his life was far too fantastic to just do a skit. It needed to be a full-fledged play."

Father Casey's life is perfect for the stage because of his many experiences, she said.

Father Casey spent much time as a porter, writing from his desk and giving counsel to people who came by. In the play, he is shown reading from his journals at the right side of the stage, while on the left side, flashbacks are enacted by the other actors.

In one scene, Father Casey is riding a streetcar and sees a woman murdered by her lover. He decides to become a priest to help prevent such injustice. Father Casey retells the experience while it is portrayed on the other side of the stage.

In another scene, the soup kitchen runs out of bread, and, after Father Casey prays, a truck comes by and delivers all the loaves that are needed.

Deacon Peter Braam, who some local parishioners say resembles Father Casey, had to be persuaded to portray him. Deacon Braam at first declined because he is going through chemotherapy for cancer.

"I'm tired but this could be good for me," he told Druffner. He thought the role could play a double benefit since Father Casey has long been associated with healing.

"I think (his medical situation) keeps him in touch with who Solanus is," Ruemmele said. "He was a man of humility and the play shows that. The acting by Braam shows that."

Four Capuchin priests from the St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit, a place where Father Casey served and the headquarters of his canonization campaign, planned to see the play.

CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

Scene from movie 'Say It Isn't So'

Heather Graham and Chris Klein star in the film "Say It Isn't So." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV -- adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" to air April 11, PBS

BY GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — A new adaptation of the Tim Rice-Andrew Lloyd Webber musical, "Jesus Christ Superstar," comes to television on Wednesday, April 11, 8-10 p.m. EDT on PBS (check local listings). The production is based on a recent Broadway revival, not the popular 1973 theatrical film.

Although the Crucifixion scene is powerful and moving, other scenes may trouble the Catholic audience, as Judas (Jerome Pradon) is basically depicted as what the press notes describe as a "victim of a divine plan," a "pre-selected pawn." He, not Jesus (Glenn Carter), is in fact the central character of the drama.

There are gay undertones throughout the dramatization, most obviously when Christ is taken before a preening King Herod (Rik Mayall) who, attired in a white tux backed by sequined showgirls, musically taunts Jesus, mocking him as King of the Jews.

For sure, the production, with its contemporary look, is highly theatrical but just as often it is shrill. Jesus and Judas frequently argue and Australian director Gale Edwards concludes, "Judas becomes as much a victim of fate as Jesus does."

The faithful looking for spiritual uplift from this program are unlikely to embrace a vision of the Savior as a mere victim of fate. Indeed, title star Carter has stated, "It's incredible the relevancies the Jesus story has today — not religious ones particularly but humanitarian ones" — hardly an inspiring sentiment to the millions of followers of Christ.

However, some of the songs still resonate 30 years later. In the role of Mary Magdalene, Renee Castle is stunning and her rendition of "I Don't Know How to Love Him" memorable.

Overall, the program is uneven. It's an ambitious production with some touching moments, but the desire to look "edgy" overwhelms the narrative; edgy seems to be the goal of TV fare nowadays.

Mary, the Mother of God, figures nowhere in the story and the beating of Christ before the Crucifixion is excessively gory. Fred Johanson's portrayal of Pontius Pilate seems more perverse than powerful, yet Christ's subsequent agony and his words on the cross come across as very real.

A controversial interpretation of Christ's last week on earth, it would probably not appeal to more conservative Catholics and is too strong for youngsters.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges greater recognition of women in society, church

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said that despite decades of progress in women's rights, women are still awaiting full recognition of their dignity in society and in the church.

Women's dignity is especially harmed by practices like sex tourism, mass sterilization and various forms of violence, the pope said. He termed abortion an "aberration" that distorts the idea of women's rights and weakens those of unborn children.

The pope's comments came in a message to some 600 delegates of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, which held a general assembly in Rome March 17-21. Since 1910, the movement has brought together women from church activist groups all over the world.

The pope told the delegates that, when it comes to appreciation of women and their role, "the journey traveled in the course of the past century has been remarkable."

"In many countries women today enjoy freedom of movement, of decision and of self-expression, a freedom which they have achieved with clear-mindedness and courage," he said.

But he said the delegates were rightly praying for an end to "the many obstacles which still hinder full recognition of the dignity and mission of women in society and within the ecclesial community."

Among the impediments to women's genuine fulfillment, he said, were those created by the prevailing culture across the globe, including models of life that are "contrary to women's deeper nature."

"There have been serious aberrations, some arising from individual selfishness and a refusal to love, others from a mentality that stresses each individual's rights to such an extent that respect for the rights of others is weakened, and particularly those of defenseless unborn children who in many cases are deprived of all legal protection," he said.

The pope said part of the role of the Catholic women's organizations was to be a voice in international forums and "insist that every life is a gift of God and deserves to be respected."

He also encouraged the organizations to help provide more material and moral support to women in difficulty, including victims of poverty and violence. This is especially important today "in a world fascinated by success and efficiency, but in which many people have no share in the benefits of global progress and are becoming poorer and more neglected than ever," he said.

Within the church, he said, "feminine holiness" is indispensable and is rooted in the role of Mary in the early days of the Christian community.

"The world and the church need your specific witness," he said.

The pope said women were uniquely gifted to transmit the faith and apply it to all of life's circumstances, in the family and in the worlds of work, study and leisure.

"Today, at a time of a deep spiritual and cultural crisis, this task has assumed an urgency that cannot be overstated," he said.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS COLUMNIST

Missing out for no good reason

My son, a high school sophomore, is currently in the process of trying out for a spring sport which shall remain nameless except that it involves walking around a lot with a stick in your hand and gazing, mostly in frustration, at a little white ball.

This story, such as it is, isn't about my son. It's about how his chances of making the team have improved in the last week because of someone else — one of the top players in this sport, who has been revealed to be ineligible for one simple reason: He's failing ceramics class.

Don't know how, don't know why, but there it is. The kid currently is flunking pottery, so he can't be on the team.

Has anything like that ever happened to you? Have you ever missed out on doing something important because of another thing you forgot or neglected to do which didn't seem to be that important at the time?

Take school. When it starts, a semester seems like a very long time. A teacher's syllabus, presented at the beginning of the term, can appear to be packed with way too many assignments, some clearly weightier than others.

No, you'd never dream of deliberately taking a zero on a test or term paper. But that quiz? That set of end-of-chapter questions? It's just a little assignment.

Yikes. Did you see that report card? Did you see that you almost made a "C" in that class? Did you hear what the teacher said when you went down on your knees to ask for "just - one - more - point? Please?"

The teacher said: "Well, sure, there's just one point between you and a better grade. Seems to me, though, that you could have fixed it very simply by turning in that set of homework questions you seem to have forgotten about a while back. Yup. That would have done it. Next?"

Little things. It's funny how little things can make a difference. It's true even in our relationships with God.

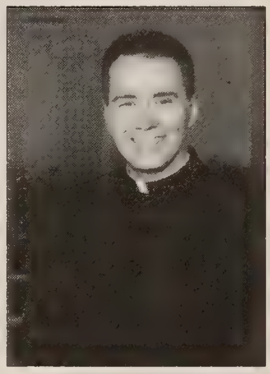
You have to understand, first, that your relationship with God isn't like a class. It's not that God has a big old grade book in which he keeps track of how many assignments you've turned in. Not at all. But we're not talking about God's end of this. We're talking about your end.

The simple fact is that if you neglect what seem like small aspects of your relationship with God, the whole thing will suffer. We get into trouble when we let our spiritual life slide in little ways such as neglecting prayer; forgetting that virtue is something that has to be practiced every day, in small ways; letting your heart be guided by what the world desires, rather than what God desires.

This trouble we get into isn't about punishment or God turning away from us. It's about what we lose when we don't let God's love in.

It's about putting ourselves in a situation in which, because we've not been listening to God in the little ways, we forget what his voice sounds like, and we start to harbor the suspicion that we're all alone in the world, without a soul to care about us.

And that is a pretty sad situation — sadder even than ineligibility due to a grade in pottery, don't you think?



Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE,
DIRECTOR, THE CHRISTOPHERS

Nancy and Mike

My first parish assignment was to a church named St. Boniface. A great blend of cultures and people, it was brimming with activity. The one area that needed some work was for parishioners 18 through 30. So with my pastor's encouragement, I set out to establish our first young adult group. The ministry grew quickly, with members totaling nearly three hundred. Weekly meetings were packed with great people (at that time, many around my age!) who came to meet others, explore their faith and form supportive friendships. Many were at crossroads, trying to determine the purpose of life and their place in society. Many had dated and found the experience wanting. Others simply refused to believe in the reality of real or permanent love. For some, who had had a few rough relationships, marriage was a faraway notion and not for them.

Two in that last group were Mike and Nancy. Let down by love too often, they had grown cynical about the prospects of permanent commitment. Because they were a little needy and unsure of their personal value (broken hearts can do that), and given to late night conversations, they often wanted to hang out with the young priest. There were many times I found their company delightful and uplifting. An equal number of times I would gladly have paid someone to date them and give me a break!

Like most troubles or obstacles in life, their romantic crises found resolution in time. Mike discovered a great gal and, after several years of dating, married her. Nancy was equally blessed.

I mention all this because of their responses to that good fortune. Mike appreciated that he had been a slight burden during the time we'd spent together sifting through his losses in love. So when his life changed for the better, he was grateful for the attention he had gotten. Mike continued to visit, bringing his new love by to get acquainted and remaining a real friend. Mike remembered the down times and never forgot to say "Thanks for the support when I really needed it." To this day, almost fifteen years later, I regularly hear from Mike and his wife Peg. They send pictures of their children and invite me to be a part of their lives. They care about my well-being. They are there for me as I am for them.

Nancy's response was different. In her time of need and loneliness, she counted on me and others with great fervor. She frequently announced that while marriage might never happen, and romantic relationships were not to be trusted, our friendships were "for always."

Then she met a good guy. From the moment it got serious, her friends were left behind. Calls and notes went ignored. Invitations went unanswered. Nancy had finally found a true love, and the friends who nurtured her through the disappointing past no longer served a purpose.

Friendship is a precious gift. It lifts us through the times in life when we're fragile. It can help us to see the wonderful possibilities beyond our immediate sadness. Friendship is a salve that binds wounds we imagine will never heal. We're not obligated to live for our friends. But we are obligated to appreciate the good they do for us in our hour of need because real friendship is never one-sided.

Who are those who have sustained you in the dark times? Have you returned the favor? Have you said thank you? Today would be a good time to remember and to be the friend you would want to have.

Planned Giving

GINA M. RHODES
Guest Columnist

What your will reveals about you

Your will says something about you. First, it says that you care about your loved ones. You want to make it easier for them by taking care of legal matters relating to the transfer of your estate. You want your affairs handled smoothly and without undue inconvenience to those who will be experiencing grief.

Second, having a will means that you have sought to safeguard your estate. You can reduce taxes and probate costs by designating what things will go where and who will be responsible for handling the details. The cost savings resulting from a carefully constructed estate plan means that more of your estate can go to family members and other beneficiaries.

Third, your will provides insight into your lifetime involvements and concerns. Bequests to family members tell of your love and concern for their welfare. And bequests to organizations speak volumes about your values.

For example, when you include your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the Foundation in your will, you reveal that caring for others is worthwhile, and you affirm your belief in the mission of the Catholic faith. Such action encourages those you leave behind to consider how they can help those in need.

Finally, when you include your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the Foundation in your will, you tell us at the diocese that you want us to continue to fulfill the mission of the Catholic faith in this world. You reveal your vision for our future! You encourage us to be good stewards of the new resources you place in our hands.

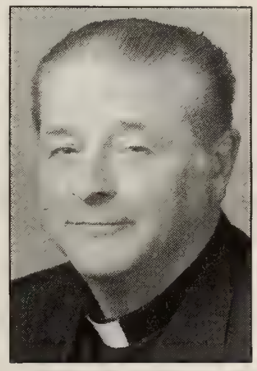
Your will says other things as well about your interests and values and commitments. And because it says so much, you are wise to think it through carefully.

If having a will says so many good things about you, what does the absence of a will reveal?

In the planned giving office at the Diocese of Charlotte, we want you to experience the good feelings of having a well-considered and well-crafted will (or other comprehensive estate planning document). We encourage you to take care of this very important matter. And to help you, we offer a complimentary booklet, "How To Make A Will That Works," which is yours for the asking.

Further, if you want to talk with us about finding a good estate planning attorney or about how to leave a bequest to your parish, Catholic school, agency, the diocese or the Foundation, we are available to help you. This is a free service. Please call me, Gina Rhodes, director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3320 or write to me at 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Scriptural Language Describing Eternal Realities

Q. Your recent column about what happens to our souls when we die raises some serious questions for me. You acknowledge that most questions about eternity can be answered in detail only with some amount of speculation.

But you quote people, for example, who theorize that the next conscious moment after death could be the resurrection. You then say that this could "make sense, insofar as any explanation we might make of the next life can make sense, given our very limited experiences in this life."

Don't these opinions deny such Catholic doctrines as prayers for the dead, the Communion of Saints, the judgment, purgatory or the fact that some people, great saints maybe, go to heaven immediately? Do you really think all the dead are in some giant dormitory until the end of the world? (Louisiana)

A. Your concerns, and those of others who wrote to me, seem to be based on an assumption that somehow there must be time — days, weeks, years — after death, similar to the time divisions we experience in this life.

As you said, I noted that final answers to what and how things happen in eternity involve some speculation. But speculation is not simply pulling ideas out of the blue sky. It's using what we know to try to explain things we don't, and cannot, understand now.

For example we know that time-related terms — words like "immediately," "until," "before," "after" — cannot simply be transferred to the framework of life after death, to eternity. Eternity, or infinity, by definition cannot be divided into parts; there can be no half, or 365th, of eternity.

Thus, can there truly be any "past" or "future" in eternity? As we say, for God all created reality, from beginning to end, is one eternally present moment. In this context, everything happens, so to speak, "immediately," with no time gaps.

It's a different way of thinking than we are used to, of course. But Pope John Paul II, who discussed these matters at length not long ago, noted that when we use words, even biblical words, to describe eternal realities, it is essential to realize we are speaking symbolically and figuratively. Therefore, said the pope, the words need to be interpreted symbolically.

For example, even though we speak of "going to" heaven, or "being in" heaven, or about the "fires of hell," he explained, heaven (and hell and purgatory) are not abstractions or physical places, at least in our experience of "place." They are relationships, or lack of relationships, with the Holy Trinity.

Actually, we're quite accustomed to this in countless other contexts. When Jesus or the creed speak of his sitting at the right hand of the Father, we instinctively know those words are to be understood metaphorically, symbolically.

Thus, scriptural language describing eternal realities cannot be interpreted literally. They are God's attempts, through the sacred authors, somehow to put into human language realities which are ultimately humanly inexpressible.

None of these limitations at all contradicts or minimizes Catholic doctrines, including those you mention in your question. They simply say in another way something we already know, that God's world, his framework of time and space, is not ours.

To require that we interpret those time-related words literally, to insist, for example, that we will literally wait around for centuries after death anticipating the resurrection or whatever else may come, would be to circumscribe God, to enclose and limit his actions inside our earthly frame of time.

It deserves repeating that when our Holy Father says purgatory "is not a place" but a "condition," a "process of purification," he is saying nothing new in Catholic teaching.

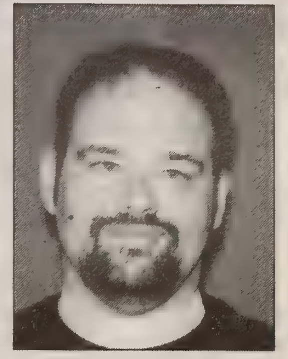
Even though popular Catholic tradition speaks of "time in purgatory" and so on, the church has never officially taught (except as reflecting the figurative language of the Bible) that this purgation or purification is an actual location or that it involves time, again as we experience it.

Obviously, none of this in any way denies that, after sinning in this life, a purification from our imperfections may take place upon death and that this suffering can be lessened, as the pope says, "through prayers and works of love."

To cite Pope John Paul once more, descriptions of heaven and other eternal realities will always remain inadequate. It is good to remember this. Trying to participate in those realities by imitating Christ and sharing in his paschal mystery is more important than describing them.

The above citations from Pope John Paul are mainly from his addresses during papal audiences on July 21 and 28, and Aug. 4, 1999.

Lenten Reflection



FATHER JOHN PUTNAM
Guest Columnist

Love and responsibility

During the C-cycle on the 5th Sunday of Lent, we are invited to listen to the Gospel account of the Woman Caught in Adultery. It is a narrative that is familiar to all of us. It has been the topic of many spiritual reflections as well as the object of many academic pursuits. At the core of the account, however, are two unmistakable realities, the enduring love of God and our response to that love.

We know the scene well. The woman, caught in adultery, is thrown before Jesus as a trap, with a crowd all too ready to stone her to death. Jesus' response to the crowd is simple yet profound, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." If the narrative ended here, that, by itself, would be a wonderful reminder of God's mercy. However, the narrative continues.

After asking, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" Jesus expresses the depths of the Father's love when he says, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Love and responsibility might seem at first glance to be a rather odd title for a Lenten reflection. Yet, within the title we see, God's wonderful plan for us unfold.

Daily we are offered the infinite mercy and love of God. At the same time, with the offering comes responsibility. Pope John Paul II used this title in his treatise on love, marriage and human sexuality, yet it is a most appropriate description of the call of all Christians. Our responsibility is to accept the love and mercy of God and allow that gift to guide us in our daily lives; to guide us to take responsibility for our actions; to go and sin no more.

The Apostle James reminds us that faith without works is dead (2:17). In other words, we can profess our faith in the Lord every day of the year yet if that faith is not expressed in the concrete events and decisions of our lives, it is an empty faith. Jesus summarizes this call in Matthew 7:21 when he says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

The narrative of the adulterous woman illustrates that regardless of our weakness, regardless of our sinfulness, regardless of our past failures, the Lord ever desires to lift us up and set us on the path that leads to life. We believe and know, however, that Jesus will never force us to follow the path. He makes the offer and allows us to decide.

The Lenten season provides us ample opportunities to accept the love of God. We hear about his love in the Scriptures. We experience his love in the sacraments, especially in the sacraments of penance and Eucharist. As this season draws to a close and as we look toward Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum, let us accept the responsibility that comes with the Lord's love and commit ourselves to not only professing the faith but also living it today and throughout the year.

Father John Putnam is pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury and is a judge in the diocesan tribunal.

Face of Pope John XXIII found well preserved 38 years after death

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Church officials who opened the casket of Pope John XXIII found his face well preserved nearly 38 years after his death, but the Vatican downplayed talk of a miracle.

The discovery was made in mid-January, when Vatican officials and technicians exhumed Pope John's body in a "recognition" ceremony, in anticipation of its transferal from the grotto to the main level of St. Peter's Basilica.

A detailed report on the procedure, drawn up by the officials present, was published by a Venetian newspaper March 24.

The exhumation took most of a day, since workmen had to open a marble casing and then three successive caskets: one of oak, one of lead and one of cypress, in which the body was closed.

"Once freed from the cloth that covered it, the face of the blessed (Pope John) appeared intact, with the eyes closed and the mouth slightly open, and bearing the features that immediately called to mind the familiar appearance of the venerated pontiff," the report said.

At a March 27 press conference, Cardinal Virgilio Noe, one of those who witnessed the exhumation, said the entire body was incorrupt.

The body was witnessed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, and several others. After it was officially recognized, the body was sprayed with an anti-bacterial agent and the casket was resealed hermetically.

Like other recent popes, the body of Pope John was not embalmed, although it was treated with chemicals so that it could be displayed for the faithful before burial.

The discovery produced considerable surprise among church people in Rome, but Father Ciro Benedettini, a Vatican spokesman, cautioned against reading too much into the finding.

"Objectively, the body was discovered to be preserved. But this does not necessarily mean that a supernatural event was involved," he said.

Cardinal Noe also downplayed the finding, noting the relatively short time since the pontiff's burial. He cited the case of Pope Boniface VIII, whose body and burial clothing were found completely intact in 1605, 302 years after his death. But at a subsequent exhumation in 1835, all that remained were the pontiff's bones.

A Vatican technician present at Pope John's exhumation said that in his view there was "nothing miraculous" about the body's preservation.

"When he died, some measures were taken for the display of the body for the veneration of the faithful. It also should not be forgotten that the remains were kept in three caskets, one of which was sealed lead," Nazareno Gabrielli, a technician at the Vatican Museums, told the newspaper Corriere della Sera.

Other experts said that while this type of preservation was unusual, it could be explained by the fact that little or no oxygen could have reached the remains.

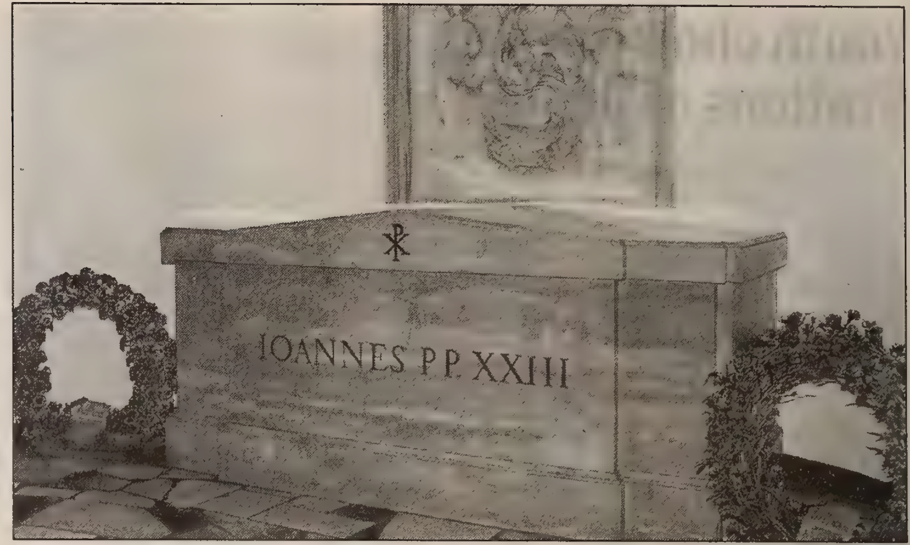


PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Church officials who opened the casket of Pope John XXIII found his face well preserved nearly 38 years after his death, but the Vatican downplayed talk of a miracle.

But popular Catholic writer Vittorio Messori appeared to speak for many Italians when he said it was clearly a miracle.

"When the body of a blessed or a saint is discovered to be uncorrupted, this is considered a sign, and is interpreted as an anticipation of the resurrection. So it is also a confirmation of sanctity," Messori said.

Last year Pope John Paul II beatified Pope John, who is universally remembered for his sense of humanity and for his leadership in convoking the Second Vatican Council.

Late last year, the Vatican approved plans to move Pope John's burial place to the main basilica level. It had attracted hundreds of visitors daily when it was located among other papal tombs in the subterranean level of St. Peter's.

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Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Director of Music Ministry: Part-time position for growing 800-member parish. St. Mary's Church, Shelby and Christ the King Mission, Kings Mountain is seeking qualified person proficient in organ and with vocal ability to work with cantors and choir. Responsibilities include one Saturday evening service and two Sunday services (one in Kings Mountain and one in Shelby). Salary commensurate with education and experience. Send resume and references to: St. Mary's Music Search Committee, 818 McGowan Rd., Shelby NC 28150 or Fax: (704)487-0187. For more information on our parish, visit www.rc.net/charlotte/stmaryshelby

Faith Formation Coordinator: Part-time. This position is for grades K-6 and Confirmation Program. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Please send resume and references to: Search Committee, St. Ann's Church, 3635 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209.

Preschool Teachers: St. Mark Parish, Huntersville, is seeking dedicated and spiritual teachers for its new preschool opening fall 2001. The lead teacher candidate will be degreed in Early Childhood Education or similar education field. The assistant teacher candidate will be at least 21 and a high school graduate. Both candidates shall have experience working with young children. Competitive salary and some benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: Preschool Director, St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Road, Huntersville, NC, 28707. Call (704)948-8015 for information or fax: (704)948-8018.

Principal: Archdiocese of Atlanta. St. John Neumann Regional School, located in Lilburn, Georgia. This SACS accredited school serves 500 students in grades K-8. Position offers opportunity for innovative, highly motivated instructional leader. Qualifications: Master's degree in Educational Administration, at least three years of administrative experience, certifiable in Georgia. Competitive salary and benefits; effective July 1, 2001. Submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to: Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Atlanta, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308-1984.

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Youth choir performs contemporary Stations of the Cross

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — Lent is a time for repentance, sacrifice and forgiveness. Helping local youth get interested in Lenten activities, 15 teen-agers from St. Eugene Church in Asheville staged a musical performance of the Stations of the Cross, combining their talent, eloquence and faith.

Lending their own prayers and selective musical pieces, the youth transformed the Stations of the Cross into a contemplative and reverent prayer service. These young men and women, ages 11 to 18, reached into the depths of their own experiences to bring parishioners their version of what it must have been like to walk the road with Jesus as he journeyed to his final destination.

Devoting months before their performance, Rita Pisano, director of Children's and Youth Music at St. Eugene, instructed each youth to reflect on the thoughts and feelings of the people surrounding Jesus and to find parallels to the physical hardships of that time.

"I asked them to come up with songs that matched what they thought Jesus may be experiencing as he walked the path to Calvary," said Pisano. "If you give them what to think about, they will find it all by themselves."

Andrew Richardson, 14, a prayer reader and eighth-grader attending Asheville Christian Academy, commented, "I like to support our Youth Group, but I never really thought about the Stations of the Cross until now. Being in this program has made me wonder, would I be willing to do this? Could I follow Jesus to the Cross?"

Opening the performance with Robert Batastini's 1942 African-American gospel song, "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?", the audience had a chance to reflect upon what lay ahead for Jesus.

At the third Station, as Jesus falls the first time, Elena Pisano, 15, and Hana Chmielewski, 14, astounded the audience with their cherubic rendition of the pop group Indigo Girls song "Secure Yourself."

Elena is an accomplished singer/dancer whose credits include numerous performances with the Asheville Lyric Opera, Asheville Jazz Works and Asheville Madrigal Singers.

"When I sing anywhere, it's a gift from God," said Elena. "I'm thankful for this gift. We got a chance to use music that our age group relates to, and that made the performance all the more meaningful for us."

At Station five, when Simon is yanked from the crowd to help Jesus carry his cross, the choir resounded with Simon & Garfunkel's '60s classic, "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Jesus speaks to the women at Station eight. Through the chosen number, "Be Not Afraid," the audience was reaffirmed that Jesus goes before us and promises that if we follow him, he will give us rest.

Singing the Beatles classic "Let It Be," Ricky Kovacs, 14, sounding just like a young John Lennon, made it easy to hear Jesus' resignation as he falls a third time.

As reader Ami Pisano, 11, added, "I like to do things like this because it makes church and the Bible more understandable, and it's coming from my age group."

Hearing a well-worn steel pot and wooden spoon for a musical instrument, the audience shuttered when the sound effects accompanied the slamming of the nails into the flesh of Jesus at Station eleven. The reader implored all to reflect upon the hideous evils that exist in our world today.

When Jesus is gently placed in the tomb, the choir sang another Beatles classic, "Yesterday," instilling shock waves of emptiness and grief.

At the end of the performance, the church was invited to join in singing "I Danced in the Morning," followed by Hana Chmielewski's hand-clapping violin rendition of this Celtic folk song: "I am the Lord of the dance, said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he." It brought the audience to their feet in awe.

"There's nothing more beautiful than watching kids discover God", added Pisano. "Every year I am touched by what they teach me."

LEGACY,
from page 5

he added, the archbishop himself knew that his name was on a list of those to be executed.

By becoming the voice for justice, by believing in the transcendent power of God and by knowing that his martyrdom was inevitable, Romero, with his voice, "would become the incarnate voice of Christ in El Salvador."

As a leader in the church, Archbishop Romero was a man marked by greatness, dilemma and tragedy, Roberto said. Moreover, he added, the archbishop believed that through faith, profound change was possible.

"To each one of us Christ is saying: If you want your life and mission to be fruitful like mine, do as I," Archbishop Romero said in an April 1979 homily. "Be converted into a seed that lets itself be buried. Let yourself be killed. Do not be afraid."

Then, later that month: "A civilization of love that did not demand justice of people would not be a true civilization. ... It is a caricature of love to try to cover over with alms what is lacking in justice, to patch over with an appearance of benevolence when social justice is missing. True love begins by demanding what is just in the relations of those who love."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Diane O'Madigan, St. Leo parishioner, dies at 62

WINSTON-SALEM — Mrs. Diane Roberta O'Madigan, 62, of Winston-Salem died Thursday, March 22, 2001, at Forsyth Medical Center after a long battle with cancer.

Diane was born on March 15, 1939, in Malden, Mass., to Charles and Gertrude Hartman. She was a member of St. Leo's Catholic Church. She was a caring, loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and most importantly a friend to every one. Diane was preceded in death by her father. Her mother passed away a scant 10 days ago.

Survivors include her husband of 43 years, Rev. Mr. Dennis O'Madigan, a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Charlotte; three daughters, Kathleen Hinsley and husband Robert of Salisbury, Patricia Sechrest and husband Richard of Winston-Salem, and Sharon Dunham and husband Keith of Concord; a son, Dennis Michael O'Madigan and wife Stephanie of Charlotte; a sister, Lee Woodbury of Atkenson, N.H.; two brothers, William Hartman and wife Jannette of Gilbert, Ariz., and the Rev. Charles Hartman and wife Anona of Quincy, Mass., and a special friend, Marie Collins.

Diane loved and was loved in return by six wonderful grandchildren, Matthew, Alexandra, Meaghan, Brian, Bri and Emma. A Memorial Mass of the Angels was celebrated Saturday, March 24, at St. Leo's Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, St. Leo's Building Fund or a charity of your choice.

Lorraine LaPointe of St. Margaret Church dies at 66

MAGGIE VALLEY — Lorraine Alice Mills LaPointe of Maggie Valley died Friday, March 23, 2001. She was 66.

Daughter of the late Reginald and Alice Guay Mills, LaPointe was a native of Laconia, N.H. She worked as a screener for the Hunter Blood Center in Florida and was a hostess for 13 years at Joey's Pancake House in Maggie Valley, N.C.

She was an active parishioner at St. Margaret Catholic Church in Maggie Valley, where on March 9 of this year, she witnessed the ordination of her husband, Jerry, to the permanent diaconate. She was active in the church choir, was in the ministry to the sick and dying, and served as an altar server and eucharistic minister. She was also an advocate for cancer prevention.

Augustinian Father Frank Doyle, pastor of St. Margaret, presided at the March 26 funeral Mass at St. Margaret Church.

Lorraine LaPointe is survived by her husband, Rev. Mr. Jerry LaPointe of Maggie Valley; two sons, Michael and his wife, Brenda, and Peter LaPointe, all of Clearwater, Fla.; four daughters, Christine Lavine, Marlene and Ken Csunyo, Lisa and Bob Johnson, all of Clearwater, Fla., and Alicia and Louis Montez of St. Petersburg, Fla.; and seven grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to St. Margaret Catholic Church, 1422 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751-1359, or to the American Cancer Society.

Vatican urges U.N. in monitoring bio-engineered foods

By JOHN NORTON

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The environmental and human health risks of bio-engineered foods demand stronger international norms and controls, a Vatican official said.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, the Vatican's permanent observer to U.N. food and hunger agencies, said the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization in particular should consider taking a leading role, especially in education and preventative measures.

The diplomat spoke March 26 at the 16th session of the Rome-based agency's Committee on Agriculture. His speech was released at the Vatican March 28.

He said the health and environmental issues raised by genetically altered foods have a global impact and require the enactment of international standards.

Such policies must incorporate a "principle of precaution," the Vatican diplomat said.

He said the Food and Agriculture Organization should actively pursue "biosecurity" questions, drawing on its position as a centralized agency of information and research on agricultural issues.

"This would permit the organization to continue to help member states enact control procedures for the food production phase and means of intervention in the face of emergencies," he said.

Greater international cooperation was also needed to protect "diverse agricultural ecosystems" from the consequences of climactic change and flooding, he said.

Life's dedication to faith lends ministerial support

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Guy Piche' did not know what to expect after receiving the phone call to preside at funeral services for a motorcycle rider with Hell's Angels. He looked out at the sea of black leather jackets and t-shirts and wondered how he would eulogize the deceased and respect his family, friends and the deceased's mother. He had to keep focused as he read some of the obscene messages on the t-shirts of the attendants and felt a little strange riding in the procession in a cavalcade of motorcycles. However, he was able to perform the ceremony with the support of those in attendance.

"It touched him that he was able to be a part of that group, and it made it meaningful and memorable for them in a reverent and solemn way," said his wife, Rachel Piche'. "They accepted him as being a part of their group because he is able to make the service about the people and not about him."

Instilled by his parents, his desire and ability to serve others helped build the foundation for Rev. Mr. Piche's decision to enter the permanent diaconate. Faith and spirituality have always been a part of his life since his childhood in Detroit, Mich.

"Mom and Dad were insistent on God being important in our (his and his brother's) lives and being active in the church, school and community. I think this is where my vocation came from," said Rev. Mr. Piche'.

Actually, Rev. Mr. Piche's first inclination was toward the priesthood. He had applied to and had been accepted into a seminary, but the call of a future family was stronger than the call to priesthood. So, he decided to attend college. During that time, his family moved to Charlotte after his father received a job transfer, and the rough Michigan winters prompted him to migrate South along with his family.

Rev. Mr. Guy Piche'

"At first, I thought I was coming to the end of the world because Charlotte was slower, but I liked that," said Rev. Mr. Piche'. Exploration of the growing city and surrounding areas led Rev. Mr. Piche' to Belmont Abbey College. The small student body of the Catholic institution appealed to him, and he entered into the accounting program, not missing any time between semesters.

The Piche' family ideals quickly took hold of his college life as Rev. Mr. Piche' became involved in the college and continued to develop his spiritual life. "It was a great experience for me because it served as an opportunity to exchange ideas and express my feelings about faith," he said. "Abbot Emeritus Walter Coggin and Father Cuthbert Allen focused me on a good spiritual journey which enhanced my life, and they continue to be a guiding influence."

While attending school, he met his future wife Rachel, a cradle Catholic from Belmont. While dating, he took a job as an auditor in Florida; however, the distance proved to be too much for him, and he asked to be transferred to the Charlotte office to be near Rachel. After about a year, the two were married in 1971.

"The dear Lord guided me to Rachel and her faith has always been strong. Her involvement with the church was a good thing for me. We have been a good influence on one another and have guided one another through our faith journeys."

The couple moved back to Belmont and became active in Mrs. Piche's home church, Queen of the Apostles, where she had been the church organist since her teens. Rev. Mr. Piche' also became active in his new parish home as parish council and finance council chairpersons and with his two children's education on the diocesan and local schoolboards.

After working with Archbishop John F. Donoghue on the diocesan schoolboard, Rev. Mr. Piche' was asked to write a job description for a diocesan fiscal manager. When finished, the archbishop asked him if he would like the job.

Also, during that time, Rev. Mr. Piche' had been having conversations with his pastor about becoming a permanent deacon and entered into formation. Thus, he began a new job, and after being ordained in 1988, started in his ministry almost simultaneously.

"I wanted to deepen my spiritual life and to continue doing things for the Church. It was tremendous for Rachel and me and gave us the opportunity to grow spiritually together through the classes, and it deepened our prayer life," said Rev. Mr. Piche'.

As the diocese continued to grow, a diocesan director of properties was needed to monitor the diocese's holdings. Rev. Mr. Piche', who had been assigned to Queen of the Apostles, fit the bill and was named director of properties. He was also assigned to the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory as director and chaplain, a job which he says has provided him with the chance to spread the faith to others.

"Being a deacon, I am able to reach people on a one-on-one level. So many people come to the center with a shaded view of Catholicism, but after visiting, they leave with a more positive attitude toward Catholicism. They are able to recognize the real presence of peace and God's love in this area."

Because of the demands and travel with his diocesan jobs, Rev. Mr. Piche' asked to be relieved of his parish duties so he could focus his energy on his diocesan duties. On weekends, he and his wife visit churches around the diocese to inspect and gain a feeling of the parishes' spirits. His ministry is still at the forefront of his life through marriage preparation and performing marriage ceremonies, including one for his son.

"It was a very moving and fulfilling day to see that everything we taught him come to fruition and to see that they share the same love that Rachel and I have. To have been an integral part of that because of my ministry as a permanent deacon was a special gift from God."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Lent
2001

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

—John 8: 12

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The Catholic
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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Inside

Church must appreciate diversity, speaker says ... Page 5

Catholic bookshop celebrates 20 years ... Page 7

Local News

Sisters host vocation day for women ... Page 9

Nicaraguan finds home in Charlotte Diocese ... Page 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

> "'Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.'"
>
> — Matthew 28: 5-6

JESUS — THE GIFT OF THE FATHER'S LOVE

Holy Week invites us into intimacy with Jesus as we relive the events that brought us new life through His suffering, death and Resurrection. As His disciples, Jesus has asked that we witness our love for Him by sharing that love with our neighbors, even the least among us. Allow me to share with you the story of how one man experienced the new life granted him through faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

He loved Charlotte and was, in turn, loved by those whom he served in priestly ministry. There are countless stories that describe how he brought God's mercy and love to the needy in our midst. He literally walked the streets of Charlotte searching for homeless people and inviting them to the security and comfort within a shelter. He used to distribute food to hungry men and women who lived under bridges and in alleys. Through his example and encouragement, food programs and shelters have won strong support within the Charlotte community. Like Mother Teresa, he ministered to those ill or dying with AIDS. He also labored to bring Catholic homosexuals back to the Church. While he received criticism from those who would restrict God's love, he received many expressions of gratitude from mothers and fathers for his compassionate ministry to their gay and lesbian children. Father Gene McCreesh, SJ has left St. Peter Church in Charlotte and is now receiving hospice care in Baltimore, Maryland. During these final days of his life, Father Gene continues to remind us that ALL IS GRACE WHEN MADE ONE WITH JESUS.

Holy Week is a time for the enrichment of the soul as we walk with Jesus through His suffering and death to the glory of His Resurrection. We are invited on Holy Thursday to celebrate the sacrament of His love in the gift of His Sacred Body and Blood. Good Friday bids us to contemplate "the wondrous love" (to again quote Mother Teresa) of Jesus taking upon Himself the sins of the world, the innocent dying for the guilty. The beauty of the Easter Vigil and the Masses that follow ring with the joy of Jesus' triumph over sin and death. Easter calls us to "die to the life of sin and rise to life in Jesus." God grant us the grace to spend these days in a spirit of faith that will deepen our love for Him and help us to follow Him with an undivided heart.

William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin

Conference focuses on moral, ethical issues of capital punishment

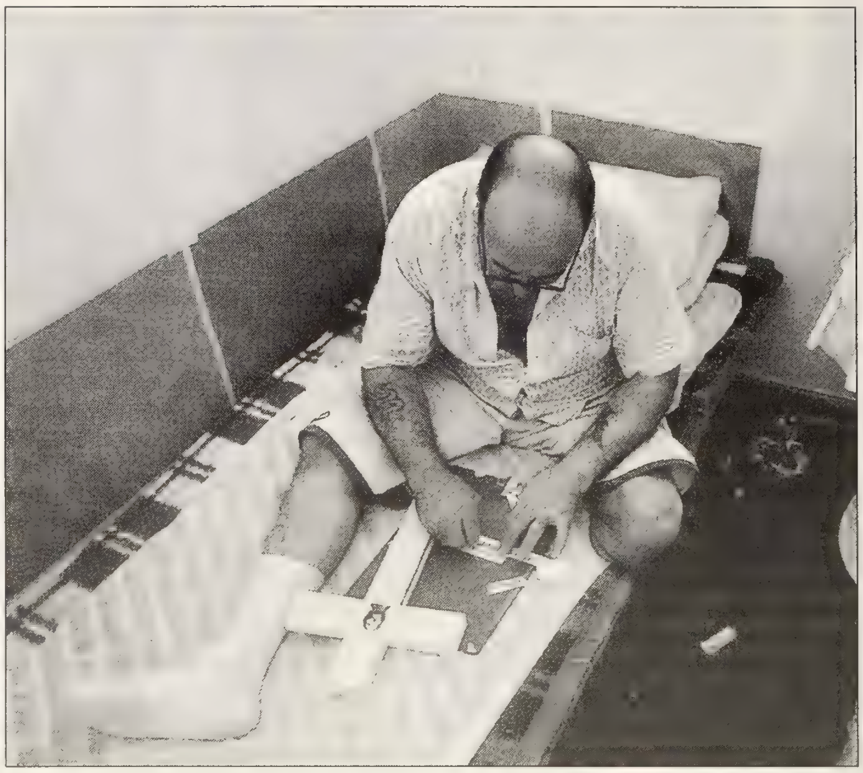
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The tide is turning on U.S. support for the death penalty, said speakers at a two-day conference on the subject at The Catholic University of America in Washington. But that turn has less to do with people changing their minds about the morality of execution as crime policy than it does with public understanding that the way the United States handles capital punishment is deeply flawed, they said. The conference on the morality of the death penalty brought together lawyers, ethicists, philosophers, sociologists and clergy. It was sponsored by the university's Columbus School of Law and its Interdisciplinary Program in Law and Religion, and the School of Religious Studies.

Protesters seek less radiation from Vatican Radio antennae

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Several hundred protesters gathered at Vatican Radio's office near St. Peter's Square April 1 to demand that the broadcaster lower the levels of its transmission radiation, which they say endangers the health of nearby residents. The protesters, many with children in tow, wore T-shirts proclaiming, "No to (radio) waves, Yes to life," while their representatives discussed the citizens' concerns during an inconclusive half-hour meeting with the Vatican Radio's directors. The demonstration was the latest in a monthslong dispute over the radiation levels emitted from the radio's cluster of antennae in Rome's outskirts.

Youths need to hear Gospel's demanding invitation, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Preparing for a meeting with youths from Canada and Rome, Pope John Paul II said young people today need to hear the Gospel's demanding invitation to deny oneself and "take up the cross." Speaking at a Sunday blessing April 1, the pope said Lent was a good time to reflect on Christ's call for self-sacrifice, which should be "the Christian's style." "Jesus does not propose mortification as an end in itself. In reality, to deny oneself and take up the cross means assuming completely one's responsibility before God and other people," he said. The pope said that as the church asks young people to orient their lives toward Christ, it should not make it sound easy.



CNS photo from Reuters

Inmate makes cross at notorious Brazil prison

An inmate with an amputated leg makes a cross to pass time at the Carandiru prison in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in late March. Brazilian officials have promised to shut down the notorious prison, one of Latin America's largest, within a year and move inmates to several smaller modern penitentiaries. The Carandiru complex, built to hold 3,250 inmates, houses more than twice that many.

Franciscans develop new Web site for inactive Catholics

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Combining the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi with 21st-century technology, Franciscan friars in Cincinnati unveiled a new Web site March 21 dedicated to inviting and assisting inactive Catholics to return to the church. Named www.OnceCatholic.org, the site is sponsored by the Franciscans of the St. John the Baptist province, based in Cincinnati, and St. Anthony Messenger Press. The goal of the new Web site is to "offer people a welcoming place to stop in on their quest for spirituality, with the hope of reconnecting them with a local Catholic parish," said Franciscan Father Greg Friedman, a member of the project's development team.

Priests for Life launching $12 million media campaign

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Priests for Life, with a budget of $4 million last year, plans to spend three times that amount through the end of 2002 on a media campaign reaching out to women who have had or are considering an abortion. Billboards with the slogan "The Doors of the Church Are Open" are already going up in the New York, Los Angeles and Chicago metropolitan areas, with San Francisco and Washington to follow. They will be augmented by bus and train advertisements, as well as a series of four television commercials to be aired first in those areas, and then in other cities. Father Frank Pavone, the national director of Priests for Life, said the billboards were being concentrated in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles because "those three areas are, sadly, abortion capitals in our country."

European bishops urge overhaul of EU agriculture policies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While expressing concern for the plight of European farmers after disastrous outbreaks of disease among livestock, bishops called for an overhaul of the agriculture policies of the European Union. "The current agriculture policy is not economically, socially or ecologically sustainable," said German Bishop Josef Homeyer of Hildesheim, president of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community. The EU's price guarantee policy has led to serious overproduction, harming the land and flooding the international market with exports, Bishop Homeyer said March 30 at a Vatican press conference. Representatives from bishops' conferences in the 15 countries which make up the European Union met March 29-30 at the Vatican. Bishops from Poland, Malta and Switzerland — non-EU nations — joined them for discussions, as did the top officers of the larger Council of European Episcopal Conferences.

Greek Orthodox leader urges pope to address Catholic 'intransigence'

ATHENS, Greece (CNS) — The head of Greece's Orthodox Church appealed for Pope John Paul II to take "further steps" toward recognizing Catholic Church "intransigence" before his planned May visit to the country. Greek Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens praised Pope John Paul for regretting past "church errors," but said others also must be addressed. Meanwhile, a priest who is a Catholic cathedral administrator said most Catholic clergy believe the pilgrimage should be postponed because of current church-state disputes. Archbishop Christodoulos said in a March 23 statement: "For the first time in the Vatican's age-old intransigence, this pope has shown serious signs of apologizing. But this is barely the first step. There are many further ones which need to be taken."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 12 — 7:30 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper
St. Patrick, Charlotte

April 13 — 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

April 14 — 8 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

April 15 — 11 a.m.
Easter Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

April 18 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Francis of Assisi, Mocksville

Diocesan planner

April

8 CHARLOTTE — The diocesan choir rehearsals for the Chrism Mass continue today from 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1521 Dilworth Rd. East. The Chrism Mass, being celebrated by Bishop Curlin, is being held on April 10 at 11 a.m., also at the cathedral. For further information, call Dr. Larry Stratemeyer at (704) 334-2283, Ext. 22.

CHARLOTTE — The Raiders Association from Our Lady of Assumption School is hosting a "Family Day of Golf" today at noon at the Larkhaven Golf Club. The day includes celebrity guest host Ethan Horton, snacks, lunch, drinks and an afternoon of golfing for kids of all ages. A professional golf clinic, clubs and prizes are being provided for the young participants, and the adults can compete to win prizes. For information, call Diana Kennedy at (704) 548-0568.

CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on April 12 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on April 22 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, is hosting a Holy Week retreat today through April 15. All are welcome to join the Augustinian Friars and the parish family of St. Margaret Church to celebrate liturgies throughout the week and share in the celebration of the sacred Triduum. For more information, call (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

10 SWANNANOA — At St. Margaret

Scientists, others debate human cloning on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Researchers who intend to clone human beings clashed with genetics experts who oppose it in a seven-hour congressional hearing March 28. The Bush administration and members of the House subcommittee that convened the hearing indicated a strong desire to create a federal law banning human cloning — a move thwarted three years ago by an inability to reach consensus on specifics of such a law. Human reproductive cloning should not be attempted because "it is simply too dangerous technically and raises far too many ethical and social questions," said lead-off witness Dr. Thomas Okarma, president of the biopharmaceutical company Geron. He expressed opposition on behalf of Biotechnology Industry Organization, a group of more than 950 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state centers and related organizations throughout the United States and 33 other nations.

Church leaders call for 'urgent conclusion' to Mideast conflict

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant church leaders in the Holy Land issued a joint appeal for an "urgent conclusion" to the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A return to peace negotiations is the only way to ensure the well-being of all the region's peoples, they said. Their statement was published March 28 by Fides, the Vatican's missionary news service. "The violence which has intensified over these past months will only end when both parties in the conflict make a determined effort to respect each other's rights while affirming the dignity of every human life," said the Christian leaders. They also appealed for more international humanitarian aid to those caught up in conflict zones, saying that "many are desperate for food, clothing, shelter and the like."

Nuns in eastern India seek police protection after death threats

LALGARH, India (CNS) — Nuns in an eastern Indian village sought police protection after Hindu militants threatened to kill them if they did not let Hindus worship under a tree on the convent grounds. Some 100 militants armed with bamboo sticks blocked five Holy Cross nuns and eight other women from entering the grounds in mid-March after the women attended Mass outside, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The convent is in Lalgarh, a village in Bihar state's West Champaran district, some 600 miles east of New Delhi. Sister Pushpa, superior of the convent, said the Hindus demanded land around a peepul tree on the convent's 40-acre property because they consider the tree holy and want to build a temple near it.

National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly debuts

BOSTON (CNS) — The National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly has debuted as a new publication of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Boston. John M. Haas, president of the center, said the new journal is "written for those who respect the great moral tradition of the church and who desire to see its time-honored principles applied to pressing contemporary issues that trouble the conscience of the nation." The quarterly will present an in-depth analysis of the range of bioethical issues as a complement to Ethics & Medics, the center's monthly commentary for more than 25 years.

Pope urges lay people to pray Liturgy of the Hours

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for greater promotion among Christian lay people of the Liturgy of the Hours, traditional daily prayers structured around the Psalms. He said the Psalter was the "ideal source" of Christian prayer, to which the church should turn to deepen its "art of prayer" in the third millennium. Speaking to pilgrims March 28 at the weekly general audience, the pope said he was beginning a series of talks on the Psalter "to encourage and to help everyone pray with the same words used by Jesus, (which have been) present for millennia in the prayer of Israel and of the church."

Social, economic conditions worsening in Macedonia, says priest

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Macedonian priest warned of worsening social and economic conditions in his country, following the mid-March launch of an ethnic Albanian rebellion. However, he added that the Catholic Church enjoyed "good relations" with other religious communities and was ready to act as a mediator. "Our church is already serving as a bridge," said Father Antun Siramotic, director of Macedonia's Caritas organization, the local church's charitable agency. "We are helping the poor and marginalized from all social groups, and we have no conflict with Orthodox and Muslims. Thanks to this closeness to each side, we are well positioned to foster unity," he said.

April 6, 2001

Dear Friends in Christ:

At Easter, we ask your generous support and response to the second collection which will be taken in all churches of our Diocese to help meet the needs of our Seminary and Priests' Continuing Education programs.

We presently have 20 men in various seminaries and we await the time when they will be able to begin their service, as priests, in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Also, the Diocese sponsors workshops and other programs to help keep our priests abreast of developments in theology and pastoral practices, thereby enabling them to better serve the faithful.

Today, the cost of education continues to rise, and only through your kindness and generosity are we able to meet the escalating expenses. Please be assured of our gratitude and appreciation for your generous response to the Seminary & Priests Continuing Education Collection, to be taken the weekend of April 14-15.

Wishing you the blessings of this holy Lenten Season, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mauricio W. West

Very Reverend Mauricio W. West
Vicar General and Chancellor

Mary Church, 102 Andrew Place, during Holy Week, the schedule is as follows: Today - 6 p.m. Seder meal with covered dish; April 12 - 7 p.m. Mass and washing of the feet followed by Eucharistic adoration from 8 p.m. until midnight; April 13 - children's Stations of the Cross at noon, Mass at 3 p.m. with veneration of the cross and a 7 p.m. presentation of the "Heart of the Cross"; April 14 - 10 a.m. blessing of the food and Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. and April 15 - 8:30 and 11 a.m. Masses. For details, call (828) 686-8833.

21 BLAIRSVILLE, Ga. — A Life in the Spirit seminar is taking place on eight Saturdays beginning this morning from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and ending on June 9. St. Francis of Assisi Church, Hwy. 76/515, halfway between Blairsville and Young Harris, is hosting this seminar geared toward helping people prepare for a deeper walk with the Lord and a further indwelling of his Holy Spirit. For details about this free seminar extended to all Charlotte diocesan parishioners, call Jerry or Madeline Rousseau at (706) 781-6292 or Rev. Mr. Larry Casey at (706) 781-6636.

CHARLOTTE — The fund-raising committee of Our Lady of Assumption Church is hosting a golf tournament at Larkhaven Golf Club, 4801 Camp Stewart Rd. today, and golfers and sponsors are needed to participate in the event. Proceeds will benefit the church debt reduction fund. For more information and entry forms, contact Vince Coscia at (704) 536-4287 or (704) 907-3163 or e-mail vacoscia@AOL.com.

22 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday today at 3 p.m. with traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The sacrament of reconciliation is available at 2 p.m. For more information, call (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Because of Holy Week, the charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Father Matthew Leonard from St. Gabriel Church is the celebrant for this month's Mass. For information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

23 CHARLOTTE — Because of Holy Week, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in her Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720.

CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

MORGANTON — Catholic Social Services and St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., are offering parish ministry classes for those who are ministering or would like to minister to the sick and elderly homebound. The classes; covering ministry, sick and elderly issues and administering the Eucharist to those in homes and hospitals; are being held at the church hall beginning today and continuing on the next two Mondays, April 30 and May 7. Participants will receive certificates and must bring their experience and willingness. Call Meg Smith at (828) 438-0774.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Soup's on at Shelby parish; faith-sharing on the menu

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

SHELBY — On Wednesday evenings during Lent, St. Mary Parish resembled a buzzing cafeteria at dinner hour as much as it did a center of faith. Parishioners from the Shelby area gathered at the church to share meals and stories — soup and substance, if you will.

For the second consecutive year, the Catholic parish in Shelby hosted a Lenten program of sharing simple soup meals and discussing faith issues. Each Wednesday, about 125 parishioners from St. Mary and Christ the King Church in nearby Kings Mountain gathered for spiritual and dietary sustenance.

Father Eric Houseknecht, pastor, facilitated the sessions. Every week he discussed aspects of Jewish tradition and culture in the life of Jesus.

"I'd basically try to get people in the mindset of how important God is in the total life of the Jewish person, and that this is what cradled the humanity of Jesus Christ," said Father Houseknecht. "It's from these roots and traditions that you begin to make sense of some of our traditions and celebrations."

> **"We're building on the basic tenets of Jesus and of all family life; that is, we're returning to some of the family values of gathering together and breaking bread, sharing a meal and talking about our day – only in this case, we're talking about our faith," Father Houseknecht said. "We're trying to have a family night, and we're making that an important night here."**

The group took a historical, cultural and theological journey into the Jewish tradition, focusing on who God is from the Jewish perspective; the Jewish concept of creation; the importance of Moses; David and the prophets; the development of the Scriptures and the rituals, celebrations and ceremonies that define Jewish faith life.

The program concluded April 4 with a discussion of the Passover Seder, a meal-and-prayer service Jews celebrate in their homes on the night before the first day of Passover.

Marisa Alvarez, a parishioner and the administrative assistant at St. Mary, said discussing Jewish tradition was an opportunity to appreciate her own faith more.

"I learned a lot," said Alvarez. "Everybody just sits on the edge of their seats, waiting for what Father is going to say next."

Mary Frye, a parishioner and the communication commission chairperson at the parish, was taken by stories of the Jews' faithfulness. "Had Christ not come, I would have been Jewish because they relate everything to God," she said, adding, "When Christ came, he took the Jewish customs and made them relevant for Christian living for the whole world, not just one selected people."

Father Houseknecht said he was overwhelmed by the interest and numbers of the parishioners who have attended. He added that the program has truly been a family affair.

"The most exciting part of it for me is it incorporates and includes all members of the families, from the very young to the old," he said. "We're doing intergenerational catechesis here."

The parishioners are so enthusiastic about the soup and substance program that they are planning on expanding it to year-round potluck dinners and discussion sessions. Father Houseknecht said such a program brings a Catholic faith community together on a night traditionally associated with church gatherings, especially in the South.

"We're building on the basic tenets of Jesus and of all family life; that is, we're returning to some of the family values of gathering together and breaking bread, sharing a meal and talking about our day — only in this case, we're talking about our faith," Father Houseknecht said. "We're trying to have a family night, and we're making that an important night here."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Caritas Sierra Leone provides help to former female soldiers

By **ALPHA JALLOH**

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (CNS) — Caritas, the Catholic development agency of Sierra Leone, provides assistance to former female soldiers to help them become more self-reliant, said a program official.

"They are mostly in their teens," said Sunkari Kamara, Caritas' child welfare program manager.

The young women not only need help to acquire vocational training, but assistance to start small-scale businesses on their own, Kamara said.

Kamara said the female soldiers are traumatized after their disarmament.

"They are restless and sometimes plunged into a pensive mood. They lack concentration in what they do and are hot-tempered," she said.

Counseling services are provided for the women to help them overcome their trauma, she said.

"We provide recreational facilities to help them forget the events they have taken part in," she said.

Many of the young women are reported to have been gang-raped while at the war front. They also took part in arson, killing, torturing and amputating villagers in the interior of the country.

"We are not surprised if they feel traumatized," Kamara said.

The Caritas official said with the continued deployment of U.N. troops in areas formerly controlled by the Revolutionary United Front rebels, more rebels are turning up in demobilization centers.

"We expect to get more girls in the coming months," she added.

She said young women who receive vocational training will get financial assistance to purchase equipment to start their own business.

"We want to prevent them from resorting to prostitution or adopting anti-social lifestyles after their training," she said.

Kamara said the girls have now learned hairdressing, tailoring, dyeing and catering. Since most of the girls do not know the whereabouts of their parents, she added, with training they will be able to make a living on their own.

As more female soldiers are disarmed and demobilized, Caritas is finding it difficult to accommodate all of them in Lungi Town, across the river from Freetown, the coastal capital city of Sierra Leone.

Kamara expressed appreciation for the community's cooperation in taking care of teen women.

"We have asked the community to continue fostering them. We give financial assistance to those adopting school-going girls," she said.

Kamara said she believes that under foster care, the girls will be able to overcome their stress.

"The community has been very receptive," she said. "There have been no threats on the girls like in other parts of the country, where residents are hostile to former rebels."

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Holy Thursday, April 12, 7:30pm	*Mass of the Lord's Supper* *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Good Friday, April 13, 3pm	*Stations of the Cross*
Good Friday, April 13, 7:30pm	*Sacred Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross* *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Holy Saturday, April 14, 8pm	*Easter Vigil Mass* *Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant*
Easter Sunday Masses	*8am, 9:30am,* *11am with Bishop William G. Curlin, celebrant, and 12:30pm*

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Church leaders must appreciate diversity, challenge assumptions, speaker says

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Appreciating cultural, ethnic and social diversity in the church is important for those who lead, an expert on diversity and leadership told a group of people who serve in ministry.

Terry Aiken, who for six years has been a diversity and leadership consultant, was the keynote speaker at "Leadership Training for Lay Ministers," a program sponsored by the Diocese of Charlotte's Education Vicariate March 23-24 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte.

The program was designed primarily for lay people involved in educational ministry in the church to understand ways of maximizing their leadership potential.

Aiken said to lead effectively, people must challenge their cultural, ethnic and social assumptions about others and work toward the understanding that diversity and human relations are intertwined.

Because of the way the human mind processes information, he said, it fights against challenging the assumptions people make. That internal struggle can often yield negative effects, including a lack of embracing people for who they are instead of how they look, for instance, or assuming what their needs are instead of asking them directly.

"We do that every day with people," he said. "That's the frightening thing, because we make those assumptions, and we walk away without ever even making the attempt to challenge the assumptions."

Aiken, a juvenile court counselor for the state's Office of Juvenile Justice and youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in High Point, said people transfer ways of thinking to the next generation — a cycle that in some instances is unhealthy.

"Children today listen to parents more," Aiken said. "Contrary to what we may believe, children observe parents and adults more than we realize.

"If you're going to lead by example, then you can assume that everything you believe in life (will be passed on) to children, who are going to be adults with the same type of behavior."

To challenge the assumptions of oneself and others, real leaders must make an effort to live the "practice-what-you-preach" mentality, Aiken said.

"If you're going to challenge assumptions, don't challenge assumptions every other day," he said. "Challenge assumptions daily, and it becomes part of who you are."

Challenging one's assumptions was key to the discussions of the participants throughout the weekend.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, director of the diocesan lay ministry program, shares a laugh with Terry Aiken following his keynote address to lay ministers March 23.

One of three tracks offered, "Evangelization and Inculturation" included workshops on challenges in ministry, how the church exists to evangelize all people and how the church welcomes everyone.

During this track, members of the local Catholic Hispanic community offered their insights on how multiculturalism offers unique ministry opportunities for parishes across the Diocese of Charlotte.

In the track "Leadership: Communication and Collaboration," participants discussed effective ways of dialoguing, collaborating and motivating with compassion.

"Providing Human Services in the Parish and Doing Faith Justice," the third track, focused on the role the church plays in offering human services in the parish and the community, and offered ways leaders can work for justice.

Leaders in business, the community and the Diocese of Charlotte composed the leadership team, who presented to the group and facilitated discussions. The Diocese of Charlotte launched the leadership program last fall with a series of workshops that identified leadership skills. Organizers geared this latest round of workshops to assist lay ministers in applying skills to their particular ministries.

Plans to extend the program into the mountains and Triad are ongoing.

"In all of the groups, participants were encouraged as leaders to go beyond their boundaries and listen to the needs of the people they serve," said Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministries, who co-planned the program. "That was an important topic, because we as leaders should not always assume what the needs of people are. We should ask them — and walk with them in answering those needs."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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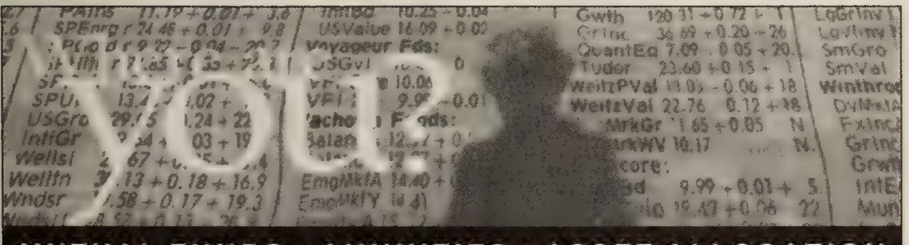

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Two honored for helping poor parents choose nonpublic schools

NEW YORK (CNS) — Two philanthropists who have initiated scholarship programs to give poor parents an opportunity to choose parochial or other nonpublic schools for their children were honored March 30 by the William E. Simon Foundation. The William E. Simon Prize in Philanthropic Leadership was given to John T. Walton, son of the Wal-Mart founders, and the William E. Simon Prize in Social Entrepreneurship went to Peter M. Flanigan, an economist who served in the Nixon administration and now advises the investment firm, UBS Warburg LLC. Each received $250,000 from the foundation, based in Morristown, N.J., for use in aiding charities of their choice. Fund officials said this year's awards were the first in what is expected to be an annual presentation.

Archbishop, magazine caution against rapid Lefebvre reconciliation

ROME (CNS) — Following news reports suggesting an imminent Vatican reconciliation with a group of followers of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, an influential French cardinal and an Italian Catholic magazine said the Vatican should proceed slowly and cautiously. Cardinal Pierre Eyt of Bordeaux said the unresolved "doctrinal, liturgical, sacramental (and) institutional" differences with the Priestly Society of St. Pius X appeared too great to overcome "without profound study and sufficient delay." In a similar vein, the editors of Jesus, an Italian monthly magazine published by the Pauline Fathers, said they were troubled by reports suggesting that a formal reconciliation might be reached by Easter, April 15. Vatican sources have said that while contacts with the society have continued, it is too early to speak of concrete moves toward reconciliation.

CNS PHOTO BY REUTERS

Greek nun listens to speech

A Greek nun, surrounded by Orthodox priests, listens to a speech delivered during a demonstration last year. Some members of the Orthodox Church have expressed opposition to the pope's upcoming visit to Greece May 4-5 and have predicted massive protests.

Vatican in battle against pro-abortion groups, says diplomat

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (CNS) — The Vatican is in a worldwide battle against pro-abortion groups that want "to impose their death-dealing agenda" on the international community, said the Vatican's top diplomat to the United Nations. Archbishop Renato R. Martino criticized the United States and other countries where abortions abound because, he said, civil law is considered neutral rather than protective regarding unborn human life. The archbishop, the Vatican's representative at U.N. headquarters in New York, gave the homily at a March 25 Mass in Managua to celebrate the Nicaraguan government's naming of the date as the national "Day of the Unborn." The Mass at the Denis Martinez sports stadium was attended by more than 20,000 people, including top government and civic leaders.

Four bishops sign ecumenical covenant in Massachusetts

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — In a colorful ceremony mixing acknowledgment of theological agreement with expressions of personal ties, four Lutheran, Episcopalian and Catholic bishops in western and central Massachusetts signed a historic, three-faith ecumenical covenant March 25. More than 400 persons nearly filled Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral in Springfield for the signing of a three-year covenant between the Catholic Dioceses of Springfield and Worcester, the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "This is not just something formal that is taking place in an institutional setting. This also comes from our relationships, in which we are bound together in our service to Jesus Christ," said Episcopal Bishop Gordon Scruton, whose diocese is made up of the five Massachusetts counties in the Springfield and Worcester Catholic dioceses.

Woman named first lay chancellor in Washington Archdiocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington has named Jane Golden Belford, a local attorney, as the new chancellor for the Archdiocese of Washington. Belford, who was to begin her duties in mid-April, becomes the first layperson — and the first woman — to hold that post in the history of the archdiocese, which was founded in 1939. As chancellor, she will serve as a member of the cardinal's senior staff, as a corporate member of all archdiocesan corporations and as founding chairwoman of a newly created Archdiocesan Women's Commission.

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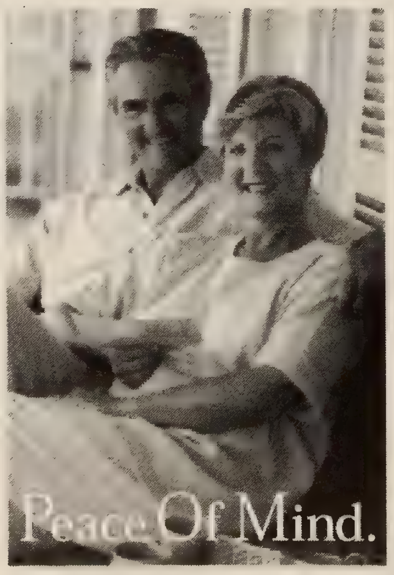
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Pope John Paul II

Official Postal Tribute Celebrates Pontiff's Contributions to Mankind

Collectors flock after Official Postage Stamp tribute to Pope John II.

Conakry, Guinea — As if they were answering the prayers of devotees around the world, the Post Office has released a new Limited Edition set of 9 Official Postage Stamps honoring His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Collectors and admirers of the Pontiff are suddenly scrambling to obtain one of the few remaining sets from this awe-inspiring tribute.

"Collector demand for these John Paul II stamps has been unbelievable," said George Hubbard of the International Collectors Society, distributors of the stamps. "Ever since that historic day in 1978 when he became the 264th head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II has symbolized peace, wisdom, devotion, and love. Now his fans everywhere are taking advantage of this rare opportunity to express their love for him."

"Over 500 million United States stamps were issued in 1964 to honor President John F. Kennedy. When you compare that to these Pope John Paul II stamps, which are issued in a strictly Limited Edition of just thousands worldwide, you can see the irresistible appeal these stamps have both to collectors and to the Pope's many admirers," said Hubbard.

Each of the 9 colorful stamps is about 4 times the size of a U. S. stamp. They're legal for postage in the nation of Guinea and they're recognized by every postal authority around the world.

The stamps are available for a short time at $9.95 (plus $3 postage and handling), and are accompanied by an individually numbered Certificate of Authenticity. Send your check or money order to ICS, 10045 Red Run Blvd., Suite 350CJWVT2, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117. Credit card holders may call toll free **1-800-506-0070.**

Catholic bookshop completes 20th chapter in history

PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Pictured from left to right, Ann Nickerson, assistant manager, and Judy Gritzmacher, manager, discuss one of their store's items. The Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe celebrated 20 years in business this past March.

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Nestled in a shopping center off of Monroe Road lies a store where people have found a plethora of Catholic-themed and -inspired literature, gifts and other Christian and religious items for a variety of occasions. For two decades, the Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe has been a fixture in the lives of Catholics and non-Catholics in the Western half of the state and has helped to nourish people's spiritual and social needs in and around the diocese.

"This is a place that provides symbols and books that pertain to the basis of our faith and helps us to grow in our faith," said Julie Byrne, a customer and member of St. Gabriel Church.

The shop celebrated its anniversary with a special sale and customer appreciation event with gifts, prizes and refreshments in March. Through the vision of Genita Raeker and with Hal Weidner's continuation of Raeker's original idea to supply Charlotte and surrounding cities and towns with a store that specialized in Catholic items, the store has grown as the diocese has grown.

"She (Raeker) felt there was a need, and this is the only store like this one in Charlotte with a couple of others in the diocese," said Judy Gritzmacher, store manager for the past 12 years. "'Bookshoppe' is sometimes misleading because we sell any kind of religious goods from rosaries to jewelry to statues and other items like medals, cards and books."

The store contains a conglomeration of articles with a wall adorned with crucifixes of different shapes and sizes, displays with children's and adult religious books, Christian music CD's, cards for holidays and sacraments, bookmarks, candles and a host of other items. The most requested and sold items are rosaries, statues and Bibles. With the Lenten and Easter seasons in full swing in the Church, the store stays busy during this time of the year. And, springtime Communions and Confirmations send many parents, grandparents and godparents to the store for the right gift for their young Catholics.

"We call the churches to get their dates for sacraments, so we know when people will be looking for things," said Ann Nickerson, assistant manager for seven-and-a-half years and an Our Lady of Assumption parishioner. "First Communion and Confirmation are big times for us and the churches, and we have a reciprocal relationship with the churches."

Catholics are not the only ones who patronize the store. The store workers have encountered many people of various faiths who come in looking for items not found anywhere else. They believe the store's atmosphere, the items they sell and the feelings and ideas those items foster are part of the reason why they attract their varied customer base and why people seem to return.

"The clientele runs the whole gamut. You see the whole Catholic Church here, every aspect of it and every belief, along with quite a few non-Catholics," said Gritzmacher. "Many people seem grateful that we are here, and people will come back and say that a certain book has helped them or someone they gave it to. They see us as a resource and comment on how peaceful it is here. That is an affirmation for us."

Many times, they play soothing music in the background. The store's quiet is only usually broken by the ring of the telephone, a customer asking a question or a child playing with the toys in the middle section of the store, but the women allow people to browse freely without much disturbance.

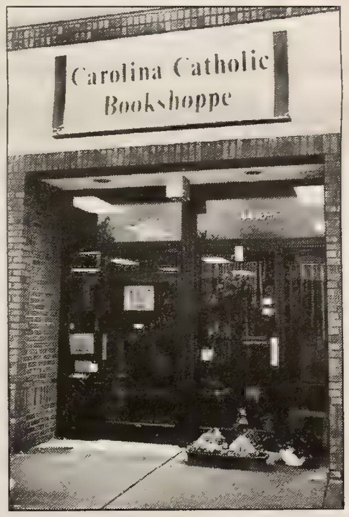
"People find it is a 'safe place' to talk and provides an opportunity for fellowship. People come from work or during their lunch hours because it is quiet here," said Gritzmacher.

Not only is the store beneficial to the customers, but it also helps its workers in various ways.

"It is important to note that this is a ministry, not necessarily a business, which helps as far as serving people," said Nickerson. "I enjoy the community of working with like-minded people. I also get things from some of the customers that speak to me, touch me in a spiritual way. Sometimes people say things that you need to hear at that point in time. It allows us to strengthen our faith and to keep in touch with spirituality."

Gritzmacher agreed, "This has strengthened my spiritual life and has given me food for thought. The ministerial aspects of the job first intrigued me, and it (the job) has given me an opportunity to do more things as far as ministry is concerned. It has allowed me to use some of my gifts and talents and has given me an understanding of the Church."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.



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Death penalty draws global, national and state attention

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The issue of the death penalty took center stage in late March on multiple fronts: in the U.S. Supreme Court, in France where an anti-abortion activist suspected of killing a U.S. abortion doctor was apprehended, in the state of Massachusetts, and at a Washington conference of lawyers, ethicists, philosophers and clergy.

The Supreme Court heard one case and agreed to take another case that raised different questions about the constitutionality of executing people with diminished mental capacities.

The court heard oral arguments March 27 in the case of a Texas death-row inmate whose lawyers say he has the mind of a 7-year-old. Jurors at his trial did not have the chance to adequately consider his mental capacity, his lawyers argued.

The same day, the court agreed to hear a case this fall that raises the question of whether the Constitution's prohibition on "cruel and unusual punishment" should prevent executing people who are mentally handicapped.

A week earlier, the court had ruled in a South Carolina case that jurors have the right to know that they have the option of sentencing someone to life imprisonment without possibility of parole as an alternative to the death sentence. That 7-2 ruling returns the sentencing of Wesley Shafer Jr. to the state courts.

The U.S. death penalty also became an issue in France, where James Kopp was arrested March 29 for the 1998 murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian, who performed abortions at a New York clinic.

French law prohibits extraditing suspects to countries where convictions could carry the death penalty. France outlawed capital punishment in 1981.

In Massachusetts, nurse Kristen Gilbert faced the possibility of becoming the first person in that state sentenced to death since 1975.

U.S. District Judge Michael Ponsor March 26 sentenced the convicted killer of four patients at a veteran's hospital to life in prison without possibility of parole. A jury had been unable to come to agreement about her sentence.

Massachusetts voters have consistently rejected reinstating capital punishment, but Gilbert was tried under federal laws that do carry the death sentence, because the murders occurred on federal property.

Springfield Bishop Thomas L. Dupre had been asked by the defense to testify about the effects on the community of requiring residents of a state without the death penalty to serve on a federal jury and consider a capital sentence. But Posner ruled against him testifying, saying he thought it inappropriate to let the trial become a debate about the death penalty.

In Washington, a two-day conference on moral and ethical issues of the death penalty at The Catholic University of America included a range of speakers, such as a federal judge who said "a Catholic judge does have a serious problem if he has to rule over a case with the death penalty."

Judge John T. Noonan Jr., of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals., said that despite a long-standing tradition of capital punishment and justification for it, there are arguments for abolishing the practice. He noted the abolition of the death penalty by European countries, and recently opposition of the death penalty by U.S. Catholic bishops and Pope John Paul II.

"John Paul II tells us the purpose of punishment is to restore order, but he does not equate that with the old law of an 'eye for an eye,'" Noonan said.

At the same session, Cardinal Avery Dulles, a Fordham University theologian, traced Catholic arguments justifying the death penalty up to the 1960s.

"Catholic churchmen have often protested against the excessive use of the death penalty, but they have agreed that for very serious crimes the state had the right, even the obligation, to impose capital punishment," he explained.

Cardinal Dulles said the strongest argument against the death penalty shows it to be as a useless or counterproductive form of punishment.

"In our nation today the death penalty fails to manifest the justice of God because the state is no longer seen as having divine authority," he said.

Conference keynote speaker Lawrence C. Marshall, legal director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions and law professor at Northwestern University's law school, said that entirely aside from moral and ethical issues, there is growing evidence that capital punishment is a failed experiment.

Marshall said the way the death penalty is currently applied has many of the same problems that led the Supreme Court to overturn capital punishment nationwide in 1972 in Furman vs. Georgia. In that case, the court said capital punishment constituted cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth and 14th Amendments to the Constitution.

Part of that opinion defined "unusual" as "if it discriminates against him by reason of his race, religion, wealth, social position, or class, or if it is imposed under a procedure that gives room for the play of such prejudices."

New death-penalty statutes passed after the Furman ruling were supposed to eliminate those problems, Marshall said, but it has not worked out that way.

Just as the court found in Furman, race and poverty are still the most dominant factors in determining who faces execution for crimes, Marshall said, even among those prosecuted under federal statutes, which "are supposed to be the champagne of death penalty laws."

What the United States needs is a specific, objective framework for determining whether capital punishment is appropriate, similar to the just war theory for deciding the moral validity of armed conflict, said the Rev. Lloyd Steffen, a professor of religion studies at Lehigh University and a United Church of Christ minister.

He suggested a nine-part framework as a starting point. Among its elements were: whether the cause of the action is just; whether the motivation is justice, not vengeance; fairness of the process; whether the use is justifiable as a last resort; and proportionality.

In another session, Dr. Edmund Pellegrino, who teaches medicine and medical ethics at Georgetown University, said medical cooperation in the death penalty is wrong and should be avoided by all doctors, nurses and other health care professionals.

"I consider it a moral obligation for doctors, nurses and other health professionals to refuse to participate, no matter what the legality may be, no matter how perfect the process," Pellegrino said. At least 20 states require a physician's presence at an execution.

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Hispanics seek answers at vocation day for women

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

LENOIR — Concerned about the need for awareness in the Hispanic community regarding vocations, Franciscan Sisters Andrea Inkrott and Linda Scheckelhoff organized a vocation day for Hispanic women March 24 at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir.

Sparked by the curiosity of four Hispanic women who had expressed interest in the religious life, the sisters who work in Hispanic ministry and those four women planned day of prayer, song and a question-and-answer session with a panel of women religious.

Fifty-five women responded to the call to come and see what religious life is all about, said Sister Andrea, who coordinates Hispanic ministry in the Hickory Vicariate.

The women came with questions and concerns. Many had never known any religious sisters personally or had any idea what their lives were like. Questions arose over how to recognize a calling to a vocation. Many asked about educational opportunities and responsibilities in religious communities. Questions about immigration laws and documentation were asked.

A panel of religious sisters representing six communities answered those questions and others, shared stories from their own lives and missions and attempted to raise awareness of what a call to religious life truly is.

Sister Andrea said the vocation day reminded her that to work in ministry — especially multicultural ministry — is to appreciate a truly universal worldview, one that includes room for people of all cultures and backgrounds.

"We were all impressed by the openness and the spirituality of the young women who were there," she said of the panel's impressions of the day. "This was not a frivolous day; they were there seriously, they were taking part and they were sharing."

"There is a great need in the church for religious workers," she added. "And God has given us a chance to show what heaven is going to be like. In heaven, there is not going to be a section for the Austrians, and a section for the Chinese, and a section for people from the U.S. We're all going to be together, and to me, if we can work together now as a community and as a diocese, then we can show to the world what heaven is like."

Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, vicar for women religious in the Diocese of Charlotte, was impressed by the eagerness the women brought to the meeting. "They were so respectful, welcoming and receptive to us," she said. "It was a very significant day for all of us."

For information on vocations to the religious life for women, call Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren, (704) 370-3213.

Courtesy photo

Hispanic women from a number of vicariates in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered March 17 in Lenoir for a vocation day. A panel of religious women representing six communities were present to answer questions and share stories of religious life.

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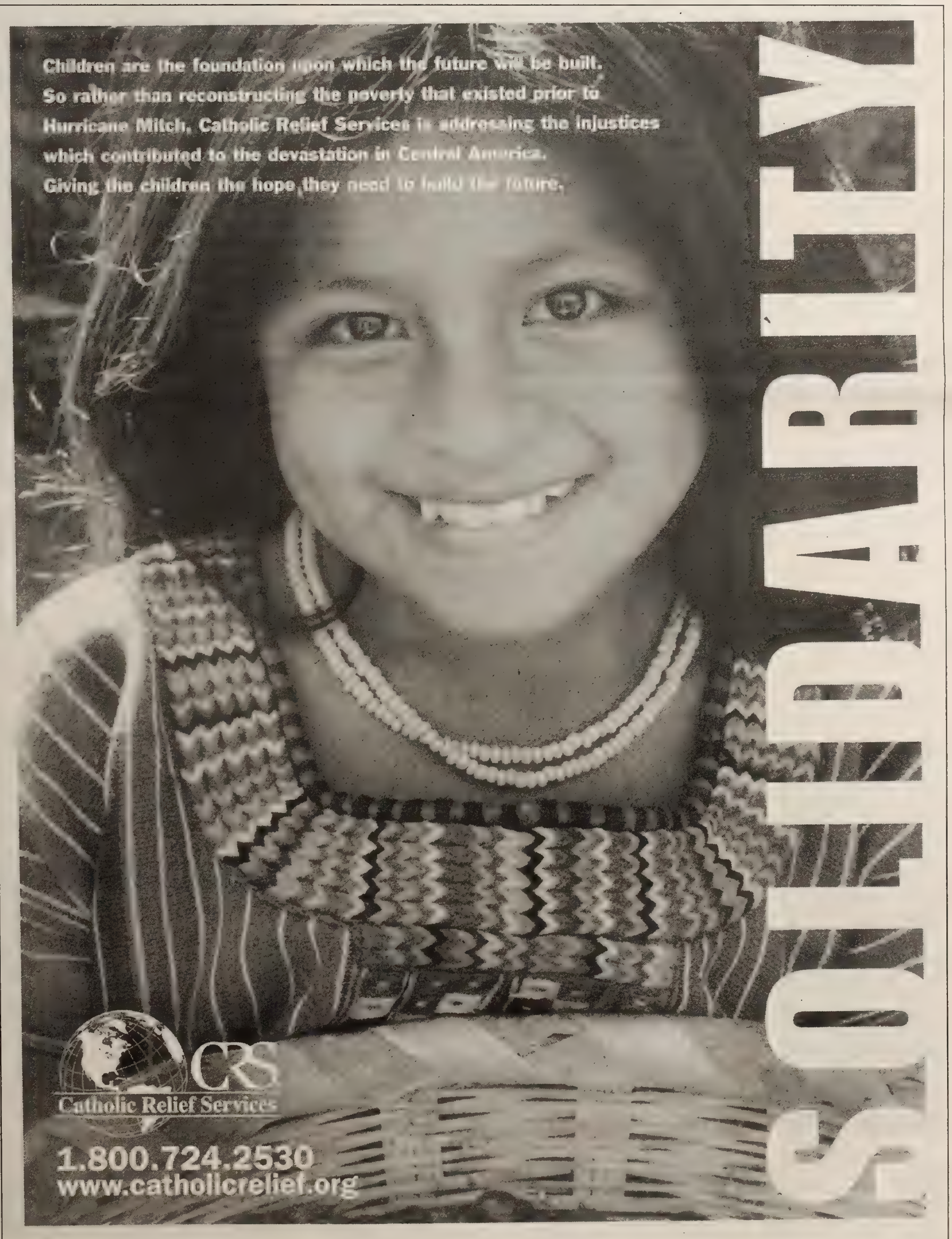
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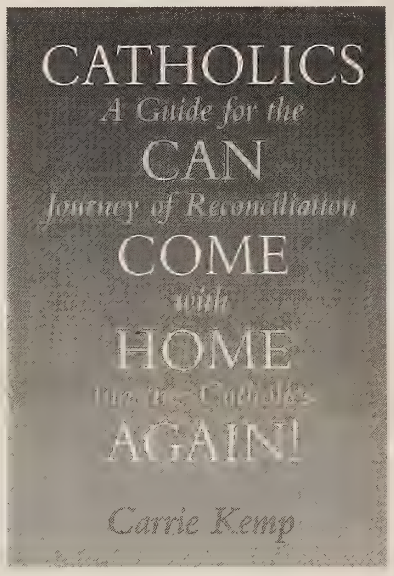
Book Review

Catholics can come home again, says new book

Reviewed by SISTER ADAIRE LASSONDE, SSND
Catholic News Service

The topic is always touchy: It's grandma's funeral, and a number of the relatives are at the funeral Mass. Many of them will not be receiving Communion. One is divorced and remarried without an annulment, one or another stopped going to church as soon as they entered college. Another had a bad Catholic-school experience and can't reconcile it with how the church should behave. Some others never could understand the sacrament of confession and felt shamed every time they took part in it.

***CATHOLICS CAN COME HOME AGAIN: A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION WITH INACTIVE* CATHOLICS, by Carrie Kemp. Paulist Press (New York/Mahwah, N.J., 2001). 236 pp. $17.95**



These are the folks who grew up Catholic, loved their faith, but weren't able to stay connected for reasons that are very personal and painful. We have named them alienated Catholics, inactive Catholics or, worse, fallen-away Catholics. Some of them end up in the six-week "Catholics Coming Home" series led by author Carrie Kemp for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

In "Catholics Can Come Home Again: A Guide for the Journey of Reconciliation With Inactive Catholics," Kemp, a pastoral minister, provides a how-to for setting up a parish ministry for returning Catholics. Sample checklists and handouts are worth the price of the book alone. But the book also is useful to the friends and family of seekers as well as the seekers themselves. It projects a respectful, gentle and genuine approach to helping inactive Catholics who are "seeking an honest relationship with God and are exploring the church's role in that relationship."

Readers will wonder how certain hot topics will be explored with seekers. Everyone knows that these are the issues you avoid at gatherings of certain friends — and especially relatives. Kemp's love for the church and her pastoral spirit are evident: Each subject is addressed with respect, giving the seeker's perspective, the church's teaching and a pastoral perspective. Even practicing Catholics reading the book may be led to explore their own questions and issues with the church.

Parishes are advised to look at what they are bringing Catholics home to. A whole chapter is devoted to making parishes more welcoming in the areas of liturgies, education, staff and lay ministry. Although "evangelization" is not the most comfortable word with Catholics, Kemp unabashedly encourages evangelization in the parish. She calls it "the ongoing response to the presence of God in our lives, not preaching our truth to others, but an effort to help others discover the good news of God's power within themselves."

Anyone who has past hurts from the church and attempts to return is certainly looking for reconciliation. Much care and respect are due them just for the effort. Parishes that take this evangelization challenge have a wonderful blueprint for action in Carrie Kemp's book.

Word to Life

April 8, Palm (Passion) Sunday
Cycle C Readings:
Procession: Luke 19:28-40
1) Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9,17-18a, 19-20, 23-24
2) Philippians 2:6-11
3) Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

Recently I watched a TV film clip of the day in 1957 when nine black high school students walked the gauntlet of screaming, angry white students, parents and local officials to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Ark. They must have been terrified, these children who made their way to the front door of a school where they would be new students — and unwanted at that. Although physically protected by National Guardsmen, these students were not accompanied by parents or friends. But with their "eyes on the prize," as one senator would describe the scene 40 years later, they bravely forged ahead, buffeted by insults and threats, in order to force justice into an unjust system.

As one who grew up in the deep South during that time, I can say with certainty that the shouted words were truly insulting, the threats were real, the atmosphere was permeated with unbridled hatred. These very young people, knowing their purpose was much greater than any personal need for safety and security, endured, much like the Suffering Servant in today's reading from Isaiah.

Although they faced a hostile crowd, as disciples of God's justice those students also exemplified the truth foretold in the Gospel account of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

The Pharisees said, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples," and he answered, "If they were to keep silent, I tell you the very stones would cry out."

In other words, he is the Lord, and what God wills shall be done. Jesus would suffer and die, but God willed that his Son would be raised to reconcile the world to God. No act of human will could prevent this. People would suffer — and die — but God willed that schools in the American South would be integrated. People would suffer and die, but God willed that apartheid would be abolished in South Africa.

People would suffer and die, but God willed that that the church in El Salvador would not capitulate to political oppression.

The list goes on.

Unborn people would die, but ...

Palm Sunday tells the story of God's unalterable truth. Work for justice. And trust, because it will be accomplished.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 8 - 14, 2001

Palm Sunday, Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14-23:56; **Monday,** Isaiah 42:1-7, John 12:1-11; **Tuesday,** Isaiah 49:1-6, John 13:21-33, 36-38; **Wednesday,** Isaiah 50:4-9, Matthew 26:14-25; **Holy Thursday,** Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15; **Good Friday (Fast and Abstinence),** Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42; **Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil),** Exodus 14:15-15:1, Romans 6:3-11, Luke 24:1-12

Readings for the week of April 15 - 21, 2001

Easter Sunday, Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; **Monday,** Acts 2:14, 22-23, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday,** Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday,** Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday,** Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday,** Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday,** Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

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Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Charlie's Angels" (2000)

High-energy blend of comedy and action fuels this TV series-based tale of three brainy, brawny and beautiful investigators (Cameron Diaz, Drew Barrymore and Lucy Liu) whose cagey clients (Sam Rockwell and Kelly Lynch) pose a threat to their elusive boss Charlie (voice of John Forsyth). Video director McG's glossy feature-length debut is a fast-paced escapist fantasy about girls who just want to have fun while kickboxing their way out of assorted outlandish dangers. Frequent stylized violence, an implied sexual encounter, a few coarse expressions and minimal profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia TriStar)

"Dancer in the Dark" (2000)

Extravagant musical melodrama about a Czech immigrant (Bjork) going blind who is sentenced to death after her savings for her son's operation to prevent hereditary blindness is stolen by her landlord (David Morse) who is killed in a struggle over the money. Writer-director Lars von Trier's flamboyant tearjerker uses vertigo-inducing camera movements and fantasy musical sequences to tell its bizarre tale that is often emotionally gripping but whose brutal conclusion strains credibility. Brief but intense violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (New Line)

"The Legend of Bagger Vance" (2000)

Mythic tale of a mysterious caddie (Will Smith) who helps a dispirited World War I veteran (Matt Damon) regain his confidence to play golf in a championship tournament run by the vet's Southern belle ex-girlfriend (Charlize Theron). As directed by Robert Redford, the underdog tale's classy visuals and an appealing cast produce a soothing, fantasy-like tale of one man's rediscovered integrity thanks to a mystical ally. Brief sexual situations, a suicide and minimal profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (DreamWorks)

"Lucky Numbers" (2000)

Nasty comedy in which two greedy TV station employees (John Travolta and Lisa Kudrow) rig a lottery drawing to win millions but have trouble collecting after their accomplices (Tim Roth and Michael Rapaport) resort to blackmail and murder to avoid exposure. The self-obsessed characters and mean-spirited tone make director Nora Ephron's comedy decidedly unappealing. A sexual encounter, brief violence, recreational drug use, much rough language and intermittent profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Paramount)

"The Million Dollar Hotel" (2001)

A by-the-books FBI agent (Mel Gibson) investigates a possible homicide at a seedy Los Angeles hotel where most of the residents (including Jeremy Davies and Milla Jovovich) are mentally unstable indigents. Director Wim Wenders wanders in his attempts to inject humor and humanity into his characters, resulting in a bittersweet but unfocused film. Fleeting violence, some sexual innuendo, occasional profanity and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Universal)

"102 Dalmatians" (2000)

Strained sequel in which a reformed Cruella De Vil (Glenn Close) buys a failing dog orphanage to prove she's put her nasty fur-obsessed ways behind her, but her transformation is short-lived when she teams up with a rascally furrier (Gerard Depardieu) to create a sensational Dalmatian-spotted coat. As directed by Kevin Lima, outrageous costumes, darling dogs and a few witty moments infuse the film with some fun, but the recycled plot fails to capture the imagination. Mild cartoon-like menace. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Disney)

"Red Planet" (2000)

Tepid sci-fi drama set in the year 2050 in which a team of astronauts (including Val Kilmer, Carrie-Anne Moss and Benjamin Bratt) is sent to Mars to set up an alternate place for humans to live since Earth is an environmental mess, but their crash landing leaves them without a viable means of escape. Director Antony Hoffman's predictable plot is mixed with mumbo-jumbo scientific chatter and gimmicky special effects which add up to a dull, tediously paced film. Some sci-fi violence, brief nudity, an instance of rough language and minimal crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner Home Video)

"Remember the Titans" (2000)

Uplifting drama set in 1971 about the desegregation of two powerhouse high school football teams that learn to overcome racism and go on to victory under the leadership of their African-American coach (Denzel Washington). Aside from occasionally faltering with emotional manipulation, director Boaz Yakin's heartwarming, fact-based saga shows the triumph of the human spirit over adversity, fear and societal prejudices. Racism theme and fleeting crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Disney)

CNS PHOTO FROM 20TH CENTURY FOX

Scene from movie 'Someone Like You'

Ashley Judd and Hugh Jackman star in a scene from the movie "Someone Like You." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III -- adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges lay people to pray Liturgy of the Hours

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II called for greater promotion among Christian lay people of the Liturgy of the Hours, traditional daily prayers structured around the Psalms.

He said the Psalter was the "ideal source" of Christian prayer, to which the church should turn to deepen its "art of prayer" in the third millennium.

Speaking to pilgrims March 28 at the weekly general audience, the pope said he was beginning a series of talks on the Psalter "to encourage and to help everyone pray with the same words used by Jesus, (which have been) present for millennia in the prayer of Israel and of the church."

He said it was encouraging that many lay people in the wake of the Second Vatican Council had begun to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, a practice once restricted to priests and religious.

Since the first centuries, Christians turned to the Psalms as "the prayer of the people of God," and early church theologians understood the texts as speaking ultimately of Christ, he said.

In the intervening centuries, the Psalter was sometimes put aside in favor of other prayers, but was kept alive by monastic communities, he said.

One monk, at the turn of the second millennium, went so far as to assert that the Psalms are the "only way" to experience a truly profound prayer, said the pope.

"With this affirmation, which at first sight seems excessive, he in reality remained anchored in the best traditions of the first Christian centuries, when the Psalter became the book par excellence of church prayer," he said.

The pope said the communal recitation of the Psalms throughout the centuries also served to remind Christians that it is impossible to pray to God "without an authentic communion of life with the brothers and sisters who inhabit the earth."

Praying the Liturgy of the Hours in no way excludes other "freer expressions" that characterize personal prayer, said the pope. In fact, those expressions can even enrich liturgical prayer, for example, with hymns.

General church law in the Latin rite requires ordained ministers — bishops, priests and deacons — to pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily. Some religious orders and lay institutes require their members to observe this prayer.

Church norms encourage all Catholics to make especially the primary hours of morning and evening prayer part of their prayer life.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Advice on Internet Strangers

There has been a fair amount of bad press about the Internet recently. A large population of creepy people — adults, mostly — are hanging around in the teen-oriented chat rooms and Web sites looking to "hook up" with teens, or even younger kids, for sexual relationships or worse.

These sick and dangerous people use the Internet to make contact with kids they could otherwise never meet. Some of those kids, tragically, end up being their victims.

Young people sit in their bedrooms, zapping about the Internet, and somehow adult predators are able to lure some of them out of their homes and into unsupervised situations.

How do they do it? They lie.

Face it, if you saw these people, you'd never even talk to them.

Predators on the Web are almost always men. Most pick female targets, but a fair number prefer boy victims. They work by establishing a relationship, developing a false sense of trust and then luring the target to meet them someplace away from home.

If a middle-aged man calls himself "Sally13," and his profile says he's a 13-year-old girl at St. Brigid's, how can anybody find out that it isn't true? They can't.

Hanging around in the chats, creeps pick up information about potential targets: where they go to school, what they look like and most important, special interests, particular hobbies or favorite activities.

The person telling you he is a 14-year-old girl may indeed be a 53-year-old man with very sick interests. If you tell him where you go to school, and especially if you tell him who your teachers are, he may soon be watching you at noon break.

A bit of emotional black magic can happen on the Internet. Strangers can feel like the closest friends you ever had. People you never met can seem to know you better than the people who go to school with you.

That's because on the Internet it's easy to tell your secrets. After all, this is a stranger, someone you'll never have to deal with face to face. But once you have told somebody your personal problems and concerns, you feel a sense of intimacy, of shared experience and trust.

It's all an illusion. You are not talking with another human being. You are typing notes. In an ordinary human relationship, body language, facial expressions and tone of voice communicate much more than the simple words a person says. But on the Internet you don't even know whether the other person wept or laughed as you told your deepest secrets.

There are four simple rules of thumb for dealing with strangers on the Internet.

—First, unless you already know the person in real life, assume that everybody you deal with is really a 45-year-old man with a potbelly pretending to be somebody he is not.

—Second, never give anybody on the Internet your address, phone number or other information that would allow someone to identify and locate you. Some of the people who have access to that information may want to come find you. Don't give them the chance.

—Third, if you are relating to somebody on the Internet and think you need to hide this from your parents, you're on dangerous ground. Internet creeps thrive on secrecy. They want you to keep them hidden from your parents.

—Finally, never leave your home to meet somebody you know only from the Internet. Never. Seriously, you might not make it back home.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Unusual Mother, Remarkable Child — An Easter Story

When I learned the inspiring account of an unusual mother, holding the hand of her AIDS-afflicted child, traveling a Lenten journey to the cross and beyond, I knew I was immersed once more in the Easter love story.

A few years ago I saw an article in Readers' Digest by a reporter I knew from my hometown, Paul Grondahl of the Times Union in Albany, N.Y. He told the story of Mercy Sister Mary Ann LoGuidice and her adoption of Barbara, a young child who was HIV-positive and whose mother was dying of AIDS. Sister Mary Ann was executive director of Community Maternity Services, an agency in Albany helping pregnant teens, children with AIDS and others.

With the blessing of Albany's Bishop Howard J. Hubbard and her religious community, Sister Mary Ann became Barbara's mother, caring for her nearly five years until her death from AIDS at age 8 in 1993.

The story was deeply moving, so honest about the excruciating pain and the faith struggle this nun-mother endured at the loss of her beloved child. I related.

Recently I sought out Paul Grondahl to talk to him about an astounding series he had written on high-tech prisons. I asked him about Sister Mary Ann. He told me they now had collaborated on a book and that the story was being considered for a television movie. I got their book, "That Place Called Home" (Servant Publications), and truly couldn't put it down.

At first I thought I was reading my own story. Her father, like mine, was an immigrant from southern Italy, a butcher who owned a grocery store in Albany and never sent anyone hungry away; she went to Blessed Sacrament School, the first Catholic school I attended, and to my college, the College of St. Rose.

Her big Italian family spanned 23 years, like mine, and was devoted to children. I related so strongly to her and really understood why, nurtured in love herself by family and Christ, she had become Barbara's mommy and given this beautiful child the home she yearned for.

Sister Mary Ann explained that Barbara "drifted into my world like an autumn leaf carried on the wind and transformed me, my family and a community of friends with her extraordinary life force and amazing grace."

Easter means new life — and that's what the child Barbara gave to the world in her legacy of having touched so many lives with joy. Even her physician, Dr. Kallana Manjunath, marveled at how this child accepted her diagnosis from a place of utter faith in God's will and with remarkable courage. Those who knew her affirmed she had an awe of life, was excited about God's gifts, from butterflies to dandelions to sunsets. She showed us "a glimpse of God."

While Sister Mary Ann is still "haunted" knowing that 8.2 million children worldwide are orphaned by AIDS-afflicted mothers, her work in human services for youth takes on a special sacredness because of Barbara.

Barbara's funeral was held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, my parish, the church I practically lived in until I was married and moved away. Bishop Hubbard presided, saying, "Barbara's is truly a fantastic love story — a triumph of the human spirit and the conquest of goodness over the forces of ignorance, fear, sickness, suffering and even death."

Indeed, this is an Easter story that I pass on with joy!

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Build Up, Don't Tear Down

Recently, two ancient statues known as the Great Buddhas of Bamiyan in Afghanistan were destroyed. These imposing figures, over a hundred feet tall and hewn from the rock of a mountain 1500 years ago, were not ruined by natural disaster, but rather by deliberate demolition.

The area is controlled by the fundamentalist Taliban which believes that idols are forbidden by their faith. An outcry against the destruction of these religious and cultural artifacts has come from other nations and people of many faiths, including Islam, but the Taliban minister of information and culture was in no mood to compromise. The remaining parts of the Great Buddhas would come down, he said, adding, "It is easier to destroy than to build."

It always is.

Tearing down is always easier than building up. Constructive action, however large or small, requires time, thought and positive action. At best, it also means respecting others, not just those who are near and dear or who are like us, but those who are not. You build up your community and your world when you show tolerance and understanding for people with whom you don't necessarily agree and who are not like you at all. You "build up" when you treat others the way you wish to be treated.

We have a name for that, of course: The Golden Rule - "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." That rule has an honored place among the world's great spiritual traditions. Here is what various faiths believe:

Buddhism: Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. (Udana-Varga 5:18)

Confucianism: Is there one maxim which ought to be acted upon throughout one's whole life? Surely it is the maxim of loving-kindness: Do not unto others what you would not have them do unto you. (Analects 15:23)

Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: Do naught unto others which would cause you pain if done to you. (Mahabharata 5:1517)

Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellowmen. That is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary. (Talmud, Shabbat 3id)

Islam: No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself. (Sunnah)

Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12)

Building a better world on a foundation of respect, understanding and tolerance will never be easy, but it will always be possible. No matter how many differences we have, we have more in common. We are beloved children of God, created to love Him, ourselves and others.

And The Golden Rule, more timeless and enduring than the ancient Buddhas of Bamiyan, will continue to be the measure of humanity at its best.

Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Q. In your answer to a question concerning cohabiting couples being married in the church, you left out the fact that the sacrament of matrimony can be validly received only when both parties are in the state of grace.

The probability that cohabitation involves sexual relations means the sacrament of penance is necessary before the marriage. Perhaps it was your intention that the above information would be part of the pre-marriage preparation you spoke of; if so, it was lost in your response.

A. My mail gives constant evidence that many Catholics still have two confusions about the marriage of couples who have been living together.

One mistake, which I addressed at length in the column to which you refer, is that cohabiting couples are impeded by church law from entering a Catholic marriage. While many elements in their lives need to be addressed and dealt with before they marry, living together does not in itself prohibit their marriage in the church.

The Catholic Church has limited and specific impediments to marriage: lack of age, impotence, perpetual vows of chastity, a previous marriage and so on. Cohabitation is not one of these impediments.

Second, I'm surprised at the number who have written to me, many with extensive Catholic education, who believe that the marriage of a couple living together is not a valid marriage. That is not true and never has been.

Catholic teaching is that an individual who, while conscious of a serious sin, receives the sacrament of marriage or the Eucharist, for example, receives the sacrament validly, even though unlawfully and sinfully.

Certainly you are aware that if a person receives Communion while conscious of an unforgiven mortal sin, that person receives the sacrament validly. He or she truly receives the eucharistic body of Christ the same as anyone else. The fact that the reception is sinful does not make it any less a sacrament.

Somewhat the same is true in marriage. Christian persons who celebrate the sacrament of marriage in a state of serious sin — whether that sin involves embezzlement, malicious and destructive gossip, gross abuse of others, immoral sexual behavior or any other seriously wrong action — receive the sacrament of marriage.

Again, as with the Eucharist, the effect of the graces of the sacrament are inhibited by the spiritual condition of those who receive it. But they are married nevertheless. They will not need to be, indeed cannot be, "remarried" after whatever mortal sin they are aware of is forgiven.

I must note that, even in response to questions like yours, I am reluctant to speak of the sacraments so mechanically. The invitations and gifts of God which we call sacramental grace are living realities which reach back as a person prepares for a sacrament and extend into the future.

It is common Catholic belief that the graces of marriages (and penance, another obvious example) are already at work in a couple as their love develops and as they prepare to commit themselves to the covenant and communion that is marriage.

To repeat what I said previously, none of the above diminishes the responsibility of a cohabiting couple, and the priest or other parish minister working with them, to deal in every way possible with the spiritual, emotional, sacramental and marital implications of their lifestyle before marriage.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Disconnectedness in communities

Last week a horrible tragedy occurred just a couple of blocks away from our home. A fire in an apartment building left several families homeless and a 4-year-old dead. Shocked by the horror that befell the families, we are also more acutely aware of the lack of community ties in our area.

Local TV news covered the incident. As we watched the news reporters interview immediate neighbors, we couldn't help but notice that we saw no familiar faces. The people affected by this tragedy were only a couple of blocks away. Yet, they are as disconnected to us as people living in another state.

Many family members, friends and co-workers asked us about the tragedy as though we would have more of an inside scoop on the current media event. All we could report was what we saw from a distance, no insights on the victims, nothing to say about the poor little boy who lost his life.

Ours is a middle-class suburban community that is situated in Chicago's Southland. Our home is in a subdivision, not a neighborhood, where good neighbors are those who mind their own business and keep up their lawns and properties. There are no expectations of relationship simply because we are neighbors.

About half of the population is African American. The Southland is considered one of the most significant cross sections of African American affluence in the U.S. We are a generation of families that enjoy the benefits of education and resulting employment opportunities — doors opened by the Civil Rights Movement of 1960s.

As children of the Movement and its direct beneficiaries, we have committed ourselves to raising our children with access to what we had not in our youth. Mostly we have succeeded in this effort. Our children certainly live more comfortably than we did, and they go to better schools. However, there is something that our affluence cannot offer them that we had in abundance in our youth-community.

As followers of Christ, we are called to more than creature comfort. Actually, such comforts are not even part of the kingdom's landscape. We are communal people whose faith tells us that death is not the worst thing to happen to us. When loved ones die, our greatest comfort is in the care of faithful people who surround and encourage us to live on.

Today we noticed a memorial at the foot of a tree in front of the burnt apartment building. There was a teddy bear, flowers, ribbons, notes and religious symbols. We wonder if they are all from loved ones and immediate neighbors. Or is it possible that community can rise from the ashes of death and suffering? Perhaps in the wake of such a horrible tragedy, there is a glimmer of hope, an opportunity to reach out and offer a word of sympathy.

We pray for the victims of this tragedy and particularly for the family of young Xavier Sanner whose life was cut short. Though we don't know them, they are our neighbors and part of our community.

Andrew and Terri Lyke are coordinators of Marriage Ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In brief . . .

Ecumenical youth choir shares gift of song

CHARLOTTE — The New Vibrations, a traveling ecumenical youth choir, will perform two concerts on April 29 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., and at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. The New Vibrations choir is made up of 43 teens from churches of various denominations including St. Matthew, St. Luke and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Churches. Live musical performances and choreography are accompanying a mixture of contemporary and traditional Christian music for attendants of all ages. A love offering is being taken during the event, and for further details about this free event, open to the public, call Jan Cosentino at (704) 846-1302.

Memorial Mass

CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, on April 25 at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

Young adult Day of Reflection

BELMONT — The Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte invite everyone to attend "A Day of Reflection: Being Catholic in the Carolinas" on April 21 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Chi Rho House on the campus of Belmont Abbey College. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the conclusion of Holy Week and the Lenten Theology on Tap program. Guest speakers include Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, and Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, and topics include the history of Catholicism in the Carolinas, Franciscan and Ignatian Spiritualities and the presence and growth of African-American and Hispanic Catholics in the Carolinas. For more information, call Will Esser at (704) 442-1119, Colleen McDermott at (704) 370-3212 or Jen Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

Catholic School of the Diocese of Charlotte

PRINCIPAL

Catholic Elementary School

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, enrolls 246 students with a professional staff of 25. Immaculate Heart of Mary is fully accredited by the Diocese of Charlotte and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in educational administration, supervision, education or a related field, and be certified or certifiable as an elementary school principal in the state of North Carolina. Applicant must have teaching and administrative experience in the elementary grades. Immaculate Heart of Mary is a parish elementary school located in High Point, NC. Candidates with multicultural experience and/or bilingual skills preferred.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 2001-02 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by April 27 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's Catholic School

Rome, Georgia

St. Mary's School, a SACS-accredited Catholic school affiliated with the Archdiocese of Atlanta, seeks an outstanding educational leader to begin in July 2001. The principal oversees daily operation and provides spiritual leadership for the school community. St. Mary's enrolls 250 students in grades Pre-K through 8, and plans growth to 400 students in the next five years. Construction is slated for a new facility and will begin fall 2001.

The ideal candidate should be a practicing Catholic and have effective communication skills and a passion for working with children, teachers and parents in a positive school environment. The principal should have the educational leadership qualities to sustain an excellent school and the vision to guide the community in growing and strengthening St. Mary's. Experience as a teacher and/or administrator in elementary and/or middle school is required, as is certification as an elementary school administrator.

Qualified prospective candidates should send, in confidence, an application that consists of the following materials: cover letter explaining interest in position and qualifications; resume showing all relevant educational experiences; statement of educational philosophy; list of five references.

Please use fax only in sending applications to: Fax (706) 295-3932.

Nominations and questions should be directed to:
Jennifer and Dennis Heller
Chairmen of Principal Search Committee
Phone: (706) 295-4614 E-mail Dheller235@aol.com

Classifieds

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Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Oversees church statistics/database, supports pastor and staff, prepares and manages church calendar, assists prospective parishioners, and other duties as assigned. BA/BS and 2-4 years business/administrative experience required. Must have knowledge of Catholic terminology, excellent customer service skills and be a self-motivator who works well with others. Proficiency in MS Office, Excel, and Powerpoint required. Excellent diocesan benefits provided. Submit resume, salary history, and references by December 1 to: Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Drive, Durham, NC 27713-9470.

Director of Music Ministry: Holy Infant Catholic Church is in search of a full-time Director of Music. Located in Durham, North Carolina, a dynamic and growing area of the country near Research Triangle Park, this Vatican II parish consists of 900 households that are committed to ongoing liturgical renewal. Holy Infant Parish embraces its call to be hospitable, inclusive and Christ-centered. This position works closely with the Pastor and a collaborative and supportive staff. Requires a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a relevant field although a master's degree is preferred. Must have music performance skill (e.g. piano, voice); choral directing; cantor training; knowledge of Catholic rites and rituals. Available no later than November 1, 2000. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: DOMM Search Committee, Holy Infant Catholic Church, 5000 Southpark Dr., Durham, NC 27713. Fax 919/544-1799. References required at time of application for consideration for this position.

Preschool Teachers: St. Mark Parish, Huntersville, is seeking dedicated and spiritual teachers for its new preschool opening fall 2001. The lead teacher candidate will be degreed in Early Childhood Education or similar education field. The assistant teacher candidate will be at least 21 and a high school graduate. Both candidates shall have experience working with young children. Competitive salary and some benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: Preschool Director, St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Road, Huntersville, NC, 28707. Call (704)948-8015 for information or fax: (704)948-8018.

Principal: Archdiocese of Atlanta. St. John Neumann Regional School, located in Lilburn, Georgia. This SACS accredited school serves 500 students in grades K-8. Position offers opportunity for innovative, highly motivated instructional leader. Qualifications: Master's degree in Educational Administration, at least three years of administrative experience, certifiable in Georgia. Competitive salary and benefits; effective July 1, 2001. Submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to: Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Atlanta, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308-1984.

Teachers: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, Wake Forest, NC. 2001-2002 school year: certified kindergarten, 3rd grade, physical education teachers. Call (919)570-0070 or fax (919)570-0071.

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem has two teaching positions for 2001-2002: Physical Education, part-time, K-8; Guidance Counselor, full-time, K-8. Call school office (336)722-7204.

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PRAYERS AND INTENTIONS

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Church leaders gather for annual ecumenical dialogue

By FATHER GEORGE KLOSTER
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

HICKORY — "The role of the church is not to reflect the values and attitudes of society, but it should be the voice of prophetic justice modeling for society an atmosphere of acceptance and welcome for all people."

Led by Rev. Dr. Juan P. Gray, pastor of St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem and chair of the committee on religion and race for the WNC Conference of the United Methodist Church, participants at the annual Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue examined many of the divisions which cause tensions within Christian denominations and hinder the work of the church in its ministry.

The Bishops' Ecumenical Dialogue is sponsored by the bishops of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, the N.C. Lutheran Synod of the Evangelical Church in America and the WNC Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Race was the central focus of much of the discussion, but others "isms" such as classism, sexism, national origin and gender orientation were highlighted as issues which divide the Body of Christ.

In his call for a blended society, Gray said the church must be a place of "open hearts, open minds and open doors." Citing former U.S. Senator and presidential candidate Bill Bradley, who says, "race is a factor in every part of our lives in America," Gray said that "racial reconciliation has been absent because it is seen as peripheral and marginal in our churches. It has not been a priority."

Quoting Harvard scholar and African American author Cornell West that "communication is the best tool to build the bridge" among people of various races, Gray said that too often churches reach out to those people "who look like themselves"; that is, churches tend to evangelize among their own race, class, etc., and often feel uncomfortable with people of different cultures and color.

In order to move to the future, Gray said several steps are necessary:

1. Implement a definite action plan in support of reconciliation with repentance for past failures as an essential component in a process moving from symbolism to service to substance.

2. Create avenues of communication about the advantages of diversity. "Dismantling stereotypes through honest, frank and sincere discussions is a key element in the process," he said.

At the close of the conference, Gray said, "The church of God is a global church whose purpose is to make disciples for God and not for the church itself. Racism can and does go both ways, but it is the role of the church to bring people together."

Father George Kloster, ecumenical officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, is pastor at St. William Church in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville.

Upcoming papal trips pose major ecumenical test

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the age of 80 and with most of his traveling days behind him, Pope John Paul II is set to embark on a bold series of trips that could have lasting ecumenical consequences for the church.

Visiting Greece, Syria, Ukraine and Armenia over the next six months, the pope will travel to countries where no modern pontiff has been and where Catholics are a small minority.

His route appears to many observers as an ecumenical obstacle course, taking him deep into the historic territory of Orthodox Christianity, where the centuries-old divisions with Catholicism are still very much alive.

"It's going to be a real test for him, an ecumenical test," said U.S. Jesuit Father John Long, who worked on Christian unity issues for many years at the Vatican.

For decades, these countries were considered off-limits for papal travel, in part because of ecumenical tensions. But this time around the pope and his aides have knocked harder on the doors, perhaps aware that the pope's traveling time is not limitless. As a result, he will arrive in Greece and Ukraine without a clear invitation from the major Orthodox Churches.

For some experts, that has raised questions about the lasting legacy of these visits.

"I want to put a positive spin on it, but I can't really convince myself. I'm afraid there could be some real difficulties that develop out of this," Father Long said.

In Greece, where the pope will travel May 4-5 to commemorate St. Paul's evangelization in Athens nearly 2,000 years ago, the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece voted not to formally oppose the visit, stressing that it was a personal pilgrimage by the pope.

But some Orthodox clergy and faithful in Greece remain alarmed all the same. One conservative union of Orthodox priests described the pontiff as an "arch-heretic" and "the two-horned grotesque monster of Rome" and predicted massive protests during the visit.

The depth of such hostility is surprising to most Western Christians. Father Long said it reflects not only age-old animosities dating to the Catholic-Orthodox schism of 1054, but more recent misgivings about the "Westernizing" of Greece, too.

Some 97 percent of Greeks belong to the Orthodox Church, but as the country takes a more active role in the European Union, its society is becoming more secular. And despite the pope's own strong criticism of the secularization of Europe, in Greece he is viewed by many as a representative of the "decadent" West.

In Ukraine, the situation is complicated by the local split in the Orthodox community. Two smaller Orthodox churches are supporting the papal visit, but the majority Ukrainian Orthodox Church — which is linked to Moscow — has bitterly opposed the visit. Its officials have also warned of protests and demonstrations when the pope visits the cities of Kiev and Lviv in late June.

The prospect of creating new barriers with the Russian Orthodox Church is something ecumenists do not relish. Some believe the pope's advisers, weary of Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II's rebuffs of papal overtures, have adopted a "take it or leave it" attitude toward the Moscow church when it comes to papal travels.

The papal visit to Armenia, planned for September, will be easier. The Armenian Apostolic Church is one of six independent Oriental Orthodox Churches that split with Catholicism in the fifth century over a council's explanation of the human and divine nature of Christ.

In 1996, the pope and the late Armenian Catholicos Karekin signed an agreement that officially ended their disagreement over Christ's identity. But when the catholicos returned to Armenia, he faced deep opposition among his own faithful, and some conservative elements in his church viewed it as a betrayal.

Those sentiments have died down, and all signs are that the pope will be welcomed warmly by the current Armenian patriarch, Karekin II, when the two lead celebrations to mark 1,700 years of Christianity in the Caucasus nation.

Syria, where the pope will spend three days on his St. Paul pilgrimage in May, is an ecumenical oasis on his itinerary. The two main Orthodox communities in Syria have not only invited the pope but are on the planning committee for the visit, Armenian Catholic Bishop Boutros Marayati of Aleppo, Syria, said in a telephone interview.

"Here the Orthodox are in an Arab country, and there's a very different mentality than in Greece or Russia. All the Christians here feel united because we are witnessing Christianity as a minority in a Muslim majority. Our relations with the Orthodox are excellent," he said.

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Vatican releases Pope's Holy Week schedule

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the pope's schedule as released by the Vatican:

— Mass April 8 in St. Peter's Square for Palm Sunday and the local celebration of World Youth Day. Young people from Canada, hosts of the next international youth gathering, will accept the World Youth Day cross from Rome youths.

— Celebration of the chrism Mass April 12 in the morning in St. Peter's Basilica.

— Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening April 12 at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome. During the Mass, the pope will wash the feet of 12 priests.

— Early in the evening Good Friday, April 13, the pope will preside over the liturgy of the Lord's Passion in St. Peter's Basilica. At 9:15 p.m., he will lead the Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum.

— Celebration of the Easter vigil April 14 in St. Peter's Basilica with the lighting of the fire and the Easter candle at 8 p.m.

— Easter morning Mass April 15 in St. Peter's Square followed by the papal blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Lent 2001

The next day (John) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' ... Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

—John 1: 29-30, 34

Nicaragua native finds God and home in Charlotte Diocese

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

LINCOLNTON — Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina found God on the highway while driving from Miami to Charlotte. It was not as if God had not been a large part of his life, but the realization of God's presence throughout his life almost blindsided him. While at a rest stop, his life's journey passed through his mind, and his spirituality took on another form.

He had been living in Miami with his wife and four children, trying to rebuild his life after emmigrating from Nicaragua to the United States due to his country's surging political and social upheaval. He became dissatisfied with his way of life in Florida, and, at the advice of a teacher, decided to move to North Carolina. On the way to his new home, Rev. Mr. Medina had a revelation.

"I experienced a conversion, a real turning point in my life. I realized the hand of God was upon me at all times during my life," said Rev. Mr. Medina. "I had not recognized this fact and came to my senses, realizing why I was here. I had been unfair and unjust in my heart, and I wanted to do something in return."

This realization eventually caused Rev. Mr. Medina to become a permanent deacon. However, his road to the diaconate had begun to be paved years before in a country that has known constant unrest and strife.

Rev. Mr. Medina was born in Managua, Nicaragua, the capital of a country located in Central America. Bordered by Honduras to the North and Costa Rica to the South, Nicaragua is the largest nation in Central America. Young Medina grew up in a poor neighborhood in a small family. "It was not as hard as people claimed it to be. We were a poor family, but my father and mother were hard-working people."

His parents' separation and eventual divorce sent him to the church for strength and guidance. "The separation of my parents was terrible and hard for me to bear. They divorced when I was 11, and I went back and forth between my father's and mother's houses. During that time of insecurity, I came to the Church for prayers and comfort."

Rev. Mr. Carlos Medina

Because there was no concrete emphasis on faith in his childhood home, Rev. Mr. Medina discovered Catholicism and developed his own spiritual relationship. "My parents didn't teach me what my faith was about. I learned it on my own and liked what I learned. I raised myself Catholic."

The schoolyard served as a meeting place for him and his future wife, Martha, and the two were married when Rev. Mr. Medina was 19 and Martha was 16. He said that the marriage served as a way of his trying to settle down his life, and the couple's love blossomed as they grew.

"I look back and think sometimes, it was crazy to get married so young, but through everything, God has been a part of our lives," said Mrs. Medina. "Thirty-one years is a long time, but this is only one time. Our love and the love of God have carried us through our lives."

Rev. Mr. Medina added, "We only knew each other about 6 to 8 months before we got married. We grew in love with each other. We had difficulties, but we overcame them. Those differences have made us love each other more."

Rev. Mr. Medina worked for the government in the public school system as a clerical office assistant and assistant teacher while attending college and earned the equivalent of an associate's degree in executive assisting. He later began attending the university for a degree in business administration.

One night in 1972, the Medina family woke to rumbling and shaking. A devastating earthquake annihilated the city including their home. "All of downtown was destroyed. It was the worst thing ever; more than 10,000 people died. It looked like an eternity, like it was never going to stop." As a government worker, Rev. Mr. Medina was ordered help rebuild not only their home but the homes and businesses of the other citizens, while his wife and children went to live with family.

As the earth shook, so did the country's government. The political structure, then a dictatorship, began to be called into question and along with that inquiry came the scrutiny of its workers. "Corruption stared running rampant, and we, the government workers began to look bad."

In 1979, Marxist revolutionaries, known as the Sandinistas, overthrew the dictatorship, and in the 1980s, rebels known as the Contras began a civil war. In 1978, Mrs. Medina, pregnant at the time and their three children, fled to Miami to stay with her sister, while Rev. Mr. Medina remained behind. "I decided it would be best for them to leave. I didn't intend to leave myself, but things got worse."

It was only meant to be a visit to his wife and family in Miami. Rev. Mr. Medina was going to return to their country after ensuring that his family was safe. However, Mrs. Medina had other ideas.

"It was such a bad experience for me, coming here with three children and pregnant. I felt alone, and I needed Carlos with me. I told him I wanted to go back to Nicaragua with him if he wasn't going to stay," remembered Mrs. Medina.

So, without any of their belongings or most of their clothing, the family began living in the United States. They applied for political asylum and visas because the government had been overthrown, and Rev. Mr. Medina began working odd jobs to support his family.

After arriving in Charlotte, they became involved with Hispanic ministry and began helping with the Hispanic Mass when it was being held at St. Patrick Cathedral. Through training with Eucharistic, pastoral and lay ministries and making his Cursillo in Spanish, Rev. Mr. Medina was introduced to the idea of the permanent diaconate through a conversation with Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta, then bishop of Charlotte.

Rev. Mr. Medina was ordained in 1995 and now serves at St. Dorothy Church in Lincolnton. He has his own Charlotte-based painting company and says he is doing what he likes, helping and serving people. "The permanent diaconate has opened a better way for me to look at my wife and family. I see myself as a different person, and it is actually exciting for me to go from Charlotte to Lincolnton," said the grandfather of two. "I preach to people about the hardships I experienced and how to overcome situations through the help of God."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

April 13, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 31

Inside

Gastonia parish makes international connection ... PAGE 4

High school offers moms educational options ... PAGE 5

Local News

Beatty Award recipient announced ... PAGE 7

Spirited volunteers honored for service ... PAGES 8-9

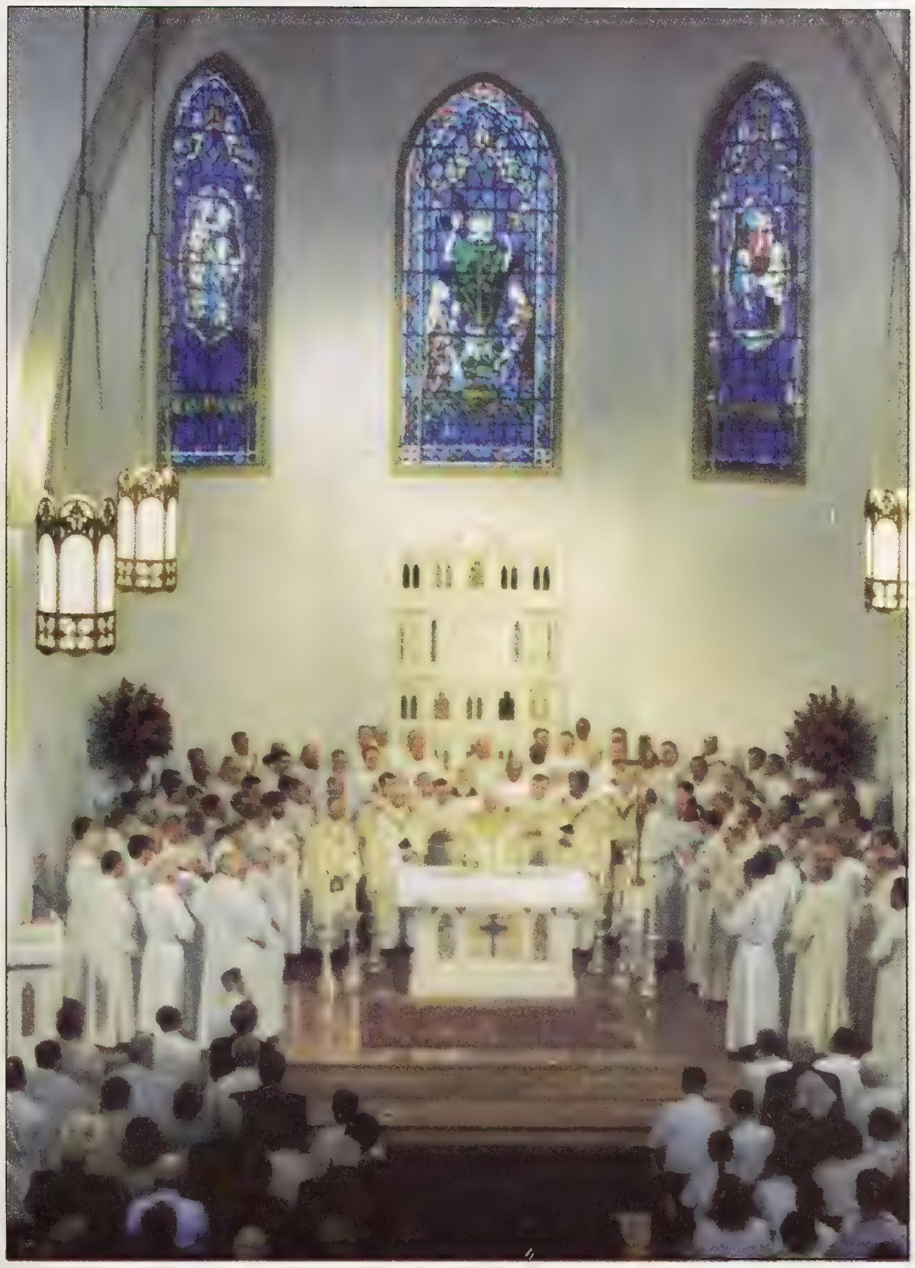
Every Week

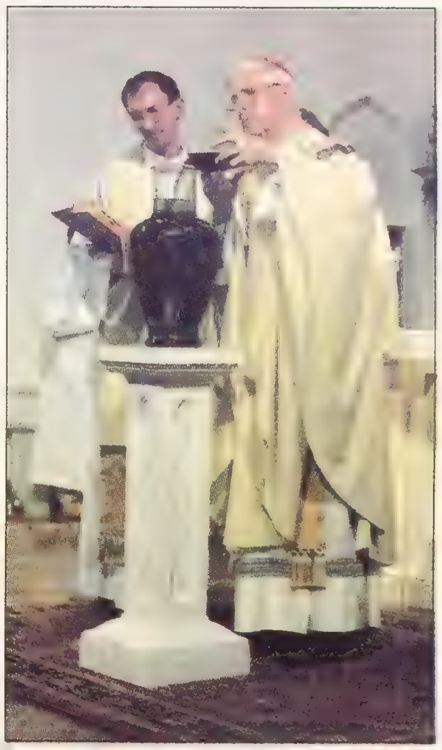
Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

Cover Art:
Clockwise: Priests concelebrate Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin during a Mass where the priests recommitted themselves in service to the bishop, and where the Holy Oils for the new year were consecrated. Top photo: Bishop Curlin pours the oil of balsam into the oil of chrism. Middle and lower photo show vessels of oil prior to consecration.

PHOTOS BY JOANN S. KEANE





Holy oils consecrated, priests recommit at chrism Mass

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — The chrism Mass reminds Ralph Dimenna of the Scripture passage from the 20th chapter of Matthew about the vineyard workers who worked all day and received the same pay as those who worked only part of the day. Dimenna says that his faith life can be compared to Jesus' parable. He attended this year's chrism Mass with other parishioners via bus from St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa to rejuvenate his spirituality.

"I am 77-years-old, and this is like my 11th hour. I am coming late in my life to the chrism Mass, but I wanted to get closer to God and the Church like everyone else," said Dimenna, the president of his parish's senior citizen group, SAGE, who had never attended the diocesan chrism Mass. "It was beautiful and inspiring, better than I imagined."Attendants from the Asheville Vicariate and others joined over 100 priests and deacons from all parts of the diocese for the chrism Mass, celebrated at St. Patrick Cathedral on April 10. The priests concelebrated the sacred Mass with Bishop William G. Curlin.

In keeping with traditional Holy Week observances, the Mass' purpose is to bless three different oils used in sacramental and liturgical practices for all of the faithful. Moreover, dur-

SEE CHRISM MASS, PAGE 15

Future of ecumenical dialogue looks good, says cardinal

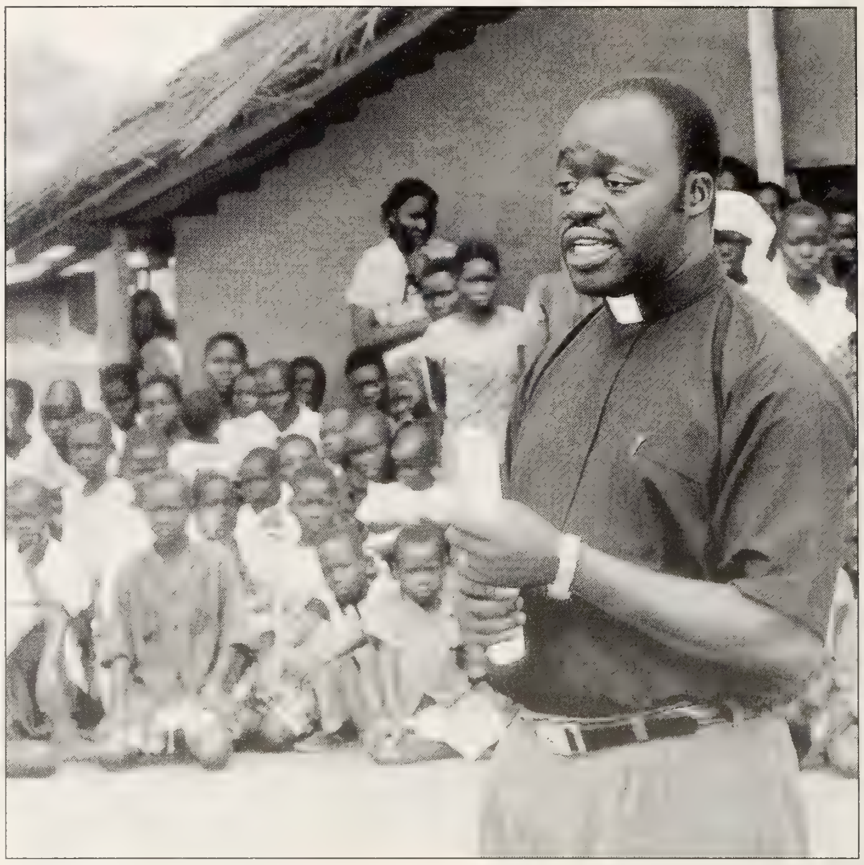
ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Australian Cardinal Edward I. Cassidy, the recently retired president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said he is optimistic about the future of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. "The jubilee year 2000 gave us, I believe, solid motives for such optimism," the cardinal said during a March 29 lecture at the College of St. Rose in Albany. The cardinal, who retired in March after serving in the Vatican post since 1989, gave numerous examples of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue during the jubilee year. He talked about the opening of the Holy Door at St. Paul Outside the Walls with leaders of other Christian churches, an ecumenical gathering in front of Rome's Colosseum in May, the pope's unprecedented "request for pardon" on behalf of the Catholic Church, and the pope's visit to Jerusalem's Western Wall.

Italian, Inuit singers entertain pope, young people at Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian pop singers and Inuit "throat singers" from Canada entertained young people from the Diocese of Rome as they joined Pope John Paul II in preparation for the local celebration of World Youth Day. The Inuit singers, whose duet was composed of alternating guttural sounds, were among 47 young people from Canada who gathered with their Roman peers for the April 5 evening program in St. Peter's Square. Pope John Paul, who called the young people the "sentinels of this dawn of the third millennium," told them to go out into the whole world to share with all men and women the Gospel message of love and hope.

BBC program reconstructs life, times and face of Jesus

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The face has dominated the front pages of British newspapers and magazines for a week. The hair and beard are cut short. The skin is dark and the eyes stare out. And underneath, the same question: "Is this the face of Christ?" The face is a reconstruction by forensic artists in Manchester, based on the skull of a first-century Jewish man, for "Son of God" — a three-part TV series being shown in April by the British Broadcasting Corp. The series, according to the BBC, reconstructs the life and times of Jesus and aims to strip away the layers of history from the biblical sites and reveal them as Jesus would have known them.



CNS PHOTO BY DAVE SNYDER, CRS

Priest addresses refugees at Ugandan camp

Father John Idro addresses refugees at the Oliji Camp in Adjumani, Uganda. The priest is chaplain of a three-person pastoral team for some 70,000 refugees, many of them Sudanese, living in 37 camps in the area

Work on revised Roman Martyrology complete, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After more than 16 years of painstaking research, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has completed work on the revised Roman Martyrology. The book-length calendar of saints' feast days has been sent to the Vatican printing press, Archbishop Francesco Pio Tamburrino, secretary of the congregation, told Catholic News Service April 6. The archbishop said details about changes in the liturgical book — which supplements the church's general calendar of seasons, feasts and holy days — will be revealed when the martyrology is released, perhaps in June. The book will include the feast days of the 446 saints canonized by Pope John Paul II and of the more than 1,200 people he has beatified, the archbishop said.

L.A. Catholic parishes, schools prepare for energy rate hike

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Pastors, faculty, students and parish staff at Catholic schools and churches across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles are "dimming the lights." They're trying to conserve electricity — and reduce costs — as they prepare for the biggest energy rate hike in California history. "It's going to hurt us, and if there's a downturn in the economy, it's going to be even worse," said Father John O'Byrne, pastor of St. Catherine Laboure Church in Torrance. In a unanimous decision the California Public Utilities Commission voted March 27 to raise energy rates by 3 cents per kilowatt-hour. The increase is expected to boost rates by as much as 42 percent for some customers of Southern California Edison, and by up to 46 percent for some served by Pacific Gas & Electric, known as PG&E.

Cardinal issues racism pastoral on anniversary of King's death

CHICAGO (CNS) — On the 33rd anniversary of the April 4, 1968, assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Cardinal Francis E. George released a new pastoral letter on racism exhorting the faithful in the Archdiocese of Chicago to work to eliminate the sin of racism. "Its purpose is to draw people's attention to the sin of racism, which is pervasive in our communities," said Cardinal George about the document, titled "Dwell in My Love: A Pastoral Letter on Racism." The letter follows "Moving Beyond Racism: Learning to See with the Eyes of Christ," a pastoral on racism released April 4, 2000, by all the Illinois Catholic bishops. "Dwell in My Love" is longer and more specific to the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The next edition of

The Catholic News & Herald will be published on April 27.

The editor and staff of your diocesan newspaper extend Easter greetings to our readers in the 46-county Diocese of Charlotte

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 19 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Michael, Gastonia

April 21 — 5:30 p.m.
Rededication of Our Lady of the Highways, Thomasville

April 22 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
Holy Spirit, Denver

April 23 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Pius X, Greensboro

April 26 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Francis of Rome, Sparta

Diocesan planner

April

21 BELMONT — The Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte invites everyone to attend "A Day of Reflection: Being Catholic in the Carolinas" today from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Chi Rho House on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the conclusion of Holy Week and the Lenten Theology on Tap program. The topics include the history of Catholicism in the Carolinas, Franciscan and Ignatian Spiritualities and the presence and growth of African-American and Hispanic Catholics in the Carolinas. For more information, call Will Esser at (704) 442-1119, Colleen McDermott at (704) 370-3212 or Jen Rupp at (704) 370-3359.

CHARLOTTE — The fund-raising committee of Our Lady of Assumption Church is hosting a golf tournament at Larkhaven Golf Club, 4801 Camp Stewart Rd., today, and golfers and sponsors are needed to participate in the event. Proceeds will benefit the church debt reduction fund. For more information and entry forms, contact Vince Coscia at (704) 536-4287 or (704) 907-3163 or e-mail vacoscia@AOL.com.

22 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday today at 3 p.m. with traditional solemn Benediction and recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The sacrament of reconciliation is available at 2 p.m. For more information, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

CHARLOTTE — Because of Holy Week, the charismatic Mass is being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Father Matthew Leonard from St. Gabriel Church is the celebrant for this month's Mass. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Canadians accept World Youth Day cross

Young people from Canada accept the large World Youth Day cross at the Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter's Square April 8. The cross was to be taken to Canada for the July 2002 international celebration in Toronto.

Pope says society must welcome mentally ill, defend their rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said society must welcome people suffering from mental illness and defend their rights and dignity. "The church looks with respect and affection on those who suffer such illness and exhorts the entire human family to welcome them, with special attention to those who are the most poor and abandoned," Pope John Paul said April 4, at the end of his weekly general audience. "May no one remain indifferent to these our brothers," he said. The pope's appeal came ahead of the April 7 celebration of World Health Day 2001, a U.N.-sponsored event under the theme: "Mental Health: Stop Exclusion — Dare to Care." Organizers said they hoped to raise public awareness regarding mental disorders and stimulate debate on how to improve the current condition of mental health around the world.

Posters, Web site against abortion doctors ruled free speech

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — In a ruling that overturned a $107 million verdict, a federal appeals court in San Francisco said March 28 that labeling doctors who perform abortions as butchers and criminals is protected free speech under the First Amendment. Richard Thompson, chief counsel of the Thomas More Center for Law and Justice, which represented seven of the eight defendants on appeal, praised the unanimous decision of a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Four doctors and two abortion clinics based in Oregon had won a $107 million judgment in 1999 against the American Coalition of Life Activists for its publication of the names and addresses of 12 doctors who perform abortions and use of "wanted" posters offering $5,000 for information leading to revocation of their medical licenses. An affiliated Web site called the "Nuremberg Files" had publicized information about hundreds of abortion doctors and compared their work to Nazi war crimes.

Catholic judge calls death penalty 'state-sponsored homicide'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Judge John Noonan Jr. of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals told an audience at The Catholic University of America that capital punishment is "state-sponsored homicide." Noonan, an alumnus of Catholic University who has taught at the University of Notre Dame, said that "a Catholic judge does have a serious problem if he has to rule over a case with the death penalty." The judge, himself a Catholic, joined Cardinal Avery Dulles, a Jesuit professor at Fordham University, for a panel discussion March 29 on the current Catholic debate on the morality of the death penalty. They spoke on the first day of a two-day conference at Catholic University on "The Morality of the Death Penalty: The Challenge for Law, Society and Religion."

Church leaders alarmed over effects of gambling in South Africa

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The proliferation of casinos in South Africa, a country relatively new to legal gambling, is having an alarming effect on families and communities, said a bishops' spokesman and others concerned with social welfare. "People are using money they can't afford (to spend)," said Auxiliary Bishop Reginald Cawcutt of Cape Town, spokesman for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, noting that "it is devastating for children and families when wage earners put all their money into slot machines." Last year the government granted 40 casino licenses nationwide. But, unlike many other countries where licenses are restricted to areas in need of development and where a tourist infrastructure could not be created without gambling, many of South Africa's casinos are situated in low-income areas, where unemployment is rife and disposable income is scarce. Hundreds of thousands of people have flocked to a multimillion-dollar casino complex that opened in a working-class suburb of Cape Town in December.

Czech church spokesman cautiously welcomes gay rights law

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Czech church spokesman cautiously welcomed a government-backed bill granting some legal rights to homosexual partnerships. However, he added that full recognition of legal marriage should be reserved for "the traditional family," and he accused Czech society of showing "selective tolerance" toward homosexuals. "The church accepts that the state can recognize cohabiting homosexuals, whose lifestyles are a private matter," said Father Daniel Herman, spokesman for the Catholic bishops' conference, in a March 30 telephone interview. "But it should be stressed that family is the basic cell of society. The laws should not give the same status to other forms of partnership," he said. The priest spoke as final drafting continued on the bill, which will extend marriage-style rights to homosexual partners.

Catholic-Methodist dialogue explores views of church

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Starting a new round of U.S. Catholic-Methodist dialogue, theologians of the two traditions explored how biblical images of church are used in the teaching of their respective churches. The theme of the March 26-28 meeting in Washington was "The Church in Each Place and in All Places." In a news release following the meeting, the participants said they found a wide range of agreement in the common biblical heritage and a wide variety of images of church used by both traditions. They found that in both churches the body of Christ is the most commonly used image of the church, although it is interpreted differently by Catholics and Methodists. Participants also discussed the goals of their new round of dialogue, the method of ecumenical dialogue in general and the different ways of doing theology together.

HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order meets today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, and for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

NORTH WILKESBORO — St. John the Baptist de la Salle Church, 275 CC Wright School Rd., is celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday today at 2 p.m. with adoration of the blessed sacrament and with 3 p.m. Benediction and recitation of the chaplet of Divine Mercy. The sacrament of reconciliation is also being offered. For further information, call the church office at (336) 838-5562.

23 CHARLOTTE — Because of Holy Week, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, meets tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in her Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

CHARLOTTE — There is a support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

MORGANTON — Catholic Social Services and St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., are offering parish ministry classes for those who are ministering or would like to minister to the sick and elderly homebound. The classes; covering ministry, sick and elderly issues and administering the Eucharist to those in homes and hospitals; are being held at the church hall beginning today and continuing on the next two Mondays, April 30 and May 7. Participants will receive certificates and must bring their experience and willingness. For further details, call Meg Smith at (828) 438-0774.

NEWTON — The Little Flowers Catholic Girls' Group is for all Catholic girls ages five and up. The group meets today and every fourth Monday of the month at St. Joseph Church, 720 West 13th St., at 4 p.m. in the Holy Family Hall. For more details, call Debbie Vickers at (828) 495-2039.

24 BELMONT — The Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture is sponsoring a session with Father Joseph Howard, the American Life League's executive director of the Bioethics Advisory Commission, and Dr. Bernard Nathanson tonight at 8 p.m. in the Student Commons Building of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Tonight's topics of discussion include stem cell research, cloning, in-vitro fertilization, abortion and other areas. For details, call Victor Mraz at (704) 829-7364.

25 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

27 HOT SPRINGS — The Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy. 25/70, is sponsoring an Ignatian Retreat Weekend for men and women beginning tonight at 8 p.m. through April 29 with morning Mass and noon lunch. The weekend, directed by Jesuit Fathers Joseph McGovern and George Hohman and Mercy Sister Peggy Verstege, director. The weekend includes a brief history of St. Ignatius, an introduction to Ignatian prayer and time for prayer and spiritual direction. To register by the April 20th deadline or for further details, call (828) 622-7366.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Gastonia church makes international connection with sister parish

By MICHELLE BUCKMAN
Special to The Catholic News & Herald

GASTONIA — St. Michael Parish in Gastonia recently hosted visitors from their sister parish, the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Chacraseca, Nicaragua. Ana and Dora Salgado, ages 15 and 17, visited the Gastonia area for a month to speak at local churches and schools about the Beca scholarship program.

Life in Chacraseca is far different from the luxuries of the States. Ana and Dora were astonished by the modern conveniences used in everyday American life. "We've seen the tall buildings and busy cities on television, so that didn't surprise us," Dora explained, "but the technology amazed us."

Her sponsor, Loraine Dalpiaz, shared in the amusement as they gazed at the dishwasher's ability to actually clean dishes, to see the trash compactor compact the trash, an automated carwash wash the car all on its own and an ATM machine hand out money.

In their home village, plumbing is non-existent. Outhouses are commonplace. Buckets of water are hauled from a well on the church grounds to a household tank for daily use, a system upgraded from the remaining four village wells where a pair of oxen are used to pull 435-foot ropes through dung and dirt to retrieve the water. As the rope returns to the well in the older hand-dug wells, so do the contaminants.

Limited electricity is available, and so is television. American television shows as well as Brazilian soap operas can be tuned in, making the local teen-agers well-aware of American culture. They like American clothes and listen to American music. The girls' favorite bands? The Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync.

Although much of the girls' trip to the United States seemed like a vacation, they devoted many hours to promoting the Beca program, a scholarship fund for the youth of Chacraseca where schooling is only provided free through the sixth grade.

"Beca provides opportunities otherwise not available to the children of Chacraseca, to get an education, which is key to their future," says Beca program coordinator Flo McCarthy.

The cost of providing a high school education for one child is roughly $250 annually. University costs approximately $800 per year. Thus far, 12 children have graduated through the Beca program and have obtained jobs as teachers and accountants. One has become a doctor. Currently, there are 75 students receiving school funds through the generosity of 35 sponsors. Many more sponsors are needed.

Beca is not limited to St. Michael's parishioners. People throughout Gastonia and in other parts of the country have also become involved.

Those who feel incapable of providing the full educational needs of a child, but still feel drawn to aiding these children, donate school supplies or small sums of money for that purpose. The next shipment of supplies will leave St. Michael Church in June.

The Beca program stemmed from the establishment of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a St. Michael Church sister parish after a visit to Nicaragua in 1991 by Father George Kloster, pastor of Saint Michael Parish at the time, and currently pastor of St. William Parish in Murphy and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hayesville.

During repeated sojourns to Latin America with other priests, Father Kloster hoped to discover a village to link to his North Carolina parish. He was deeply moved by a night procession in Chacraseca that convinced him he'd come to the end of his search. He established a connection with the small group of Maryknoll sisters serving the area and drew the support of interested parishioners at St. Michael.

This Sister Parish Committee and numerous donors and volunteers have built the relationship up to what it is today. "I consider myself a catalyst and nothing more," says Father Kloster. After a delegation of five visited Chacraseca, they determined their initial challenge was to develop a realistic source of income for the Chacraseca community.

The answer came in the form of a cement block factory, which was built and later furnished with a truck. The opportunity for work and income greatly improved life in the village, but despite the great advancements, much remains to be done.

Sandy Holland, founding member of the Sister Parish Committee, was one of the first delegates to visit Chacraseca. "Father George told me I would get as much out of this as I would give them. He was right. That week there, that first time, was truly a religious experience. To see and experience the faith of these people — it was by far the best gift I've ever received."

With the assistance of St. Michael's parishioners, the community also benefited by the construction of a parish hall, a dream come true for Sister Joan, a Maryknoll sister who has served in Nicaragua for many years.

The establishment of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a sister parish to St. Michael has greatly benefited the entire community in other ways as well. Doctors and dentists join the missionary trips to Chacraseca and volunteer their time and medicines to the people of the area. The most recent trip, in January, included several doctors, as well as lay people, visiting the children they sponsor.

J.A. Dalpiaz, Dora's sponsor and an active volunteer who repeatedly visits Nicaragua, says that anyone who has ever made the trip to Chacraseca would go again because the experience affects everyone deeply.

"The mission is not only material but spiritual. By serving materially, you are serving spiritually. We are giving to people who really appreciate it — they see that people really care." And that kind of sharing reaps emotionally high rewards.

Ana and Dora Saldago felt the best part of their trip was sharing their culture with American children. But the most fun was roller-skating, something they'd never done before. When asked how they felt about returning home, the feeling was mutual. Both girls loved the States, but missed their family. "It is so different in the United States. This visit produces a lot of sadness, and we wish Nicaragua would be this way."

Maybe in the future, with a little help from their friends, it will be.

Economist to speak on Social Security system

BELMONT — Noted economist Dr. Stephanie A. Bell, assistant professor of economics at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, does not agree with those who say the Social Security system is in danger of going bust.

Her lecture, "Uncovering the Truth about the Social Security 'Problem,'" will be presented April 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blandford Room of the Student Commons at Belmont Abbey College. The lecture is sponsored by the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College.

Attendees should respond by April 18 by calling (704) 825-6884.

Bell will pose that the "problem" with Social Security is political rather than financial and believes that privatization of the system would be a mistake. A frequently published economist, she is member of the board of editors for the Journal of Economic Issues.

Belmont Abbey Chorus plans spring concert

BELMONT — The Belmont Abbey Chorus presents its spring concert Thursday, April 26 at 8 p.m. in the historic basilica on the Belmont Abbey campus.

The concert is free and open to the public.

The chorus is directed by Jocelyn Thompson and accompanied by Karen Jacob.

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Woodend Academy offers young moms educational option

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BOONE — During her valedictorian speech last December, Jamie Moore Ferrell reflected on finding a friend in her principal. She thanked Donna Woodend for being an amazing teacher and a person who got to know her students on a personal level.

Ferrell graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average. Now working toward a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Ferrell is armed with the tools that will help her for life.

In addition to the traditional pre-college curriculum, she learned about self-esteem. She learned the importance of being a successful member of society. And she learned how to be a good parent to her daughter, Allison.

Ferrell and her classmates are teen-age mothers. Without Woodend Academy, a private, non-parochial high school for teen moms in Boone, Ferrell said her life might have turned out much differently.

"Donna is just a wonderful person," added Ferrell, now 19. "They don't offer what she does in most towns, and so it was a really good opportunity."

The founder and principal of Woodend Academy, Woodend identifies with many titles. "Chief administrator." "Support person." "Organizer." "Bottle washer."

But the term Woodend identifies the most readily with is "mom."

A mother of four, the parishioner at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Boone founded Woodend Academy in the summer of 1997.

Daughter Grace, then 16, "indicated to me that she knew several young women in her high school who had become pregnant and dropped out of high school," Woodend said. "I was saddened by the fact that these women were going to have to grow up so quickly, but I was even more saddened by the fact that they had dropped out of high school."

Woodend, an educator whose degrees include one in curriculum development, devised a plan to open an institution to help young mothers finish high school. "I realized that now they have chosen to give life to their children, they were going to become teen-age mothers and probably single parents," Woodend said, "and they were going to need very strong academic tools in order to find a productive place in society and get back on track."

Courtesy Photo

After meeting a few hours a week at the local Crisis Pregnancy Center, Woodend's burgeoning school found a permanent home at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church.

"We could not have gotten started without the help of St. Elizabeth's," said Woodend. "St. Elizabeth's provided the home for the school, and it also provided a wonderfully nurturing environment."

The school eventually outgrew the space at the Catholic parish facility, and has since found a home at Boone United Methodist Church.

Father Conrad Hoover, then pastor of St. Elizabeth whom Woodend approached in 1997 about the possibility of housing the school at the church, continues to applaud the works of the Academy.

"This is a very positive way to address the issues of both unwed mothers and of being opposed to abortion and therefore encouraging mothers to have their babies," said Father Hoover, now pastor at St. Ann Church in Charlotte. "It is a tragic situation when these mothers have to drop out of school, and this provides them the possibility of getting a diploma and moving on with their lives."

The school and its curriculum are state-certified, and in addition to traditional pre-college coursework, the

See ACADEMY, page 14

April 6, 2001

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I express my sincere gratitude to the people of the Diocese of Charlotte for their generous response to the earthquake disasters that so terribly devastated the people of El Salvador and India in January and February of this year. Thousands of people died in these earthquakes and hundreds of thousands continue to remain without homes. Your prayers and your financial contributions have made a difference. As of March 31, a total of $84,932.74 has been raised by the Diocese of Charlotte for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Baltimore, Maryland to aid in that organization's relief efforts in El Salvador and India. We have shown generously our desire to share in the mission of CRS, founded in 1943 by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, to assist those who are poor and marginalized throughout the world.

I am a strong supporter of the work of CRS. CRS only sponsors development and assistance programs that reflect and express the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. This organization has received numerous awards recognizing its work, its efficiency and its accountability to the funds it collects. Over 90% of funds raised by CRS goes directly to overseas programs that benefit those who are poor. Our diocese has a strong tradition of supporting the work of CRS, through special appeals such as our earthquake relief appeal as well as through CRS programs like Operation Rice Bowl.

This Lent as we journey along Christ's way of self-sacrifice, we pray that our love of God and our love for others deepens. We especially ask the Lord to deepen our love for the less fortunate and those most in need of our prayers and support. Supporting the work of organizations like CRS witnesses that we as Christians joyfully accept the challenge to carry the mission of our Lord to love one another to the far ends of this world.

I would like to end this message of thanksgiving with words of wisdom and guidance from the Holy Father:

In Lent the 'offering' assumes a deeper meaning, because it is not just giving something from the surplus to relieve one's conscience, but it is truly taking upon one's self the misery of the world. To look at the suffering faces of many brothers and sisters forces us to share at least a part of our own goods. In this Lenten season, I want to invite all believers to an ardent and confident prayer to the Lord, because it allows each person to experience anew His mercy. Only this gift will help us to welcome and live the love of Christ in an ever more joyful and generous way (from the Vatican, January 7, 2001).

My dear brothers and sisters once again on behalf of Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops I thank you for your generosity. I pray that you have a blessed Easter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

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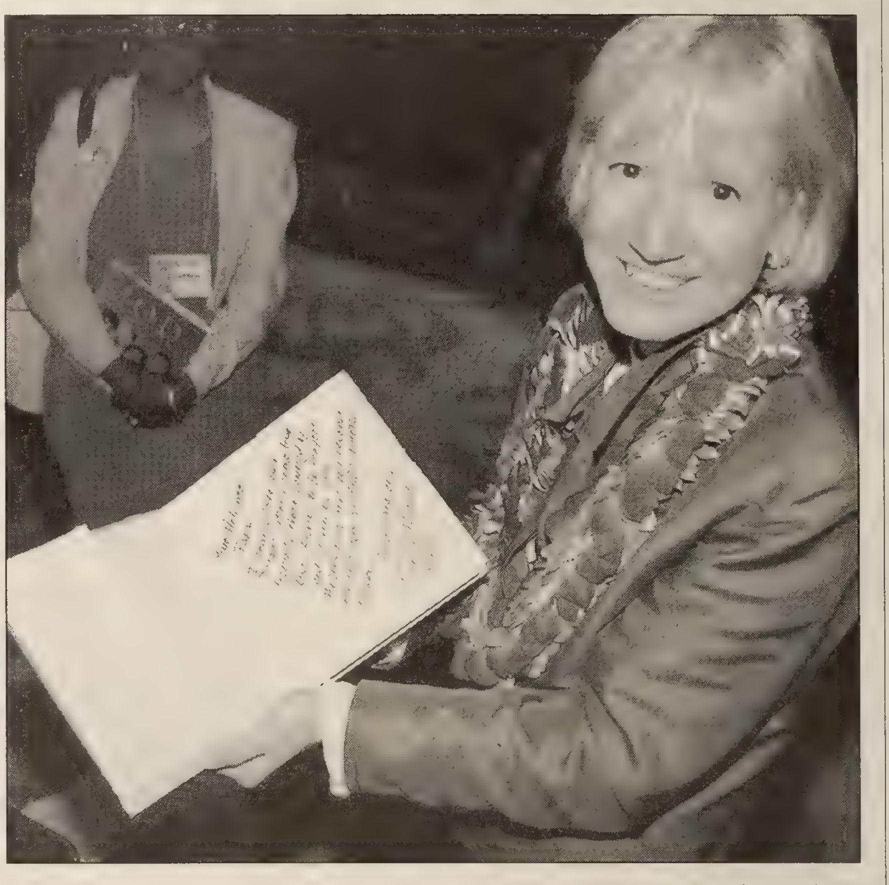
Girl sentenced in Catholic school shooting

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (CNS) — An apologetic Elizabeth C. Bush was given an open-ended sentence to a juvenile psychiatric facility April 4 after pleading guilty to having shot a classmate at Bishop Neumann High School in Williamsport March 7. Bush, 14, was tried as a juvenile on the recommendation of all parties, including the family of Kimberly Marchese, the girl wounded in the shoulder in the lunch-hour shooting in the school cafeteria. "I just want to say I'm sorry for everything I've done to you," Bush told Marchese during the hearing in Lycoming County Court. Marchese, also 14, attended the court session with her arm still in a sling. Under the terms of the sentence, Bush could be held in the behavioral health service unit of New Morgan Academy near Reading until she is 21 and could undergo further detention in an adult facility after that.

Theologian criticized by Vatican wrote interreligious guidelines

ROME (CNS) — A Jesuit theologian whose book on non-Christian religions drew Vatican doctrinal congregation criticism in February was a main behind-the-scenes architect of current Vatican interreligious dialogue guidelines, originally published in 1991. Speaking at Jesuit-run Gregorian University April 5, Bishop Michael Fitzgerald, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said Jesuit Father Jacques Dupuis was a member of the drafting committee for the Vatican document, "Dialogue and Proclamation." Bishop Fitzgerald also said the church owed Father Dupuis a "debt of gratitude for his pioneering work" in trying to make theological sense of religious plurality.



CNS PHOTO BY LISA BENOIT, HAWAII CATHOLIC HERALD

Shelly Mecum addresses copy of book for pope

Shelly Mecum holds the first copy of "God's Photo Album," a book she wrote with students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. She addressed the first copy to Pope John Paul II.

McVeigh execution 'tests the mettle' of death penalty opposition

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The impending execution of Timothy McVeigh "tests the mettle of the emerging Catholic view about the inappropriateness of capital punishment" like no other case, said the archbishop of Indianapolis, in whose state the execution will take place. In an April 2 statement, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein said that, with McVeigh due to be the first person executed by the federal government in 38 years, "many believe no criminal is more deserving of the death penalty." The statement was signed by Archbishop Buechlein as head of the Indianapolis Archdiocese, general chairman of the Indiana Catholic Conference and member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities. McVeigh is scheduled to be executed May 16 at the federal prison in Terre Haute. He was convicted on 11 federal counts of conspiracy and murder for the April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Ex-White House official joins Georgetown law faculty

WASHINGTON (CNS) — John D. Podesta, who served as White House chief of staff under President Clinton, has been named a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center. Podesta will teach courses on legislation, congressional investigations, copyright and public interest law — subjects he also taught at Georgetown law center while on the White House staff — and work to establish a Center on Law and Technology at Georgetown. A 1976 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Podesta founded Podesta Associates Inc., a Washington government relations and public affairs firm, in 1988 with his brother, Tony.

Ohio nun inspires others to walk for multiple sclerosis

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For Sister Karen Zielinski, participating in the annual MS Walk in Toledo, Ohio, and assisting the Multiple Sclerosis Society in other ways is much more than a volunteer job. "For me, it's a ministry," said Sister Karen, communications director for the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio. "It's such a great cause. I want to empower people to help find a cure for MS." It's also a cause that is very close to Sister Karen's heart. Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at the age of 21, she has been living with the disease for more than 25 years. For the past eight years, the Sisters of St. Francis have been organizing into teams of a dozen or more for the annual MS Walk. Last year the group calling itself The Sister Act brought in donations of $10,000 — the most money raised by any group of walkers in the Toledo area.

Former Republican chairman nominated for Vatican post

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jim Nicholson, a Catholic who is former chairman of the Republican National Committee, has been nominated to be ambassador to the Holy See. President Bush April 6 announced his intention to nominate the 63-year-old Nicholson, who would succeed Corinne "Lindy" Boggs. The nomination requires confirmation by the Senate. "Jim Nicholson is a proven leader who will bring a solid sense of commitment to his work with the Holy See on critical world issues," Bush said in a statement. Nicholson is an Iowa native who became a Colorado real estate developer and an active volunteer for various organizations. He chaired the Republican National Committee from 1996 through last year's elections. He currently is on the staff of the Washington law firm Greener and Hook.

Pope donated $7.2 million to charity in 2000, report says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II gave about $7.2 million in disaster relief and development projects in 2000, according to the Vatican's coordinating agency for charitable donations. In an annual report released April 7, the Pontifical Council "Cor Unum" said its activities in 2000 included encouraging church aid organizations to maintain their distinctive Catholic identity. According to the report, the pope gave more than $1 million to 32 disaster relief projects in 2000, with the largest single donation of $140,000 going to help flood victims in Mozambique. The pope also financed 53 "projects of human and Christian promotion" totaling $888,805. Most were programs for literacy, health, and assistance to women and children in poor countries in Africa, Asia and the former Soviet republics.

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CCHS grad raises funds for World Camp

CHAPEL HILL — Blair Holloway, a Charlotte native and a graduate of Charlotte Catholic High School, has teamed up with eight students from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to found a nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of impoverished children around the world.

World Camp for Kids, Inc. is currently raising money to fund camps for African children in Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and South Africa this summer. The World Camp for Kids team will travel to southern Africa to provide 20 two-day camps reaching at least 100 children per camp.

To fund the camps, World Camp for Kids hopes to reach its goal of $50,000 in donations. World Camp has already received confirmation letters from 14 schools in Africa requesting camps from the organization from more than 1,800 children. The group hopes to raise enough money to provide each child at the camps with a toothbrush, a picture of themselves, a T-shirt and two nutritious lunches.

"If we each make a small contribution, together we will be able to make a big difference in the lives of these kids," said Holloway, who graduated from CCHS in 1999 and is now a sophomore radiological science major at UNC.

The World Camp teams will educate the children about environmental protection, personal hygiene and technology. By raising awareness about these issues, as well as about AIDS prevention in a region where one in 10 are infected, the team hopes to boost the children's self-esteem and sense of community pride.

"Since AIDS is becoming an ever-growing problem in many regions in Africa, we feel it is vital to share our knowledge about AIDS with the kids there," said Holloway. We want to make a difference in the lives of these children who were not born in the comfortable environment that we have been blessed with in the United States."

Laura Ivey and Baker Henson, two of Holloway's fellow students at UNC, were inspired to begin the organization after a trip to South Africa in the spring and summer of 2000.

"It was an amazing experience to see how people live in an entirely different area of the world," Henson said. "It made me realize how much I've taken for granted living in America. This inspired us to start an organization that would concentrate on enriching the lives of children who were not born with health, wealth and prosperity."

"Many of the kids we came in contact with last year seemed very insecure about themselves and their community in Africa," said Ivey. "Just letting then know that someone was interested in them and believed they were special changed their lives. Some of them have even written to express their attitude."

For more information about World Camp for Kids, contact (919) 967-7980.

Beatty Award recipient announced

CHARLOTTE — The Charlotte Regional Office of Catholic Social Services has named Caroline Love Myers the 2001 Beatty Award recipient. Myers recently retired after 25 years of service as the Executive Director of Crisis Assistance Ministry and she more than fills the requirements of community involvement and generosity for this award.

Caroline Love Myers

The Beatty Award is given annually in recognition of a person whose strong religious faith has prompted him/her to give back to the community in church related and/or public service works in the Charlotte Mecklenburg area. Col. J. Francis Beatty served as a U.S. Army officer in three wars, was a member of the Knights of Malta, was involved in the textile, trucking and warehouse industries and delivered hot meals to shut-ins until his death at age 89. The recipient of this award must emulate the fine qualities of Col. J. Francis Beatty.

This year's recipient, Caroline Love Myers, is a native of Charlotte and founded the very ministry she helped to open in April 1975. The Crisis Assistance Ministry provides emergency financial assistance for low-income citizens. The agency also offers help, compassion and caring. It was originally founded at United Methodist Church in Dilworth and later moved to St. Martin's Episcopal Church until 1988 when it moved to the Community Services Center on Spratt Street. In 1985, the ministry moved from its religious origin to a community-based organization funded by Mecklenburg County, United Way, religious, corporate and individual donations. In 1999, it had a fiscal budget of $5.1 million. In 1999, Crisis helped resolve 19,439 emergencies ranging from evictions and utility shut offs, to hunger and homelessness.

Prior to Myers's work founding Crisis Assistance Ministry, she was the director of Community Missions at Covenant Presbyterian Church, part-time instructor at CPCC, registrar at Queens College, and a math and history teacher at Charlotte Country Day School.

Myers will be presented formally with the 2001 Beatty Award on Thursday, May 10th at the Catholic Social Services "Wings of Hope Annual Gala" at Founders Hall. For information regarding sponsoring or attending this event, contact Brady Drummond-Ryan at 704-370-3349.

Previous recipients of the Beatty Award include Jerry Fox in 2000, Janice Valder-Offerman in 1999, Diane English in 1998, Sister Mary Thomas Burke in 1997, Peter Keber in 1996, John Engler in 1995, Ray Farris in 1994, Chuck Grace in 1992 and James Babb in 1991.

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Spirited volunteers honored for extraordinary service

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

HICKORY — *A gifted musician, a talented artist, a champion of Native Americans, a tireless workhorse, a multilingual saving grace for immigrants, a champion of life issues, a smiling warm face that welcomes clients, and a couple with an open door and heart to children in crisis.*

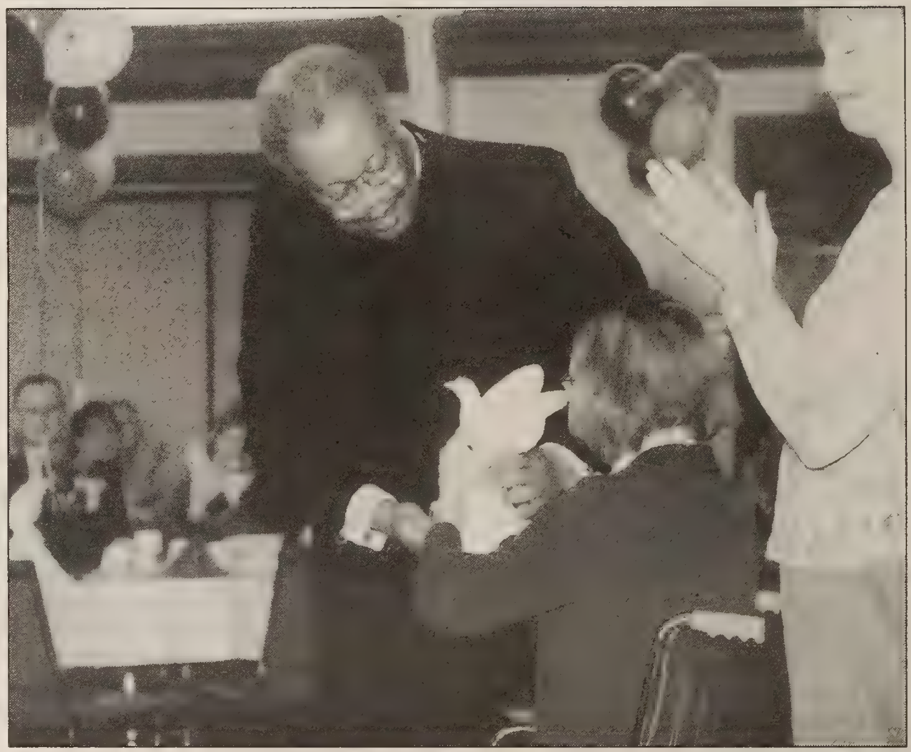
These are the recipients of the 2000 Spirit Awards. On a recent Tuesday at the Catholic Conference Center, 10 tireless volunteers were honored by Catholic Social Services, bestowed with the Spirit Award, recognized and profusely thanked for each and every act of kindness in the name of the Catholic Social Services ministries.

Some have overcome incredible odds in their own lives; yet find the time and determination to volunteer. Some are seeking a way to give back to the community. Some are a living testament to reaching out to others. All have one thing in common: In the eyes of Catholic Social Services, they are blessings; answers to calls for help, champions for those in need.

And so, on a crystal clear spring morning, The Charlotte, Piedmont Triad Regional, and Western Regional offices, along with the Justice and Peace ministry, Refugee Resettlement Office and Special Ministries teamed up to provide an appropriate celebration in honor of this year's recipients. The honorees are:

Mary Finlayson

When Sandra Breakfield, director of Elder Ministries thinks of music, she thinks of Mary Finlayson. "The two go hand-in-hand. Through her music, she is able to reach people of all ages. It's amazing the barriers she's able to go through with her gift of music. Her unselfish giving of her talent as well as herself has been an extraordinary contribution to CSS Elder Ministry. Although Mary does not drive, that has not hindered her ability to minister to others through her music, as evidenced by her volunteering almost every day of the week. Mary's concern, commitment and compassion has spoken to this generation, and through them, to the next."



Elizabeth Corcoran

Sonya Hayden, coordinator of Volunteer Services for the Refugee Resettlement Office, introduced their honoree, a woman, who was given the prognosis of six months to live; that was in 1973. In the early '80s, she signed on with the Refugee Office, "and with the grace of God is still very active and helping other people," said Hayden. Though Corcoran is at the mercy of a wheelchair or motorized scooter, she utilizes the City's special transportation services to arrive — with regularity — at the Senior Center in Charlotte, where she teaches English and explains American culture and customs to senior refugees. "The impact on the refugees she teaches is remarkable. In some cultures, the physically handicapped are considered helpless and even useless. The senior refugees are not only learning English from Elizabeth, but they have come to understand that no matter what your age, gender or physical challenge, every person has worth and can be productive."

Barbara Tinsley

Western Regional Office Director Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette hears chit-chat outside her office and knows some CSS staffer is connecting with Barbara [Bobbie] Tinsley. She also knows, "Bobbie is making someone's life brighter." Bobbie Tinsley "answers our phones and door with patience and grace. Her faithful friendly caring manner represents the best of what CSS stands for to our clients. Bobbie came to our dedication and open house and five days later, she was filling that need on a regular basis. She is kind, helpful, dedicated and dependable. Her special talent is seeing a need and filling it. We are grateful for her unique qualities and for her willingness to share them with us."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

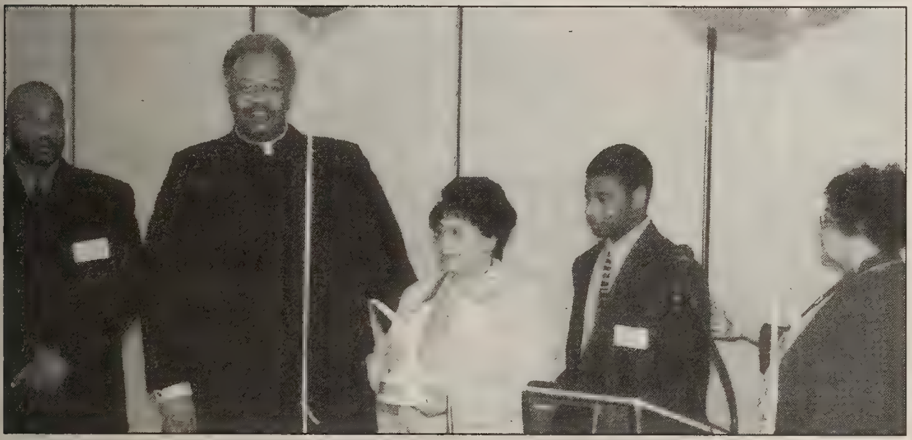
Photos by Joann S. Keane

Ed Konarski

Terri Jarina, director of diocesan Operation Rice Bowl efforts, said, "Ed has chaired the Catholic Relief Services diocesan committee since its inception in 1996. He was instrumental in launching the mini-grant program that provides funding up to $500 for projects or initiatives that include action on international justice and peace or local immigrant or migrant issues. Ed's commitment to CRS' programs is exemplified in his support of the Operation Rice Bowl Lenten program at his parish, St. Charles Borromeo in Morganton."

Pat and Bea Staub

Geri King, Director of the Charlotte Regional Office, had this to say on the Staubs' involvement: "Pat and Bea Staub have been associated with CSS for many years following the adoption of their two children through CSS. They have been involved with the Adoption Auxiliary since its beginning and continue to generously support annual events by taking photographs of the children with Santa and chairing the spring picnic. The Staubs were responsible for the beautiful photography and design work of our Annual Report last year. In addition, Bea chaired the Charlotte Regional Office Annual Fundraiser, 'Wings of Hope Gala,' last spring."



Marshall and Brenda Patterson

Mabel Stevenson, director of the Piedmont Triad Region's Host Homes programs, introduced the Pattersons, a couple who have spent nearly two decades as foster parents for troubled teens. To date, 47 Forsyth County youth in crisis have been welcomed into the Patterson home for varying spans of time. "Together, the Patterson family has made a difference in the lives of many children by frequently and willingly opening their heart and home to those in need. They are committed, compassionate and sincere individuals who truly care about the people in their community and feel compelled to give back. Host Homes is truly blessed for the opportunity to work with such a unique family." Stevenson also recognized the Pattersons' 10th-grade son, who participates in the Host Homes Program. "He is a member of the Teen Council and like his parents, he is a very dedicated and reliable young man."

Jack Sweeney

Maggie Nadol, Respect Life Coordinator, knows passing down the teaching that life is precious sometimes becomes a difficult task, in the world of today. "Jack has taken it upon himself, especially through the March for Life to gather the youth of our diocese and make sure we have a strong presence at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. For his continued way of rallying people, we recognize and thank him."

Mary Herr

Barney Offerman, director of the diocesan Catholic Campaign for Human Development, called Mary Herr "the ultimate volunteer." Unable to attend the Hickory luncheon, Herr was volunteering in Western North Carolina, a previous commitment. "In a way, the best way to characterize her is [to say] she has a servant mentality, which is a very hard thing to maintain when dealing organizationally. She's worked with the Cherokee Indians for years, she's a regional consultant both to Hispanics and Native Americans in the Cherokee and Bryson City areas. She's been a faith formation consultant, and a spirited Justice advisor and advocate in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate. She has done pastoral work with St. Joseph in Bryson City and also did pastoral work with Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Cherokee."

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June 6 – 9, 2001

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Rev. Dr. Giles Conwill
"Holy Ground Is Where You Meet Culture, People and Religion."

Seung Ai Yang, Ph.D.
"In Their Lands, In Their Lives, In Their Faith, and In Their Stories."

MACC – Sr. Rosa Maria Icaza, CCVI, Ph.D.
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Book Review

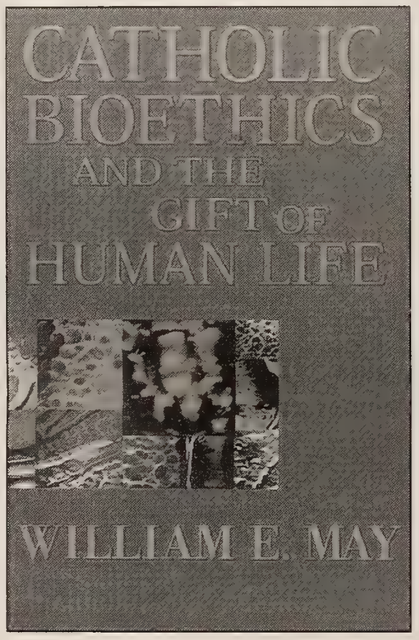
Book explores modern bioethics, morality issues

By RICHARD M. DOERFLINGER
Catholic News Service

People who suspect that Catholic orthodoxy is boring — that it has pat answers for everything and that it leaves no issue open for discussion — should read "Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life."

Author William E. May is a thoroughly orthodox Catholic layman who has taught moral theology at The Catholic University of America and the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, both in Washington. He enthusiastically supports the teaching and ministry of Pope John Paul II, and draws heavily from his encyclicals and from recent Vatican documents to set forth the church's teachings.

CATHOLIC BIOETHICS AND THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE, by William E. May. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind., 2000). 340 pp., $17.95.



But in surveying some of the hottest issues in modern bioethics — euthanasia, reproductive technologies, brain death, organ transplants, etc. — May is careful to show areas where theologians who accept those teachings differ on how to apply them.

Especially fascinating is May's analysis of one of the most bizarre dilemmas created for us by the new biology: whether faithful Catholics may "adopt" frozen embryos which have been created in a laboratory and then abandoned by the biological parents. May a Catholic woman offer to have such an embryo implanted in her womb, and raise the child as her own, within the bounds of Catholic teaching on reproduction? This issue has been vigorously debated in Great Britain, where a national law calls for disposal of such "orphan embryos" after a certain period of time. The question has gained greater visibility in the United States due to a proposal by the National Institutes of Health to use these embryos for destructive experiments.

The author thinks that an effort to rescue these embryos from disposal or permanent freezing does not violate church teaching against "surrogate" motherhood, but is a prenatal form of adoption — a praiseworthy service to human life that takes place after other people have already violated the moral law. However, he carefully and respectfully reviews the arguments of those who disagree, and he has generally shown them his summaries of their arguments to make sure he is not misrepresenting them. May's book gives the reader an inside look at how a disputed question in Catholic ethics can be responsibly argued and (perhaps) resolved, without disputing church teaching.

May outlines similar disagreements on certain new reproductive technologies, on artificially assisted feeding for patients in a so-called "vegetative" state (a term he dislikes for its suggestion that such patients are less than human persons), and on using permanent loss of brain function as a way to diagnose death. On each of these questions he generally takes the more rigorous position — that is, he thinks other ethicists are mistaken in giving their moral approval to certain practices.

Whether one agrees or disagrees with May's position, however, his text and footnotes provide good material for coming to one's own conclusions. On the issue of "brain death" the pope himself has made recent comments that seem to accept the idea of diagnosing death by finding irreversible loss of brain functions; May thinks there is new evidence that may demand a reassessment of "brain death."

When covering older issues, such as contraception, May does not merely review old arguments but tries to provoke a new appreciation for the church's concerns. For example, he tries to show that acceptance of contraception is much more a pathway to abortion — is more "anti-life" — than most Catholics are ready to admit. Here and throughout, his discussion is "rooted in the conviction that human life, even when heavily burdened, is always a great and precious gift of God."

This book is both less and more than a basic textbook in Catholic bioethics. It does not provide a detailed analysis of concepts such as natural law or the principle of double effect, but illustrates how these concepts can be applied to resolve particular problems. It also often goes beyond abstract conclusions to provide practical guidance to people facing medical dilemmas — from genetic counseling before conception to advance directives at the end of life.

Researchers and medical professionals, theology students and Catholic patients and families facing difficult treatment decisions all can profit from this challenging book.

Doerflinger is associate director for policy development at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Word to Life

April 22, Second Sunday of Easter
Cycle C Readings:
1) Acts 5:12-16
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
2) Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
3) Gospel: John 20:19-31

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

He would turn 6 in October, after the deadline, and his parents were content to put off first grade for another year. But the little boy was devastated. He wheedled and raged and played school in his room until his parents found a nearby private school willing to fudge the age requirement; they watched with pleasure his excitement at hearing the good news.

Imagine their amazement when the morning of the long-awaited first day of school dawned only to find the boy refusing to go. School clothes eagerly laid out the night before, new lunchbox, school supplies — nothing could rekindle the fire of enthusiasm that had made it hard for him to sleep just 10 hours earlier.

Good news, by definition, is both good — which we're usually happy about — and new. It was the newness of school which floored the little boy. Faced with the reality rather than the dream, self-doubt assailed him. Would new kids like him? Could he do the work? Would he make mistakes and miss his mother and start to cry?

One of life's persistent ironies is that the changes we yearn for from afar often frighten us when at long last they appear.

It's striking how often Easter Season readings, like this Sunday's from Revelation, urge the disciples, "Do not be afraid!" To follow the risen Lord is to embrace good news, but it is news that calls us to conversion. It calls us to leave behind the comfort of the familiar and to embrace the path of new life with all its adventure and uncertainty, its challenge and its promise.

The boy went, fearfully, that first day. And though he always resisted change, fought leaving the comfortable old for the mysterious new, he grew to love school and found in its challenges a path to deeper life.

May our continuing Easter celebration give us the courage to embrace its message in both its joyful goodness and its sometimes scary newness.

QUESTIONS:

What is one step your faith has invited you to take which required overcoming a fear? What was one time you found yourself resisting goodness out of fear of change?

Weekly Scripture

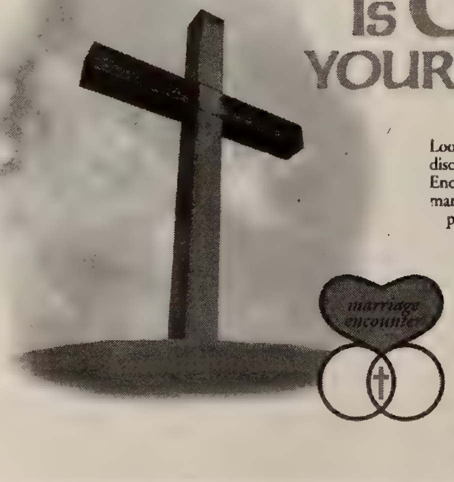
Readings for the week of April 15 - 21, 2001

Easter Sunday, Acts 10:34, 37-43, 1 Corinthians 5:6-8, John 20:1-9; **Monday**, Acts 2:14, 22-23, Matthew 28:8-15; **Tuesday**, Acts 2:36-41, John 20:11-18; **Wednesday**, Acts 3:1-10, Luke 24:13-35; **Thursday**, Acts 3:11-26, Luke 24:35-48; **Friday**, Acts 4:1-12, John 21:1-14; **Saturday**, Acts 4:13-21, Mark 16:9-15

Readings for the week of April 22 - 28, 2001

Second Sunday of Easter, Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19, John 20:19-31; **Monday (St. George, St. Adalbert)**, Acts 4:23-31, John 3:1-8; **Tuesday** (St. Fidelis), Acts 4:32-37, John 3:7-15; **Wednesday (St. Mark)**, 1 Peter 5:5-14, Mark 16:15-20; **Thursday**, Acts 5:27-33, John 3:31-36; **Friday**, Acts 5:34-42, John 6:1-15; **Saturday (St. Peter Chanel, St. Louis de Montfort)**, Acts 6:1-7, John 6:16-21

IS GOD IN YOUR MARRIAGE?



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Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Apostle" (1997)

When a Texas Pentecostal preacher (Robert Duvall) becomes distraught over losing his congregation and wife (Farrah Fawcett) to a younger minister, he bashes his rival's head with a baseball bat, then flees to a rural Louisiana community where he revitalizes an old church and starts a radio ministry whose growing popularity leads to his arrest. Also written and directed by Duvall, this portrait of an evangelical preacher explores his religious zeal and personal failings as seen within the human context of a Southern community, all of which is played out with sincerity and conviction in an often compelling story. A strong scene of violence, menacing situations and marital infidelity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

"Brother Sun, Sister Moon" (1973)

Director Franco Zeffirelli's version of the oft-told story of Francis of Assisi (Graham Faulkner) treats him as secular saint and social heretic, emphasizing parallels between his age and our own. The strength of the movie lies in its rich visualization of the natural beauties of the Umbrian hills and the Romanesque architecture of medieval Assisi. While the lush and lavish production has nothing to do with the Franciscan spirit of poverty and simplicity, it is a pictorially beautiful movie which succeeds quite well in celebrating nature and the quest for finding more to life than accumulating material goods. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Paramount)

"Easter Parade" (1948)

Irving Berlin musical about a vaudeville dancer (Fred Astaire) who loses one dancing partner (Ann Miller) but gains stardom with another (Judy Garland). Directed by Charles Walters, the story is little more than adequate but the principals make it all seem to matter and the songs and dance numbers are bright and cheery. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM)

"Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story" (1996)

Compelling dramatization of the early life of Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day (Moira Kelly) as a young journalist whose agonizing over failed love affairs leads her to reflect on her life and, in doing so, discovers God, then meets Peter Maurin (Martin Sheen) and puts his ideas of social justice into practice during the Depression. Directed by Michael Ray Rhodes, the biographical movie depicts a woman's spiritual journey in convincing dramatic fashion, though it is largely interior, deeply religious and specifically Catholic in its sensibilities. Realistic treatment of love affairs, an abortion and a suicide as well as some coarse language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Paulist Productions)

"Gospel Road" (1973)

Produced by Johnny Cash and filmed in locales around Jerusalem, the movie is a very personal and sincere interpretation of the public ministry of Jesus Christ. Directed by Robert Elfstrom (who is often seen as the Christ figure), it avoids for the most part a literal portrayal of the events of the New Testament and wisely opts for a symbolic visualization. Cash appears as on-screen narrator as well as vocalist backed by a country-folk musical score and the result reflects, better than most, the spirit of the Gospels. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Fox)

"Green Pastures" (1936)

Warmly sympathetic, gently humorous fantasy from Marc Connelly's Pulitzer Prize-winning play portraying stories from the Old Testament as imagined in the cultural idiom of black youngsters in a rural Sunday school of a long-ago segregated South. Directed by Connelly and William Keighley, the all-black cast carries off the narrative's mixture of whimsy and reverence in high style, with a commanding performance by Rex Ingram as De Lawd and appropriate gospel music by the Hall Johnson choir. Considered a positive portrayal of black folk culture and religious feeling by audiences of the time, the work still has considerable charm and emotional appeal today, especially for those interested in the history of the African-American community. Parents, however, should be sensitive that its picture of blacks may be misunderstood as patronizing or demeaning unless seen in historical context. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM)

"Lilies of the Field" (1963)

When an itinerant jack-of-all-trades (Sidney Poitier) stops to help a group of German nuns newly arrived in New Mexico, his cheerful generosity is disdained by the stern, demanding Mother Superior (Lilia Skala) until he builds them a chapel with the aid of the local Mexican-American community. Directed by Ralph Nelson, the movie's simple little story of the triumph of faith coupled with good will has enormous charm in the winning performances of the two principals, some good-natured comedy and an infectious theme song that will leave viewers humming "Amen." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM)

"Resurrection" (1980)

Engrossing but flawed drama about a woman (Ellen Burstyn) who discovers that she has the power to heal people after barely surviving a tragic accident in which she loses her husband. The screenplay by Lewis John Carlino sets up a fascinating situation, but neither Carlino nor director Daniel Petrie is able to work it out in satisfactory fashion. The spiritual side of faith healing is dealt with in very unimaginative fashion showing the afterlife, for example, as being, quite literally, the light at the end of the tunnel. Theme and language require a mature perspective. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. (Universal)

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope: Liturgy of the Hours unites Christians with Holy Spirit

BY JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Praying the Liturgy of the Hours unites Christians in a unique way with the Holy Spirit and the whole church in praise of God and in intercession for the world's salvation, Pope John Paul II said.

He said the traditional church prayer, structured around the Psalms, enables believers to sanctify each part of their day by reflecting on the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

The pope made his remarks April 4 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square. It was the second of a series of talks that he said are intended to promote — especially among lay people — the practice of the Liturgy of the Hours.

He said Christians who recite the Psalms "experience a sort of harmony" with the Holy Spirit's own prayer.

"In praying the Psalms at different moments of the day, it is the Holy Spirit himself who, dwelling in us through the grace of baptism, is praying in us with 'sighs too deep for words,'" said the pope.

Early Christian monks were convinced, he said, that in reciting the prayers "their faith allowed the Psalms' verses to release a special 'energy' of the Holy Spirit."

In addition, Christ continues his mission on earth through believers who recite the Liturgy of the Hours, because the prayers unite the church in praise of God and intercession for the salvation of the whole world, he said.

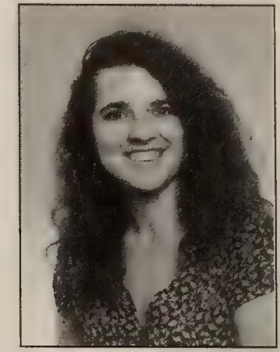
The Christian tradition of the Liturgy of the Hours developed gradually from the recitation of the Hebrew Psalms, which church leaders associated with different times of the day, week and year, the pope said.

The rhythm of the prayers centered on the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, he said.

"Christian prayer is born, nourished and developed around the event of the faith par excellence — the paschal mystery of Christ. In this way, in the morning and at night, from the rising to the setting of the sun, Easter — the Lord's passing from death to life — was recalled," he said.

"To recite the Psalms in this way is to immerse ourselves in the ocean of life and grace which is the mystery of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," he said.

Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Teen Disturbed By Hypocrisy

A young woman wrote a letter to me to share her dismay at certain aspects of life in her Catholic high school. I won't go over the details, but what it all came down to was her perception that actions just weren't matching up to words. In her mind, her school was "Catholic" in name only.

She concluded her note by telling me that she was currently searching for a religion that didn't embody so much of what she described as "hypocrisy."

Uh-oh. Uh-oh for her, and uh-oh for the rest of us. Let's take the rest of us first.

This teen wasn't exactly dumping on her peers, although their behavior clearly irked her. No, her gripe was more that the un-Christian behavior of her peers was being tolerated by adults, and the whole mess was being ignored so everyone's sense of their faith could remain unchallenged.

So there's point No. 1. So often we think that our behavior is purely our own business, right? We think that as long as we're not physically harming ourselves or others we're OK.

But there are lots of ways to harm others, even indirectly. No, we can't run around the planet bearing responsibility for everyone else's perceptions on our shoulders. We can, however, stop and remember before we engage in hypocritical behavior that others are watching us — others who are wondering what being a Christian is all about. If what they see is tinged with hypocrisy, we have, indeed done some harm.

Now the uh-oh for her. And maybe for you, too.

The presence of hypocrisy is no reason to abandon one's faith, though that may be tempting since you have to wonder what power this faith has when you see people — adults or other kids — living in violation of it.

You have to wonder if it's really as true and as good as they say it is when they can't even bother to really let it mold their lives. Yes, you have to wonder, and there's nothing wrong with that kind of wondering. But in the end you have to remember one other very important thing: The truth of something isn't determined by how well people live it.

You believe in honesty, right? I'm sure you do. I'm sure you strive to be an honest person, and I'm sure you would much prefer to deal with honest people than liars.

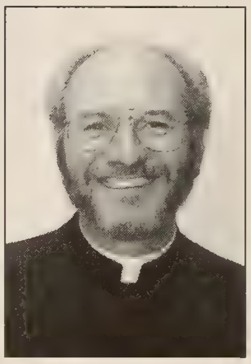
But are you 100 percent honest all the time? Good for you if you are, but I imagine that most of you, like the rest of the human race, have at some time in the last few weeks shaded the truth in at least one conversation you've had. Does the fact that you violated your own value of honesty make that value suddenly a false one?

Does the fact that you don't perfectly live out the teachings of Christ make those teachings invalid?

No. You know that just isn't the case. The church, like any institution, is filled with imperfect people and even a few outright hypocrites. It's filled with people who stumble and fall, who — like Peter — betray Jesus in big and small ways.

But in the end, as discouraging as that may be, we have to remember that the way people live doesn't define what's true.

When we're seeking faith, it's not other people who should be our final guide. It's Jesus.



Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest Columnist

Violence against women

This true story from a safe house in rural Appalachia demonstrates what many women fear, and some face, when a horror movie turns real. The husband comes home drunk and has a gun. Frustrated with the world, he wields his power over the people he can more easily control, his wife and family. In a display of mountain machismo he shoots the phone off the wall then threatens to kill his family and commit suicide. Time to think fast. The woman calms her husband as best she can, then asks to beg some cigarettes at the neighbor's. Without purse or coats she and her three kids dash into the cold January night before he changes his mind. The neighbor drives the get-away car. At the shelter she continues crying and shaking hysterically. In her panic she has even wet on herself. Slowly the care and warmth at the shelter — the cup of herbal tea, the hot bath, the clean clothes — soothe her, and by 2 a.m. she and her family can settle in for the night, six hours after the ordeal began. The next morning she'll start from scratch, knitting her life back together.

In the U.S. a woman is physically abused every nine seconds. Women are more frequently victims of domestic violence than victims of burglary, mugging or other physical crimes combined.

The statistics on violence against women indicate no assurance for a woman's safety even among kith and kin. Two-thirds of the attacks on women are perpetrated by someone the victim knows, frequently a husband or boyfriend. Forty-two percent of murdered women are killed by an intimate male partner. Nationally, 50 percent of all homeless women and children became homeless because of domestic violence.

Why so much violence against women? Why the frequency of assaults? Sister Mary Kay Drouin, an Adrian Dominican with over 25 years of experience in spouse abuse ministry, believes society simply allows violence against women to continue. "Men must realize that family violence is a serious problem and not joke about it. An assault is a crime, whether against a stranger or your spouse."

Domestic violence reaches across all socio-economic classes, gripping victims in different ways. Well-educated middle class victims with marketable skills can remain in an abusive situation longer than necessary because verbal abuse reduces their self-esteem. They also fear losing custody of the children. But, abuse escalates; it never lessens. Many victims seek help only after the perpetrator touches the children.

Additionally, poverty in itself limits a victim's options. Lacking adequate education, starting a family at an early age and being abused as a child narrows the possibilities for a victim in poverty. In rural areas add the additional constraints of few available jobs and no public transportation.

"We can no longer blame the victim," reflects Sister Mary Kay. "The question is not why does she stay, but why does he abuse and why do we as a society permit it."

The U.S. Catholic bishops in their 1994 pastoral message, "Confronting a Culture of Violence," suggest the church must do more: "We can incorporate ways to handle family conflict in our religious education and sacramental preparation programs. We can work for public policies that confront violence, build community and promote responsibility."

Sister Mary Kay views domestic abuse and physical violence as learned behavior. "When children kill children we adults have failed miserably. They ultimately learned violence because we modeled it."

The National Domestic Violence hot line is (800) 799-7233.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Things That Truly Matter

My parish school recently celebrated fifty years of educating children, from pre-school through the eighth grade. The school is growing each year, with all the classes filled and a waiting list in some grades. St. Thomas the Apostle School is vibrant and eagerly looking to the future. The vision of the founders who created a place where God-centered values can be celebrated is still a popular notion in America 2001.

With this anniversary celebration in mind, our planning committee began brainstorming last year about how to acknowledge this terrific school. It was suggested that we research the graduates and highlight those who were most successful, either in status or financial accomplishments for the festivities. We found many including Robert Wright, president of NBC and Phil Quartararo, president of Warner Brothers Music. The CEO's of any number of companies were graduates of our parochial education. That made us all supremely proud. These people are wonderfully accomplished in the eyes of the larger society. Many of their values and ideals were formed in their families and in our school.

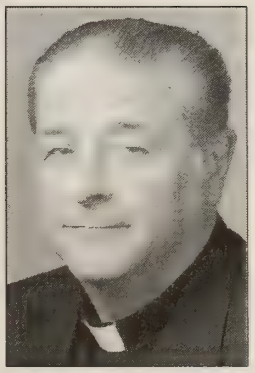
Then one day not long ago, we turned on the television and saw that, once again, kids were shooting kids at school. Once more, teens were taking out their angers and frustrations by doing violence to others. In one case, this time at a Catholic high school in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the shooter was a freshman girl. She apparently had "issues" with another student and decided to take matters into her own hands. She brought a gun to school and started firing in the cafeteria. Classmates, as you might expect, dove for cover. No one knew what the girl was capable of doing. And this shooting came soon after a shooting incident in Southern California in which at least two students were killed.

But Brent Paucke, aged 14, decided to get involved. Listen to his words: "The principal told me to get back, but you could tell that (the shooter) was really mad and she looked like she was about to go off on everybody. I got up and started toward her. I didn't want anyone to get hurt. She was saying, 'I don't want to live. I just want to commit suicide right here.' And she pointed the gun at her head. I was saying... 'You don't have to do this. It doesn't have to be like this. It can be better. Just put the gun down or give it to me.'"

The ending, happily, was positive. Brent was successful in distracting the shooter. The gun got kicked away. Only one girl was wounded and, thank God, she was not seriously hurt.

Brent made a real difference. This young man decided to speak up, and to reach out to someone in pain. He put himself at enormous risk. He might just as easily have become the second victim of this senseless violence. But something in Brent Paucke compelled him to get involved. Out of darkness, he brought light. Maybe it was in his tone. Perhaps it was the surprise he presented in not running away. Maybe it was the reasoning he offered, "It doesn't have to be like this. It can be better." And because of him, it was.

I have no idea if Brent is a top-flight student. No notion whether he will become a corporate CEO, or make a million dollars or become a success as the world defines the notion. But I know that now, and forever, Brent is someone who made a difference for the better. So on the anniversary of my school I found myself thinking that it's fine to salute the most successful or powerful or accomplished. But it's just as important to remember and celebrate those who were the most charitable, the most caring, and the most compassionate, the people who bother with people and don't run away — people who make a difference by bothering to love.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Q. My parents were married 45 years when my dad died several years ago. My mom is doing all right with a pension and lots of activities.

She has met a wonderful man, a widower, who wants to marry her. However, if they marry she will lose her monthly pension. If he dies, she would be left with nothing.

We have suggested that they just live together, but she has had a long Catholic education and thinks that is sinful. If God is a loving God, I believe he would want them to share companionship for the rest of their days. She won't ask this question of her priest. Will you give us an answer? (Michigan)

A. I believe the important answer is the one your mother is giving. It's her life and her conscience, and she is responsible for it. To try to push her into something that is against what she is convinced God wants is obviously not good or loving.

I must say I agree with her. Maybe she feels that, even though she is old, she still has obligations of good example, to display what she knows are right values and ideals. She doesn't want to undo in these final years what I'm sure she has been trying to teach her family throughout her life.

I've known many people who do what you are asking. If they have any strong spiritual background, however, they're not awfully happy with their decision, even less so as time goes on.

Since you ask for it, my advice is to support her in doing everything possible with her friend. They can make life much more enjoyable and good for each other without giving in to what you are urging.

Q. There are strong theories today that intelligent life exists in other galaxies of the universe. With the trillions of stars, there must be more life out there somewhere.

What does the church say about this? Have there been Adams and Eves in other places? Or are we the only place with human life? (Maryland)

A. About the only claim we can make for sure about such matters is that nothing in Catholic faith would deny the possibility of rational, conscious creatures in other parts of the cosmos.

God's creative imagination and power is certainly not exhausted by the human lives we experience on this earth. There could easily be countless life forms with the capacity to know and relate to the Creator in a conscious way.

Considering the exuberant generosity with which God lavishes life of all kinds on the world around us, we might be excused for strongly suspecting that this divine extravagance isn't limited to our time and place.

Beyond that, however, any theory about whether or how that extraterrestrial life might happen is, at least as of now, pure conjecture.

Some contend it is typical human arrogance even to question the existence of other intelligent life. We cannot be, they claim, the only fish in such a big pond.

That is not a strong argument, it seems to me. It pretends to know more about what God expects and receives from creation than we will probably ever know this side of eternity.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about ecumenism, intercommunion and other ways of sharing with people of other faiths is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS COLUMNIST

Pope and Others Urge Saving the Environment

Since the 1970s we have celebrated Earth Day in late April as a time to focus on our responsibility to revere nature, from which we derive all the products we need to survive as a people. This day of awareness came about because we were beginning to see the disastrous path we were on.

In the interests of becoming wealthy, comfortable, self-satisfied and loaded with new possessions and conveniences, we called ourselves modern, embraced even untested technology and ignored the many ways we were raping the earth. Taking notice, many called for a halt to environmentally destructive actions by proclaiming Earth Day.

Well, not only are we not out of the woods yet, but we seem to be getting in deeper. Policies coming out of Washington are scary. Consider: We are not going to try to reduce carbon emissions which escalate global warming; we are lowering arsenic standards for drinking water, endangering millions; spurred by oil companies, we are looking into opening America's last magnificent wilderness, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to oil drilling. What's next?

These days I am again reviewing what Pope John Paul II spoke about shortly after the end of the jubilee year. He called for an "ecological conversion," giving a broad definition of what he meant by that.

First, he referred to a "human ecology" that would "render the life of creatures more dignified" and protect the "radical good of life in all its manifestations." He said that humanity must become ever more sensitive to the need to "prepare an environment" for future generations.

I also think everybody should meditate on these passages from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "A theory that makes profit the exclusive norm and ultimate end of economic activity is morally unacceptable" (No. 2424). "Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community" (No. 2426).

Recent news reports point out that European leaders are appalled that the United States has said it will not follow through on the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, in which 38 nations agreed to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases, an action necessary to contain global warming. Some say they suspect that America's first interest is company profits, not world safety, and are calling this "irresponsible" and "arrogant."

As for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Union of Concerned Scientists, in Earthwise (Spring 2001), called this attempt to ravage a glorious wilderness, a true national treasure, "shortsighted." They estimated that all the oil gotten from drilling there would supply U.S. vehicles for only five months! They sensibly recommend that we stop driving "gas guzzlers" and demand fuel efficient cars. "In less than three years the country would save more gasoline than ANWR could provide," they say.

God gave us the earth and made us its stewards, to respect it and care for it. Our mandate from God is to complete the work of creation, to perfect its harmony for our own good and that of our neighbors. We should take that mandate and responsibility most seriously.

ACADEMY, from page 5

program includes childcare, parenting classes, career counseling and tutoring. State-certified teachers volunteer their time to the program, and Woodend oversees a curriculum that is decidedly creative. Service learning majors from Appalachian State University assist in the program, and graduate students from the university teach expressive art therapy.

The school is a nonprofit organization funded by local churches, civic organizations and citizens.

"Woodend Academy really does meet a tremendous need," said Father John Schneider, current pastor of St. Elizabeth and a member of the Academy's board of directors and trustees. "It provides the girls with an opportunity to complete their education, and it also gives specific education in raising children."

To offer educational and other support in a nonjudgmental way has always been important to Woodend. "When the girls come to us, they come to us downtrodden," she said. "They feel the weight of moral judgment. They feel like failures. They feel like the black sheep of society when in reality they are simply statistics — the ones who got pregnant."

Ten young mothers have graduated from the school so far, eight of whom have moved on to college. They come from vastly different backgrounds and vastly different experiences, but they share in the common bond and struggles of motherhood.

"The variety of personalities and family situations that follow these students into our program is just amazing," Woodend said. "Some of our girls have family support; some do not. Some have support of the fathers; some do not. Some come from economically well-off families; some come from the other end of the spectrum.

"But once they come to the Academy, they all become 'sisters.' They have to grow up quickly, they have to look at their lives differently and yet they are still struggling with teen-age issues."

Woodend said support from churches, businesses and residents has been beneficial for the students, their children and the entire community.

"We're committed to making it work," she said of the Academy and its staff. "When we have one success, it multiplies on itself. That young woman no longer resents her child from blocking her dreams. She sees her life as a positive experience. It's easier for her to see her child as a gift, and then that child is raised in a more positive atmosphere. The mother goes on to college or to get a good job and is no longer on government aid. She becomes a better role model for her child."

"This is a community challenge," she added. "These are our community's daughters. These are our community's children. The fathers are our community's sons. When we all help to ensure success for these young women, they we all share in that success."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

PRINCIPAL

St. Mary's Catholic School
Rome, Georgia

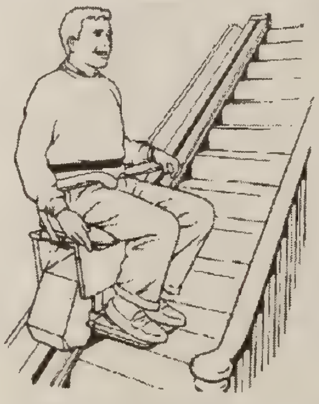
St. Mary's School, a SACS-accredited Catholic school affiliated with the Archdiocese of Atlanta, seeks an outstanding educational leader to begin in July 2001. The principal oversees daily operation and provides spiritual leadership for the school community. St. Mary's enrolls 250 students in grades Pre-K through 8, and plans growth to 400 students in the next five years. Construction is slated for a new facility and will begin fall 2001.

The ideal candidate should be a practicing Catholic and have effective communication skills and a passion for working with children, teachers and parents in a positive school environment. The principal should have the educational leadership qualities to sustain an excellent school and the vision to guide the community in growing and strengthening St. Mary's. Experience as a teacher and/or administrator in elementary and/or middle school is required, as is certification as an elementary school administrator.

Qualified prospective candidates should send, in confidence, an application that consists of the following materials: cover letter explaining interest in position and qualifications; resume showing all relevant educational experiences; statement of educational philosophy; list of five references.

Please use fax only in sending applications to: Fax (706) 295-3932.

Nominations and questions should be directed to:
Jennifer and Dennis Heller
Chairmen of Principal Search Committee
Phone: (706) 295-4614 E-mail Dheller235@aol.com



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Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, enrolls 246 students with a professional staff of 25. Immaculate Heart of Mary is fully accredited by the Diocese of Charlotte and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Applicant must be a practicing Catholic with a master's degree in educational administration, supervision, education or a related field, and be certified or certifiable as an elementary school principal in the state of North Carolina. Applicant must have teaching and administrative experience in the elementary grades. Immaculate Heart of Mary is a parish elementary school located in High Point, NC. Candidates with multicultural experience and/or bilingual skills preferred.

Excellent benefits. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Position is available beginning the 2001-02 school year.

Interested persons should submit a letter of intent, resume, list of references, and salary expectations by April 27 to:

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Charlotte
1123 S. Church Street
Charlotte, NC 28203-4003

Classifieds

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Preschool Teachers: St. Mark Parish, Huntersville, is seeking dedicated and spiritual teachers for its new preschool opening fall 2001. The lead teacher candidate will be degreed in Early Childhood Education or similar education field. The assistant teacher candidate will be at least 21 and a high school graduate. Both candidates shall have experience working with young children. Competitive salary and some benefits. Send resume and salary requirements to: Preschool Director, St. Mark Catholic Church, 14740 Stumptown Road, Huntersville, NC, 28707. Call (704)948-8015 for information or fax: (704)948-8018.

Principal: Archdiocese of Atlanta. St. John Neumann Regional School, located in Lilburn, Georgia. This SACS accredited school serves 500 students in grades K-8. Position offers opportunity for innovative, highly motivated instructional leader. Qualifications: Master's degree in Educational Administration, at least three years of administrative experience, certifiable in Georgia. Competitive salary and benefits; effective July 1, 2001. Submit letter of interest, resume, three letters of reference and university credentials to: Superintendent of Schools, Archdiocese of Atlanta, 680 W. Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30308-1984.

Teachers: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, Wake Forest, NC. 2001-2002 school year: certified kindergarten, 3rd grade, physical education teachers. Call (919)570-0070 or fax (919)570-0071.

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem has two teaching positions for 2001-2002: Physical Education, part-time, K-8; Guidance Counselor, full-time, K-8. Call school office (336)722-7204.

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CHRISM MASS,
from front page

ing the recommitment ceremony, the attending priests rededicate themselves to their mission in life as spiritual advisors and leaders within their parishes and the diocese.

The annual chrism Mass celebrated the ministry of priesthood and the role of the bishop as a spiritual shepherd.

"Priests are supposed to be the bishop's helpers, and if we don't have an allegiance to him and his authority, then we have no unity," said Benedictine Abbot Patrick Shelton, pastor at St. James Church in Hamlet and Sacred Heart Church in Wadesboro and vicar of the Albemarle Vicariate. "If we are not reminded of our commitment, then it becomes weaker and weaker. The chrism Mass helps us to remember what we are doing, what we are about and what our role is in the church as priests."

During the renewal of commitment to priestly service, the bishop reminded the priests of their ordination vows and their pledge to serve their parishioners and lead them toward a deeper devotion to Jesus. He also asked the congregation to pray for their continued work as priests — their leaders in faith.

Bishop Curlin said that through constant prayer, the sacraments and a sustained faith in Jesus Christ that those who have been called to serve the Lord through priesthood can fully perform their ministerial works.

"In order to be one with Jesus, we must say yes to God every day, even with our busy schedules, through sorrows and challenges," said the bishop. If we don't make our lives one with Jesus through our love for him, then we cannot bear it. When we rededicate ourselves to Jesus Christ, we receive all of the wonderful joy that flows from God.

"We cannot make it without prayer. Prayer is our breath, and without it, we die spiritually. If we repeatedly pray to God and proclaim 'I want what you want,' then he will deny us nothing."

The bishop stressed the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation not only for the diocesan faithful but also for the priests. "For us priests, reconciliation is not something we just give, but it is something we receive. The more we receive it, then the more sensitive we are to God's mercy, and we can then look forward to dispensing God's infinite mercy and hope to others."

Bishop Curlin asked the congregation to pray for their priests and their continued work in the parishes in order for the threefold relationship among the bishop, the priests and the parishioners to grow and prosper.

"On this day as your priests stand to recommit themselves to Jesus Christ and the priesthood, in your heart, ask God to bless them. We are human beings, so help us to be good priests and support us. We cannot live without you and your kindness."

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist, all of the priests and deacons gathered on the altar with the bishop and the vicars of the diocese for the consecration of the Eucharist.

Toward the end of the Mass, the bishop first blessed the oil of the sick, used for the ill and dying. The oil of catechumens for baptismal candidates was blessed next, and the sacred chrism, or 'Christ oil,' was first mixed with balsam, an aromatic oil derived from trees, and then blessed. The oil of consecration is used during the sacrament of confirmation, the ordaining of priests and bishops and the blessing of churches and altars.

Vials of the oils are dispersed to every diocesan parish and mission church. With the sacred oils in hand, the priests can return to their parishes rededicated in spiritual union with the bishop and their parishioners.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocee.org.

Golf tournament

SALISBURY — The Sacred Heart School Parent-Teacher Organization is sponsoring a Captain's Choice Golf Tournament on April 28 at 1 p.m. at Corbin Hills. There are only 32 slots to be filled, and hole sponsor/door prize donations are being accepted. For registration and other information, call David Harrison at (704) 637-7018.

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Couple comes to permanent diaconate through faith and love

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — The arrival of summertime is usually characterized by heat and storms. For the Steinkamps, a seasonal lightning storm brought an unplanned and unwelcomed surprise. A lightening strike caused a fire that ravaged the couple's home. Everything was destroyed except for a two important things, so important that the homeowner, Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp, ran back inside to retrieve the items. The permanent diaconate ordination was taking place a week later, and Rev. Mr. Steinkamp wanted his vestments — his alb and stole — in order to participate in the ceremony.

"Neighbors were trying to restrain him, but I told him that he could run in quickly and get them and get back out," said Bette Steinkamp, his wife. "We walked into that ordination Mass, not depressed, but full of the peace of the Lord and smelling a little like smoke. This was an instance of God sustaining us through difficult times."

Even through adversity, Rev. Mr. Steinkamp was ordained in 1995 and has served at Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville and now serves at St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. The couple's spirituality and their lifelong relationship with God have carried them through their lives, and that dedication is what led them to the permanent diaconate. The cradle Catholics began their steps toward ordained ministry in the small town where they were raised.

The mighty Mississippi flows through their memories as Ron and Bette Steinkamp attended the same Catholic grade school in Quincy, Ill., a small town situated on the river, and attended separate boys' and girls' high schools. They were not even aware that they had passed each other in the halls of their elementary school until they began dating years later.

"We lived in a Catholic subculture. All of our friends, the girls I dated, etc. were Catholic. All of my childhood was pre-Vatican II, and we went to Mass everyday," said Rev. Mr. Steinkamp. "I always felt secure about the church; I liked being Catholic."

The couple dated while Rev. Mr. Steinkamp attended the University of Illinois and were married in 1964. After receiving his bachelor's of science degree in economics, he began working for Armstrong Cork Company in production planning. This affiliation caused the family to move several times over the next 20 years because of job transfers. "Moving was part of the corporate culture back then, and part of my focus was on the business world," said Rev. Mr. Steinkamp.

With the smell of his father's and grandfather's gardens still fresh in his mind, the family's first stop was Massachusetts. "We lived near the coast, and we had never seen the ocean. The first thing we did was go down to the beach and taste the salt water. The snow came down in great, big flakes, and we bundled up."

The next move was to a warmer climate in Georgia, and this was their first exposure to the Civil Rights Movement in the deep South. "They had just taken down the 'Colored' and 'White' signs off of the water fountains. It was so surprising to me because we weren't raised in it and hadn't been exposed to it. We received a new understanding of a situation we were isolated from in Illinois."

Rev. Mr. Ron Steinkamp

They were transferred to Pennsylvania and then to Virginia where Rev. Mr. Steinkamp and his wife began to participate in various activities. Rev. Mr. Steinkamp worked as a Scoutmaster and in the Parent-Teacher Organization, while both he and his wife became involved in a Bible study group. That same group decided to build a church since there was not one nearby.

"There was an outpouring of spiritual growth in the parish, and the building of the church created a lot of spiritual roots. The spark of Cursillo hit the parish, and my wife and I were some of the first to make our Cursillo. It is a time to really listen to the Gospel message and examine where you are spiritually."

After participating in what he said was a significant spiritual experience for them, they became involved with Cursillo and charismatic renewal teams. "Charismatic renewal offers people personal time to allow the spirit of God take over all parts of one's life, letting God be God in one's life to the fullest extent possible," said Rev. Mr. Steinkamp.

After moving to North Carolina, they began to attend charismatic renewal conferences in the Diocese of Charlotte and were invited to be a part of the charismatic service renewal team. "We came down here (to North Carolina) and jumped in with both feet into the Cursillo and charismatic renewal movements. I didn't know about the permanent diaconate before I came here, and through our involvement with lay ministry, I wanted to continue to grow spiritually and to try to satisfy that desire in me to know God more."

As with the charismatic and Cursillo movements, Rev. Mr. Ron and Bette Steinkamp attended the formation classes together and enjoyed their time together growing in faith and commitment throughout their lives.

"We attended these classes and had we not been together, we would not have grown together the way we have," said Rev. Mr. Steinkamp, father of two and grandfather of four and now vice-president and general manager of manufacturing logistics of Thomasville Furniture. "The diaconate has provided a good foundation and has allowed me to help people in a way that I never would have thought about through the RCIA process, the annulment process, faith formation and other ministries."

"The deacons are a vital need in this diocese, and it is an ordained ministry, a special calling to Christ," said Mrs. Steinkamp. "We could lose it if we don't value it. It is a mighty and necessary work of the Holy Spirit in his Church."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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April 27, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 32

Inside

High Point parishioner honored by governor ... Page 4

Students participate in Operation Rice Bowl ... Page 5

Local News

Gastonia teacher recognized by NCEA ... Page 7

Catholic poet shares gift in verse ... Page 14

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

He loves justice and right; of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full

Psalm 33:5

Photos by Jimmy Rostar

A Day of Blessings
The multicultural parish of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville celebrated the blessing of their newly renovated church April 21. Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the Mass, after which a group of Hispanic dancers, members pictured left, danced in honor of Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe. See story, page 9.

Lobbyists appeal for moratorium

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

RALEIGH — Rod Autrey is an ardent supporter of the death penalty. Yet in a message to a group of North Carolinians who advocate a moratorium on the use of capital punishment in this state, the Charlotte city councilman spoke passionately of his wish for a suspension of executions.

"If the death penalty means something, then I think you also have to believe that it's being administered fairly," Autrey told a group of more than 200 who came to the N.C. General Assembly April 17 to lobby for a moratorium on capital punishment. "You have to believe that there is equity in our system of justice.

"If you're talking about the absolute and ultimate penalty of life, then by all means we have to ensure that justice is truly blind."

Autrey said through careful study of data and information on the way the death penalty is executed, he realized the time had come for North Carolina to address questions about fairness while placing state executions on hold.

A moratorium does not end the use of capital punishment permanently; rather, it places a legal suspension for a certain amount of time while the system is carefully scrutinized to ensure equity.

Many death penalty opponents hope a moratorium will lead to the end of capital punishment altogether.

An alliance of grass-roots organizations with names such as People of Faith Against the Death Penalty and Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now sponsored the lobby day. Lobbyists traveled from the mountains to the coast to speak with their legislators about supporting a period of study on how the death penalty is implemented in North Carolina.

Autrey's stance marks a growing movement of support for a moratorium on the death penalty nationwide and in North Carolina. Research projects and media reports are pointing to increased evidence of racial and economic bias, poor representation and curtailed appeals in capital punishment cases. Growing concerns over putting mentally retarded offenders and wrongly convicted inmates to death have fueled the debate as well.

"No other system, no other program of government would be allowed to function that way," said James Ferguson, a Charlotte attorney and president of the N.C. Academy of Trial Lawyers. "We would have no other program operating in government which was inaccurate and known to be inaccurate, which was unreliable and known to be unreliable, which has no way of even determining whether the program has any effectiveness or not."

Several North Carolina senators and representatives have filed bills in the state Senate and House for consideration during the 2001-02 session of the N.C. Legislature. In addition to the moratorium bill, other bills focus on exempting the mentally retarded from the death penalty; eliminating the penalty of death on the basis of race; giving prosecutors the discretion to ask for life imprisonment rather than the death penalty; and imposing a life sentence rather than the death penalty in felony murder cases.

To date, 13 municipal governments in North Carolina have passed moratorium resolutions.

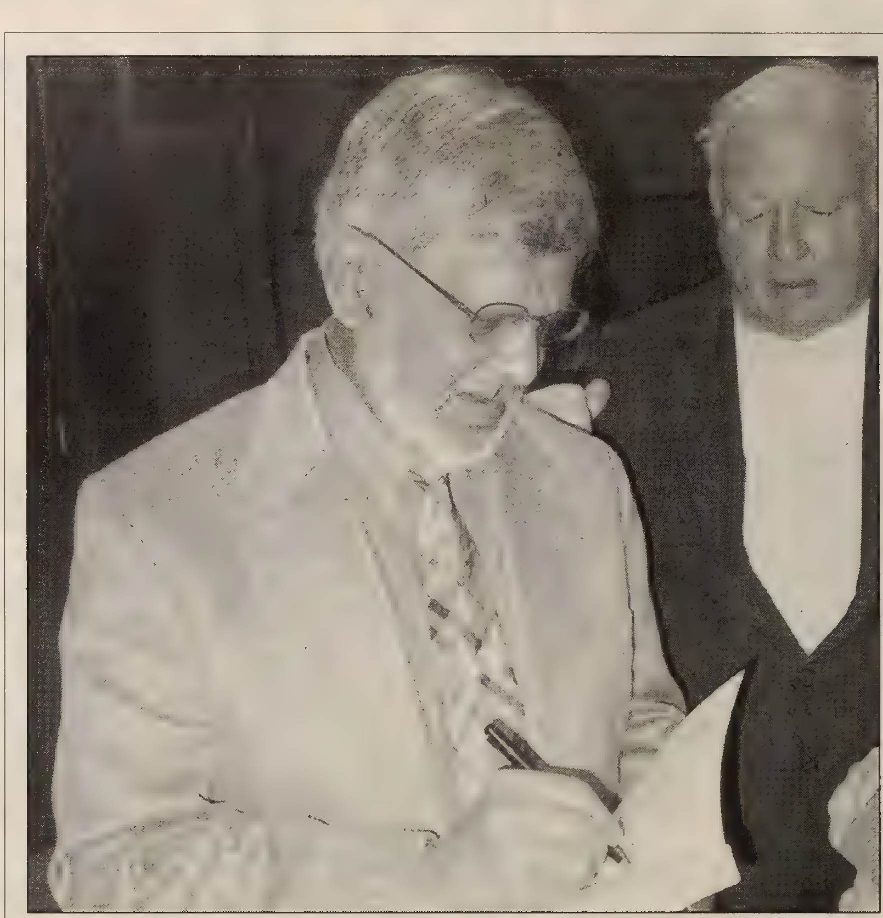
"Our representatives need to be hearing from their constituents, and constituents need to be expressing their views," said Scott Barber of Asheville, a member of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. "Our legislators need to hear from enough people so that they can feel safe doing what their conscience tells them to do."

Though the spring day resembled a wintry leftover, the cold temperatures, wind and chilly rain could not dampen the enthusiasm of those who came to express their views.

"This was just a mountain-top experience," said Ted Frazer, a parishioner of St. Peter Catholic Church in Charlotte and a member of Charlotte Coalition for a Moratorium Now. "When people come together in the name of God, miracles happen, and that's what we saw."

Dr. Barney Offerman, also of St. Peter

See LOBBYISTS, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY BARBARA STINSON LEE, INTERMOUNTAIN CATHOLIC

Arun Gandhi signs autograph
Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, signs an autograph after an April 6 panel discussion on nonviolence with Bishop George H. Niederauer at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

Pax Christi, others urge use of some of Pentagon budget for poor

NEW YORK (CNS) — Pax Christi USA joined with several other groups April 16 to use the deadline day for tax filing as a vehicle for their campaign to redirect much of the Pentagon spending to social needs. In New York, David Robinson, program director of Pax Christi, issued a statement declaring that "the Pentagon takes more money from the annual discretionary budget than nearly all other government programs combined." He called for "investing in national security based on a well-nurtured, healthy and well-educated population rather than on extravagant new weapons and outmoded defense strategies." Pax Christi, the Catholic peace movement based in Erie, Pa., joined with the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Children's Defense Fund and other religious and private organizations to issue the statement.

Two Iowa nuns indicted for School of the Americas action

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — Two Dubuque Franciscan nuns are among 26 people from across the country who have been indicted for acts of civil disobedience last November at the U.S. Army's school for training Latin American military officers in Fort Benning, Ga. Siblings, Franciscan Sisters Dorothy and Gwen Hennessey were shocked shortly before Easter to find they have been targeted for prosecution in the case. More than 10,000 people took part in the massive demonstration. The Hennesseys were among 3,000 who defied federal regulations and trespassed onto the U.S. Army base. The sisters could receive up to a six-month prison sentence and a $5,000 fine. They have been ordered to report to Columbus, Ga., May 22 for trial in U.S. District Court. The training school, founded in 1946 and formerly known as the School of the Americas, has trained about 57,000 Latin American military officers. Critics say its graduates have included many of the men implicated in some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America.

Cardinal, 'West Wing' honored for opposition to death penalty

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Cardinal Roger M. Mahony was honored as abolitionist of the year by a Los Angeles group for his continual statewide and national efforts to end the death penalty. The cardinal, who heads the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, received the award from Death Penalty Focus at its 10th annual awards dinner April 4. In presenting the award, actor Martin Sheen praised the cardinal, saying, "There is no stronger, more compassionate, more consistent voice against the death penalty than this year's recipient." Academy Award-winner Karl Malden also presented an award to television producer and writer Aaron Sorkin and the cast of NBC's "The West Wing" for their engaging presentations of political and social issues, and highlighted one episode focusing on the death penalty.

Pope praises Faith and Light Movement's care of handicapped

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By placing people with mental handicaps at the heart of their communities, the Faith and Light Movement witnesses to the world that every human life is a gift from God, Pope John Paul II said. "While there is an ever-growing tendency to eliminate before birth a human being who may be handicapped, the activity of Faith and Light stands out as a prophetic sign in favor of life and in favor of the priority due to the weakest members of society," the pope said. Pope John Paul sent a letter, dated April 2, to members of the movement marking the 30th anniversary of Faith and Light with a Holy Week pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. The movement, founded by Marie-Helene Mathieu and Jean Vanier, brings together the developmentally disabled, their family and friends for prayer, sharing and celebrations.

Military archbishop outlines basic duties of chaplains

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Saying he is "seriously concerned" for the welfare of priests who serve as military chaplains, the head of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services sent a letter and outline April 5 to U.S. chaplains stationed all over the world, specifically stating their expected duties. Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien began his letter by saying that Catholic chaplains often are overburdened because of the current priest shortage. "Increasingly, one priest is now expected to do the amount of work done by two or even three priests not so many years ago," Archbishop O'Brien wrote. In addition, he noted that today's chaplains face challenges from the military demands of their jobs, including obligations regarding staff meetings, unit coverage, ceremonial duties and professional military education.

U.S. has forgotten El Salvador's lessons, says ex-ambassador

CLEVELAND (CNS) — U.S. policymakers seem to have forgotten the lessons of El Salvador's civil war as they handle the so-called drug war in Colombia, said former U.S. Ambassador Robert White. White, who was ambassador to El Salvador when the four U.S. churchwomen were murdered there more than 20 years ago, has long been critical of U.S. Latin America foreign policy. White is concerned that the United States continues to use the lure of military spending to attract Latin American leaders' loyalty. That concern compels him to travel around the country to educate people about what he says are the realities of U.S. foreign policy. Now president of a Washington-based think tank called the Center for International Policy, White made the comments while in Cleveland as a visiting Woodrow Wilson fellow at Jesuit-run John Carroll University.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

April 28 — 5:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Mark, Huntersville

April 29 — 11:30 a.m.
Diocesan Youth Conference Mass
Camp Thunderbird, S.C.

May 2-9
Knights and Dames of Malta
Pilgrimage — Lourdes, France

May 10 — 6:30 p.m.
CSS Wings of Hope Gala
and Beatty Award
Presentation, Charlotte

May 11 — 7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Therese, Mooresville

Diocesan planner

April

28 SALISBURY — The Sacred Heart School Parent-Teacher Organization will be sponsoring a Captain's Choice Golf Tournament today at 1 p.m. with a shotgun start and an included lunch with drinks and goodie bags at Corbin Hills. There are only 32 slots to be filled, and hole sponsor/door prize donations are being accepted now. For registration and other information, call David Harrison at (704) 637-7018.

29 CHARLOTTE — The New Vibrations, a traveling ecumenical youth choir, will be in concert today at 2:30 p.m. at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. and tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd. The New Vibrations Choir is made up of 43 teens from churches of various denominations including St. Matthew, St. Luke and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Churches. Live musical performances and choreography will be accompanying a mixture of contemporary and traditional Christian music. A love offering will be taken during the free event, and for further details, call Jan Cosentino at (704) 846-1302.

29 HENDERSONVILLE — Immaculata School, 711 Buncombe St., will be celebrating its 75th anniversary today with a 4 p.m. Mass of thanksgiving at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, followed by an open house and reception at the school until 6:30 p.m. For details, call the school at (828) 693-3277.

May

1 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., on May 7 and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., tonight and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel -

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Brazilian workers hold crosses in protest

Members of Brazil's Landless Movement hold crosses during a demonstration in Recife April 17 marking the fifth anniversary of a police massacre of 19 rural workers. Landless workers, trade unions and Catholic groups have called for a day of protests to remember those killed in the 1996 massacre in the remote Amazon state of Para.

German church leaders criticize Dutch euthanasia decision

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — German church leaders criticized a recent decision by the Netherlands to legalize euthanasia. Almost all Catholic and Lutheran bishops used their Easter sermons to say that the new Dutch law contradicts the Christian understanding that suffering is a part of life. Cardinal Karl Lehmann of Mainz, head of the German bishops' conference, said the new law represents a break with European cultural tradition. He said it opened the door to subtle misuse and reversed the doctor's task of saving lives. "If we fail to offer those who need the most help any human and medical care and burden them with the decision as to whether they should let themselves be killed, then we are already in the midst of a 'culture of death,'" the cardinal said. The Netherlands legalized euthanasia April 10, allowing doctors to put an end to the lives of those who felt their suffering was unbearable, providing certain safeguards were met.

Court declines to review law against clinic blockades

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court let stand a federal law that bans use of force, threats or blockades that interfere with access to reproductive health care, including abortion clinics. The court on April 16 declined to take a case from New Jersey in which anti-abortion protesters said the law overstepped congressional authority. The case arose from three blockades at Metropolitan Medical Associates, a clinic that offers abortions in Englewood, N.J. Protesters were removed by police and later sued by the federal government. The government lawsuits were based on the argument that the blockades violated the clinic access law. A federal judge ruled for the government, ordering the protesters to pay $15,000 in damages and barring them from blocking access to the clinic or trying to intimidate people going into it. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ruling.

Arkansas couples can choose covenant marriage under new state law

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (CNS) — Under a new law the state of Arkansas will begin offering covenant marriages, but the Catholic Church has long considered every marriage a covenant. "We already believe that marriages are covenants," said Elizabeth Reha, director of the Family Life Office in the Diocese of Little Rock. "This is not a contract, this is a covenant. A covenant never ends; it goes on forever." Reha coordinates marriage preparation in the diocese and tries to make every couple aware of the sanctity of marriage, regardless of the type of marriage license they choose. On April 11, Gov. Mike Huckabee signed into law the covenant marriage bill, which will make it more difficult for some couples to get a divorce. Similar laws are in place in Arizona and Louisiana.

Irish cardinal urges continued prayers for end to foot-and-mouth

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Cardinal Desmond Connell of Dublin has urged Catholics to continue to pray for an end to the foot-and-mouth disease threat. "All our thoughts are with the many individuals and groups who have suffered because of the foot-and-mouth outbreak," Cardinal Connell said April 17. "The mass destruction of livestock is a disaster for members of the farming community, who not only have invested so much money and hard work in building up their herds, but have nurtured and cared for their stock over many years. The destruction of all these animals, in such abnormal circumstances, is heart-breaking," he said. In contrast to Great Britain, the Irish Republic's economy depends heavily on beef and livestock exports, and, as a result, the Irish government has imposed far more stringent protection measures than those applied in England and Northern Ireland.

Priests for Life links with Project Rachel ad campaign

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Less than a month after announcing its own $12 million ad campaign for post-abortion healing and alternatives to abortion, Priests for Life said it will instead coordinate efforts with an already existing Project Rachel campaign. Project Rachel, the Catholic Church's outreach to people affected by an abortion loss, was started in the Milwaukee Archdiocese in 1984 and now operates in more than 130 dioceses. Both campaigns will use billboard, print and electronic media. Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, announced the change in approach after meeting April 16 with Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

South African officials condemn execution of woman in Botswana

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South African church and human rights officials condemned the execution of a South African woman in Botswana, where a bishop said the death penalty has overwhelming support. While noting that South Africans "cannot interfere" in the political and legal life of an independent country, "from a humanitarian perspective, we do object to the horrifyingly rushed manner in which the execution was handled," said Auxiliary Bishop Reginald Cawcutt of Cape Town, spokesman for the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. South African Mariette Bosch, convicted of murdering her best friend and then marrying the friend's husband, was executed in secrecy just days after Botswana's president refused her clemency. The announcement of her execution was made two days later.

Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

2 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will be presenting a second performance of Marty Haugen's newest musical "Feast of Life" today and May 3 at 8 p.m. All are invited to watch the Gospel of Luke performed by 45 musicians, dancers, actors and the children's choir. A love offering to aid the parish music ministry will be taken during the event, and for further information, call Marti Dushak at (704) 545-1224.

2 CHARLOTTE — The parish series, "Abundant Life in the Spirit," will continue tonight and every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. until May 23 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd. The focus will be on building a stronger and more personal relationship with God. For more information, call Paul Fitzgerald at (704) 593-0973 or Joyce Brown at (704) 547-1836.

3 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, will be meeting tonight and May 17 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

4 ASHEVILLE — The St. Joan of Arc Church Caring Hearts AIDS Ministry will be holding its Spring New and Used Book Sale starting today and May 5 and 6 at the church located at 919 Haywood Rd. Other items for sale include small gifts, herbs and garden products and other articles. The church men's club will also have its flea market on May 5 only. Foods available for sale include hot dogs, barbecue sandwiches and desserts. For details, call (828) 252-3151.

6 CHARLOTTE — All are invited to St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., to observe 40 hours of Eucharistic devotion beginning with a procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament following the 12:15 p.m. Mass today. Times of adoration will be as follows: Today - 1:30 p.m.-midnight and May 7 and 8 - 5 a.m.-midnight. Daily Mass will be offered at 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and Mass and Benediction will be offered May 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (704) 523-4641.

6 CHARLOTTE — The 50th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., today at 3 p.m. Father Chris Gober of St. Michael Church in Gastonia will be the speaker. Call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127 for details.

6 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at the Showfety Activity Center at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

7 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Fidel Melo. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands is taking place after Mass. The next Mass will take place on June 4. For more information, call (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

9 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations will be accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

10 REIDSVILLE — Holy Infant Church will be sponsoring an art show and auction this evening at the Penn Civic Center, 324 Maple Ave., with an art preview hour at 6:30 p.m. and the auction at 7 p.m. Door prizes, hors d-oeuvres and other refreshments will be available for the attendants, and tickets are available now at the church office at 1042 Freeway Dr. For details, call (336) 342-1448, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

High Point parishioner receives state's highest volunteer honor

HIGH POINT — One of Gov. Jim Hunt's last official acts before leaving office recently was to present the state's highest honor, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, to Christine J. Greene of High Point for years of extraordinary service as a professional educator and tireless community volunteer.

In addition to the governor's award, the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival named Greene "Volunteer of the Year 2000" and the High Point City Council passed a resolution honoring Greene "for her contributions to the community and for bringing honor and recognition to the city and its residents."

"I am both gratified and humbled by this attention," Greene said. "I have been blessed for many years with wonderful opportunities to serve students and community. That has been my life work, and I continue to love every minute of it. I have tried to do it well, but I don't think my efforts deserve special recognition. The truth is that I am simply grateful to these people and organizations for letting me be part of their lives and their work. They deserve the recognition, not me."

A veteran educator and tireless community servant, Greene has been married to Charlie, a furniture manufacturer, for 40 years. They have three children and nine grandchildren.

Greene and her husband are active parishioners at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in High Point. They volunteer and contribute to the parish, as well as Christ the King Catholic Church in High Point, in whatever way they can. They serve as lectors and have taught CCD. Christine has served on the board of Catholic Social Services' Piedmont-Triad Office as well.

"When you're happy being a Catholic, you enjoy sharing that love and enthusiasm with others," said Greene, whose efforts include bridging the local Catholic parishes with the greater community. "We try to get High Pointers and people from Guilford County to see that priests and nuns are people who are trying to make the world a better place."

In a letter, Hunt wrote to Greene about the Order of the Long Leaf Pine: "This award, which is the highest honor bestowed to a citizen, is in recognition of your outstanding contributions to your community and the State of North Carolina. I am grateful for everything you have done to improve the lives of our state's citizens, from your work within our public schools to your leadership within the many charitable organizations in Guilford County.

"Congratulations on receiving this award. I am grateful for citizens like you who have dedicated their lives to helping make North Carolina all that it can and must be. I wish you all the best in the days ahead and encourage you to keep up the great work."

Greene is a native of the Beautancus community in Duplin County and a graduate of Calypso High School. She earned a bachelor's degree at East Carolina University and a master's degree of education in counseling at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

She said lessons she learned growing up in a farming community in Duplin County set a positive course for her service-oriented life.

"I grew up in a community where people cared about their neighbors," she recalled. "We swapped work with our neighbors and friends so we could all house our crops. We shared each other's sorrows and joys, and we got along together. We did not recognize these examples of caring for others as anything out of the ordinary.

"I still think this is the American way, and I am so grateful I was given this type of upbringing, though I doubt if you could have convinced me as I grew up that we were privileged in any shape, form or fashion. Oh, well, we live and learn, and I certainly treasure those unrecognized advantages now."

Greene worked in public schools for 31 years, nine as a classroom teacher and 22 as a guidance counselor at Ragsdale High School in Jamestown, retiring in 1988. She returned for the past four years as counselor at High Point Central High School.

"High school students are the most exciting and energizing group to work with," she said. "I can walk into a high school and feel the energy and enthusiasm of young people. Something good happened every day I spent in our schools, and I looked forward to each day."

Greene's history of service to her community and her church is extensive. She currently serves on 10 boards, including chairmanships at United Way of Greater High Point and North Carolina Shakespeare Festival. In 1998, she directed the most successful United Way campaign in North Carolina.

She has earned numerous honors and awards, including Women and Youth Award, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, 1999; Mayor's Award, High Point Arts Council, 1997; Community Hero, United Way of Greater High Point, 1997; "Chris Greene Day," High Point City Council, 1996; Adult of the Year, High Point Youth Council, 1984; Service Award, Presidential Classroom for Young Americans, 1982; and Service Award, American Legion's Tar Heel Boys' and Girls' State, 1982.

Underground Catholics arrested in China near Easter

HONG KONG (CNS) — At least 22 Catholics, including two elderly bishops, were arrested around Easter time in areas of China where underground Catholics are active.

A bishop, seven priests and 13 lay people were arrested in mid-April in Fujian, Hebei and Jiangxi provinces and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, said a statement from the U.S.-based Cardinal Kung Foundation.

And, according to an April 23 report of Fides, a Rome-based Catholic news agency, Bishop Matthias Pei Xiangde of Beijing, 82, was arrested in early April.

None of those reported arrested is affiliated with the government-approved church, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

An April 22 statement from the Kung Foundation, a private institution that advocates for underground Catholics in China, said Bishop Shi Enxiang of Yixian was arrested in Beijing April 13. No further details were available concerning the bishop from Hebei, which surrounds Beijing on three sides.

Bishop Shi, 79, was ordained a bishop in 1982. He has spent about 30 years in jail, his last imprisonment being from December 1990 to November 1993.

The Kung Foundation said the bishop had been in hiding after narrowly escaping arrest in 1996.

Four priests from Hebei were arrested shortly before Easter, the foundation reported. It said Father Lu Genjun, also known as Lu Genyou, second vicar general of Baoding Diocese, was arrested in Baoding with three other underground priests whose names were not known.

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Students learn dire situations call for action

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

GREENSBORO — "I was in the Third World ... I did not like it," said Glen Long. "All we got was some dirty water and stale bread."

Glen wasn't exactly in the Third World. He was in his third-grade classroom, though his lunch was Third World in design. Glen and his St. Pius X schoolmates were participants of an Operation Rice Bowl "hunger banquet," a Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services.

As part of their journey into worlds beyond Greensboro, the students split into three groups to represent the distribution and availability of food worldwide. To mirror the global population, 10 percent of the students were in a developed country, 30 percent became members of a developing country, and the remaining 60 percent — the majority of the class — became temporary Third World dwellers.

It was pizza for lunch — at least for the smallest slice of the worldwide population — those residing in developed nations. Thirty percent of the students - the developing countries - received the meager ration of one slice of pizza. Third World third-graders were given bread and water.

Conor Jordan was one of the seemingly fortunate residents of a developed nation. "I received all the pizza I wanted, unlike the 26 other people who were not as lucky," said Conor. "I felt very guilty so I only had two pieces."

Though a member of a developing nation, Kevin Mitchell found it "hard for some people to only eat one thing."

"Operation Rice Bowl showed me something I didn't know," said Dorian Thompson of the experience of a ration of bread and water. "Being in the Third World wasn't any fun."

Alexia Hudak found compassion in her developing nation. "I felt funny in this group because I would not have breakfast or dinner. Now I feel sad, because look how much you and I have and look at them."

It was a learning moment for the students of Dot Lyndon, and the objective of Operation Rice Bowl. For a quarter-century, the Catholic Relief Services program offered a challenge for students, parishioners as well as families to connect with a global community.

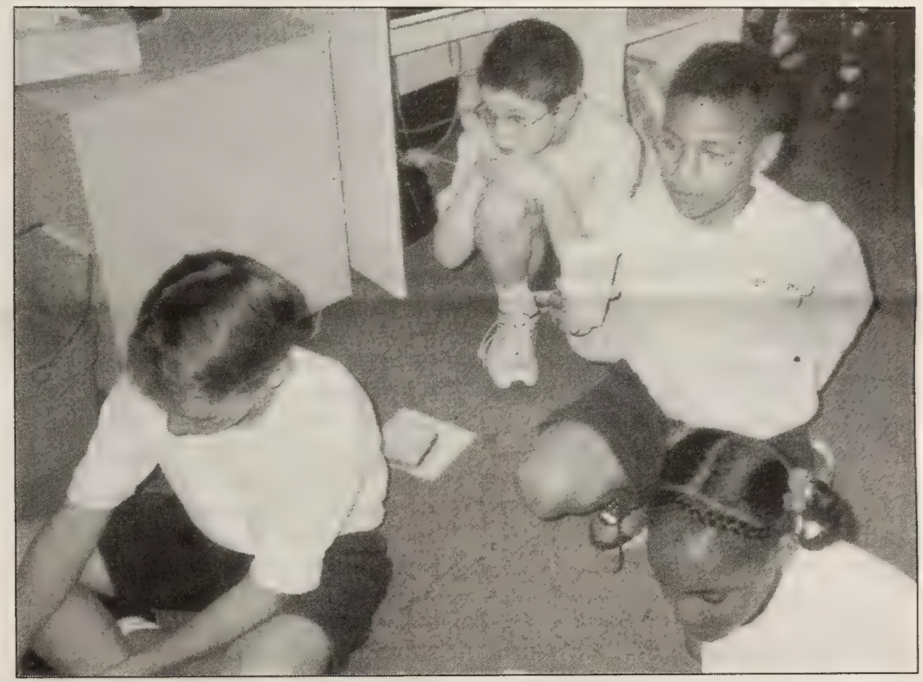
Through prayer, fasting, education and almsgiving, the Lenten program extends an opportunity to put faith in action and walk in solidarity with those in need.

"U.S. Catholics have continued to exhibit a recognition that we have a moral commitment to assist those with less not only in this country, but throughout the world," said Ken Hackett, executive director of Catholic Relief Services. "Each year the support for Operation Rice Bowl continues to grow, and with a special emphasis on providing assistance for community-based development programs, Operation Rice Bowl plays a significant role in providing people with a hand up, not a hand out."

"Seventy-five percent of revenues from Operation Rice Bowl support Catholic Relief Services' development programs overseas," said Hackett. "In addition to funding overseas programs, Operation Rice Bowl also provides funding for local programs in dioceses around the country. Each diocese that participates in the program retains 25 percent of the donations that it receives for local programs that assist the disadvantaged in the community, often through a diocesan nutrition program."

"Operation Rice Bowl is a good system," said Jonathan Spain.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org



Courtesy Photos

From Left; Conor Jordan — representing a developed country — was privy to all the pizza he could consume.

Kevin Mitchell of a developing nation had his minimal needs met with food, but no more.

'Third World residents' Patrick Davidson, Michael Lecompte, Doran Thompson and Glen Long find bread and water to be their only available food for lunch.

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CNS PHOTO BY ANDREA BARAN, LAKE SHORE VISITOR

100-year-old woman holds chasuble

Susan Skeabeck, who recently turned 100, displays a chasuble she made for her son. Skeaback, a parishioner at St. Ann's Parish in Erie, Pa., continues to make vestments that are sent to other countries.

Social teaching said to shape church view on climate change

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Basic common morality, as well as Catholic social teaching, would dictate that the United States make sacrifices for the sake of battling global climate change, a Jesuit social ethicist told a Washington conference. "Morality itself demands the United States make some conscious sacrifice for the sake of the planetary common good," said Father Drew Christiansen, senior fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center, at an April 17 conference on Global Climate Change. The conference was sponsored by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. "Moral integrity requires that the United States accept responsibility for its enormous role in contributing to global warming," Father Christiansen said. 'It is as simple as this: Adults take out their own garbage."

Project for papal cultural center led Atlanta man to Catholicism

ATLANTA (CNS) — Don Massey can't remember the exact moment or location that he decided to become Catholic. It may have been in the Philippines or Australia, in Vietnam or Alaska. It may even have been in the presence of Pope John Paul II, who smiled at him as they compared travel notes. Massey, an associate professor at the University of Georgia in Athens, who teaches design in the drama department, was sent around the world to interview, photograph and make molds of the hands of practicing Catholics, including the Holy Father, on behalf of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, which opened March 22 in Washington. "I am anything but a holy man, and yet, they were telling me things, special things," he said. "I really had my eyes opened and I wanted it (to become Catholic)." Massey was among 445 catechumens in the Atlanta Archdiocese who received all the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil April 14.

Retired Boston Auxiliary Bishop McNamara dies

BOSTON (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop John R. McNamara of Boston died April 16 of congestive heart failure at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Boston. He was 73 and had retired for health reasons in October 1999. Bishop McNamara was a native of Worcester. He studied for the priesthood at St. John's Seminary in Boston and was ordained by the late Cardinal Richard Cushing in 1952 at the Boston cathedral. His first 10 years of priestly ministry were spent in parish assignments. In 1962, he was commissioned as a chaplain in the Navy and immediately reported for active duty. He advanced through the ranks and was appointed chief of chaplains for the Navy in 1985. In an interview with The Pilot, Boston's archdiocesan newspaper, at the time of his episcopal ordination in 1992, Bishop McNamara said, "As a Navy chaplain, especially while moving with troops, I always had a real sense of being needed and appreciated."

Vietnamese layman perseveres in ministry among poor tribals

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (CNS) — Imprisonment and ridicule have only strengthened a Catholic layman to persevere with his work for poor ethnic Raglai people in central Vietnam. "I love the Raglai people and I want to dedicate my life to serving them," Paul Nguyen Thach Minh told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. However, the 41-year-old layman's dedication to the Raglai people has put him in many precarious situations since he began his one-man ministry 20 years ago. He said the 320 families he serves are mostly poor. They grow maize or cassava and hunt for a living, but most of the time they have nothing to eat, he added. His ministry includes literacy classes, recreational activities, caring for the sick, digging wells, building shelters and even burying the dead.

Pope to meet Orthodox in Greece, visit mosque in Syria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will meet with Orthodox leaders in Greece and pay a historic visit to a mosque in Syria during a six-day pilgrimage that traces the evangelizing route of St. Paul. The pope also will travel to Malta, where St. Paul was shipwrecked, to preside over a beatification ceremony. The Vatican released the detailed schedule of the May 4-9 trip April 19. The pope has wanted to make a pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul, a continuation of his jubilee-year trips to biblical sites in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories. He will become the first modern pope to visit Greece and Syria.

Central American University leader explains liberation task

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The "ultimate and integral goal" of Central American University in El Salvador is "the liberation of the impoverished and dispossessed majority," said Jesuit Father Mauricio Gaborit, the university's academic vice president, in a symposium at St. Louis University. When poverty, violence and injustice prevail in a society as they do in El Salvador, he said in an April 5 address, the university's search for truth and reason must confront the irrationality of the existing social structures with the truth of the rights, needs and legitimate aspirations of the populace. Father Gaborit was one of three main speakers at a symposium on Jesuit higher education in different cultures. The one-day symposium was a signature event of St. Louis University's inaugural Atlas Week — a week of study and celebration of the world's many cultures.

Nun gave self to others in life and in death

DALLAS (CNS) — Sister Georgianne Segner, a School Sister of Notre Dame who dedicated her whole life to helping others, did so after death as well. In what has been called an ultimate act of love, the former high school and college teacher and first head of her order's Dallas province donated her brain to science when she died last October at the age of 86. The Dallas nun's gift is intended to help unlock the mysteries of aging and Alzheimer's disease, a progressive, degenerative neurological disorder that is the most common form of dementia in adults. Since 1990 she and 29 other members of the Dallas province have been part of one of the largest brain donor studies in the world, known as the Nun Study, involving 678 elderly School Sisters of Notre Dame nationwide.

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St. Michael teacher wins national award, second time for diocese

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GASTONIA — Carla McGuire is a self-professed shy woman, but many people probably aren't aware of that fact. She says that the thought of speaking in front of large crowds terrifies her, and she never says more than she has to with groups of people. So, how does she overcome her bashfulness and stand in front of a classroom of first-graders every day to teach?

A dedication to sharing knowledge, a love of teaching and a deep spirituality are the basis for her educational work with some of the youngest students at St. Michael School in Gastonia. Those qualities are also part of the reason why she was chosen as one of 12 teachers from around the country to receive the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) 2001 Distinguished Teacher Award.

At a ceremony in Milwaukee during the 98th Annual NCEA Convention and Exposition, held the week of April 17-20, McGuire was presented with a plaque for outstanding and praiseworthy work in Catholic education. She is the representative of the South Atlantic States region and is the second diocesan teacher to be awarded the national honor. Last year, Lorraine Malphurs, a teacher at St. Pius X School in Greensboro, also received the same award. Also, Pat Murphy, principal of Our Lady of Assumption School in Charlotte, received the NCEA 1999 Distinguished Principal of the Year Award. In an interesting turn of events, Murphy, while principal of St. Michael School, actually hired McGuire.

"Having teachers and a principal in the diocese be recognized in the three years that we have been involved in the application process shows that we have excellent people in our schools. These three represent the hundreds of diocesan educators who are doing a fantastic job with our students in our classrooms," said Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of diocesan schools. "McGuire is a teacher who is very devoted to the needs of each child in her care and involved in many programs at St. Michael's. We are very fortunate to have someone like her in our schools."

Criteria for one to be nominated for the distinguished teacher award include having taught in a Catholic school for a minimum of 10 years and possessing an integrated philosophy of Catholic education. McGuire's work with her school and parish stood out among the nominees, and she was astounded at her being given the award.

"The school principal had to tell me at least three times before it sunk in," said McGuire. "It was so surprising because the distinguished teacher came from the Charlotte Diocese last year. It is an honor to represent the school and the diocese because I graduated from St. Michael's."

McGuire, born in Gastonia and a convert to Catholicism, attended the school for two years as a preteen, and when her daughters were born, she wanted them to follow in her footsteps. She had already received her bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology and had begun working in her field, when she decided that she wanted to do something else with her professional life. Earning certification in kindergarten through fourth grade classroom teaching and part-time work in a preschool, daycare facility and at Central Piedmont Community College in a child development program led her to decide to teach.

"It was a gradual decision for me. It was something I had wanted to do, but I was dragging my feet," said McGuire. "After my oldest daughter started at St. Michael's, I started working part-time and was eventually offered a position as a part-time reading specialist and then as a first-grade teacher after I had taught fourth grade for three years.

"The school provided the atmosphere in which I wanted to teach, and I liked the opportunity to be able to think about my faith and to share it with my students."

With her classroom, now decorated for spring and with plants, flowers and rocks coinciding with their lessons on nature, McGuire says that she loves working with this age group because they love to be taught everything and are excited about the school's curriculum.

Not only does McGuire work tirelessly in her school, she is also heavily involved in her parish and surrounding communities. She has been involved with Crop Walk, a recycling program in her hometown, Habitat for Humanity, and numerous other organizations. Currently, she volunteers with the St. Michael Church Community Thrift Store, Eucharistic ministry, the parish Community Outreach Commission, the Project 2000 Building Committee and others.

Carla McGuire

"Her award gives our parish a little boost and the school a little publicity. She has a very caring nature for her children, yet she's firm with them. The students know what to expect for her," said Joe Puceta, principal. "She gives them a good grounding in math and reading and provides a good foundation for the higher-level grades."

McGuire feels that each day is like a mini-lesson for her because the students are always full of joy, spirit and a knowledge from which adults can benefit.

"I receive more from the children than I give, and it reaffirms me so much. The school and my classroom are like part of my family. I love it because it is different every day. No matter how you plan things, you never know when that tooth will fall out or a child will say 'I have a tummy ache, or I have a paper cut,'" said McGuire. "The little ones have so much faith to share, and they also offer their unfailing honesty and trust. That is why you have to take such good care of them."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

NCEA announces new president

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Michael Guerra has been named president of the National Catholic Educational Association, effective July 1.

Guerra, who has served as the executive director of NCEA's secondary schools department for 19 years, will succeed Leonard DeFiore, NCEA's president for the past five years, who is leaving for a post at The Catholic University of America.

The announcement was made by Bishop Robert J. Banks of Green Bay, Wis., chairman of NCEA's board of directors.

"Michael Guerra will bring great leadership and integrity to this association," said Bishop Banks. "He understands the mission of Catholic education at all levels and has the vision and vitality to move us forward in this new century."

Prior to joining NCEA, Guerra was headmaster of Loyola School in Manhattan and director of education at Nativity Center, also in Manhattan. He received his master's degree in educational administration from Columbia University's Teachers College in New York in 1972.

Guerra has been a leader in the educational choice movement and also was a driving force in organizing the National Congress on Catholic Schools for the 21st Century in 1991, according to the bishop's announcement.

"In three short years NCEA will mark its first century," Guerra said. "As president-elect, I am keenly aware that I have a legacy to honor as well as a future to shape."

He added that the association represents a broad scope of Catholic education including teachers, catechists, administrators, directors of religious education, diocesan leaders and higher education and seminary leaders.

"Although there is great diversity in our membership, we are bound and buoyed by our shared mission to advance Catholic education at all levels," he said.

Bishop Banks also applauded the accomplishments of DeFiore, who announced last year that he would not seek another term.

When he finishes his presidency, DeFiore will become scholar in residence and the first holder of the Brother Patrick Ellis Chair in Education at Catholic University.

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LOBBY, from page 1

Church and the Diocese of Charlotte's director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, lobbied out of a sense of Christian responsibility.

"Just the fact that we are here because we believe in something has value," he said. "When a life is threatened anywhere, even if it's an unpopular person or a person on the margins, it becomes a real test of our Christianity — how we treat people who are powerless or easy to mistreat or easy to discriminate against."

"We're asking the legislators to be more decent people," said Dr. James Megivern, a professor of philosophy and religion at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. "That's really the ultimate motivation that can be proposed here. We're asking to do something better than we've done in the past."

Megivern, author of "The Death Penalty: An Historical and Theological Survey," noted moral similarities in this movement and the civil rights struggles of a generation ago.

"Those of us who were involved in the '60s on it can look back on those days, and they really are highlights because there was no question as to what side of history we were on," he said. "We knew we were on the right side. You had to make a choice, and the choice that should be made in conscience with any ethical concern was more or less obvious.

"There are parallels here. Being in an atmosphere where the higher ethic was being advocated and illustrated was really the greatest value of the day."

At the rally where Autrey spoke in the North Carolina Museum of History, lobbyists applauded and chanted "Moratorium Now!" as they heard stories and statistics from those who say the state can do better in how it effects justice.

Whether the state legislature will move toward passing a moratorium bill in this or future sessions is still uncertain. But celebrating the spirit of grass-roots, in-the-trenches, pro-active work to achieve change was a good start for many of those who gathered in the state's capital that day.

"Until our message is heard and heeded, we are going to keep at this struggle to build a new era of justice — one of restorative justice, one that recognizes the needs of victims ... one that recognizes the needs of the community in these terrible crimes and the needs of offenders," said Stephen Dear, executive director of the Chapel Hill-based People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. "We're here to tell our lawmakers that we need to cease fire in order to rise to that challenge."

Ferguson urged fellow lobbyists to demand from their legislators that the bills — particularly the moratorium bill — be seriously considered, whether in the Senate or in the House.

"When you are told that this bill has no chance to be heard on the floor of the legislature, don't listen," he told the group. "Continue to demand that this bill be heard, that it be heard in this legislature, and not only be heard, but that it be passed.

"We are here now to say we want a moratorium, and on that issue ... we will not compromise, we will not retreat a single inch. We want and we will have a moratorium now."

Editor's note: On Monday, April 23, the N.C. Senate voted 31-18 to prohibit the execution of mentally retarded criminals. The bill holds that anyone with an IQ of less than 70 and who displayed signs of mental retardation before age 18 cannot be executed in North Carolina. The legislation must now go the state House.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

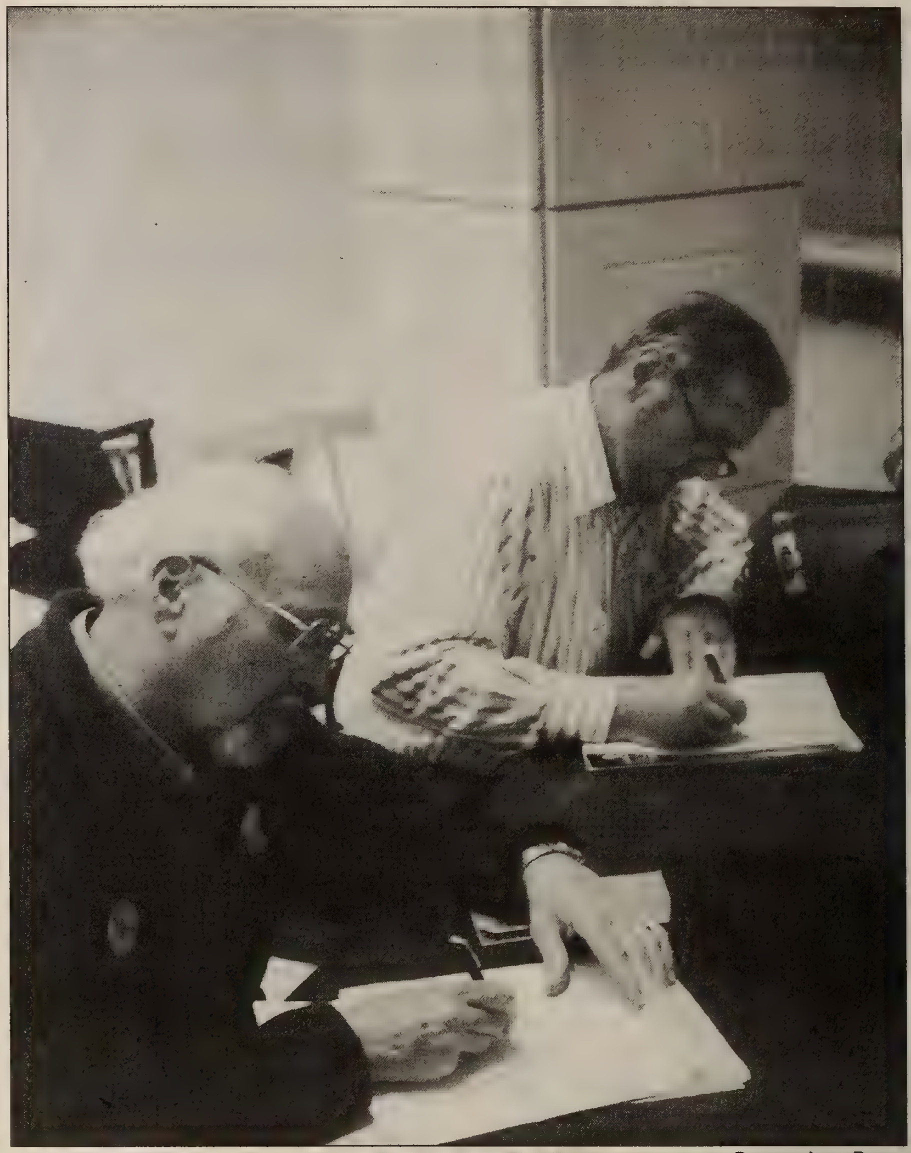

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Dr. Barney Offerman, foreground, and Bob Beck write letters to North Carolina lawmakers in the Legislative Building of the N.C. General Assembly. The parishioners of St. Peter Catholic Church in Charlotte were among more than 200 who came to Raleigh April 17 to lobby for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Clarification

In the March 16 issue of The Catholic News & Herald, an article on the permanent diaconate ordination of Rev. Mr. Jerry La Pointe included the information that he was the first deacon to be ordained at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley. In 1982 at St. Margaret Church, John Hanic, Ronald Marechi and John Schneider were ordained as deacons in the transitional diaconate, a step in preparation for the priesthood.

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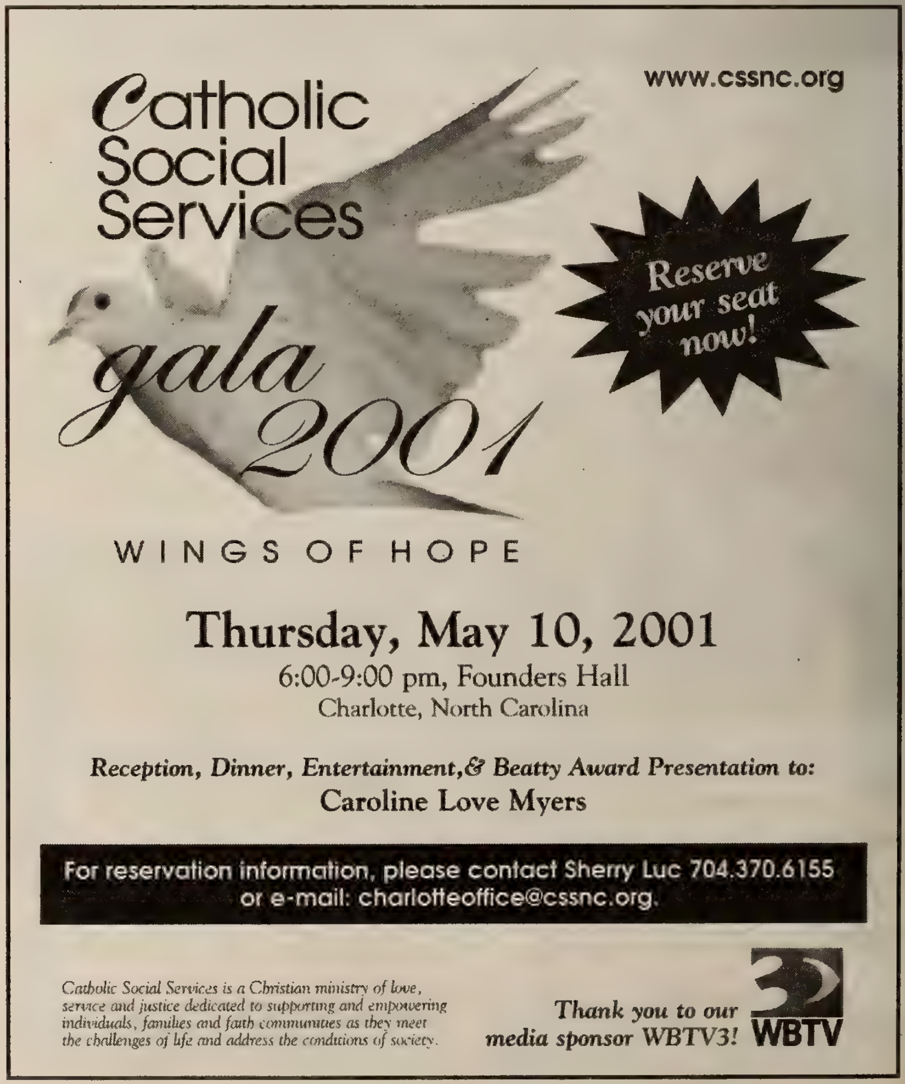

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Thomasville Catholics count blessings in ‘new’ church

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

THOMASVILLE — For the faith community of Our Lady of the Highways Catholic Church, April 21 was indeed a day of blessings.

The afternoon sun shone on the parish church in Thomasville. Parishioners flocked into the newly refurbished sanctuary while a group of Hispanic dancers practiced a native dance honoring Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, in the adjacent parking lot.

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the bilingual Mass that day. He blessed a church building that, thanks to a renovation project, now has doubled worship space, a new cry room, a sacristy and a reconciliation room.

Freshly laid carpet throughout the church pads the feet of the multicultural parish community. New windows depicting images of saints and biblical scenes filter the outside sunlight upon packed pews. New marble surrounds the altar and tabernacle area.

The renovation project took less than five months, thanks to the generosity of local contributors and the spirit of a faith community bonding to see a job to its completion.

Bishop Curlin noted the parish in Thomasville now has an even more glorious place to worship God. But more importantly, he said, the congregation must realize that it has a greater task at hand.

“We come here to nourish our souls, to pray together, to acknowledge our failures in reconciliation, to celebrate together the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist,” but in order to realize the importance of Easter each day, the faithful must take their love for Christ into the world, Bishop Curlin said.

“In a spiritual way, we have a great mission that we are supposed to accomplish in this world,” he said. “In these days of Easter, we are leading up to the great feast of Pentecost. Jesus is asking all of us to witness him in the world; we are supposed to bring Christ into a world that needs him so badly.”

“You have a beautiful church here,” the bishop said. “The sacrifice you’ve made to do this is proof of how much you love Jesus, but you and I know that if we leave Jesus here, we fail. Let the beauty of what you have done here fill your home and your whole community.”

Raquel Cudd, who translated the bishop’s homily into Spanish for the blossoming Hispanic community in attendance, said the multicultural parish emphasizes the truest sense of a faith family.

“The American community has just welcomed us with open arms,” she noted, adding that when she first came to the parish, there were but a handful of Hispanic parishioners. Now, two Masses are celebrated in Spanish each weekend in addition to the Masses in English.

“We do things together, try to have faith formation together; we sing together,” said Cudd. “It is a lot of fun, and you get to know a lot of other people from different cultures.”

Construction on Our Lady of the Highways Church began in 1953, and the first service was celebrated on Good Friday, April 16, 1954. Past additions to the parish campus include a parish center and a rectory.

Ministry to the Hispanic community continues to be one of the parish’s most vibrant forms of outreach. And on April 21, as the bishop of the diocese celebrated a Mass and people gathered to watch the dancers perform afterward, a multicultural multitude celebrated the faith.

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Father Thomas Fitzpatrick, pastor, stood outside the church after the April 21 Mass, looking up at the façade. “The amazing part of this church is the architecture,” he said. “It looks like a Spanish mission, and there wasn’t a Hispanic in sight when the church was built. Now, half our parish is Spanish. It was a prophecy. It’s wonderful.”

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop William G. Curlin applauded the Thomasville parish’s dedication and faith. He urged the congregation to bring Christ to the world, thus celebrating Easter each day.

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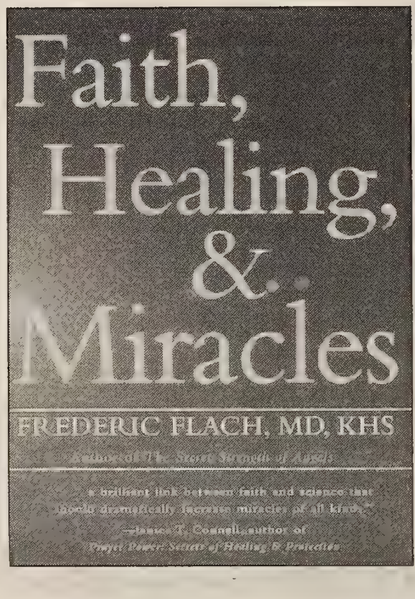
Book Review

Book examines where medical science and faith intersect

REVIEWED BY
CAROLE NORRIS GREENE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

World-renowned physician and psychiatrist Frederic Flach examines where medical science and faith intersect and how our attitudes and behavior influence our mental and physical health in "Faith, Healing and Miracles."

***FAITH, HEALING & MIRACLES,* by Frederic Flach. Hatherleigh Press-Norton (New York, 2000). 230 pp., $22.95.**



Flach asks why it is that people of faith seem to do better when recovering from or living with an illness. "This seems particularly true for those whose faith rests in a personal God," he says, "and when their faith is commingled with the recognition that God more often acts through natural means than by means of miracles."

He begins with what is known about miracles — both exceptions to the natural order we read about in the Old and New Testaments and in accounts of Lourdes, France, and "ordinary miracles," coincidences that change our lives for the better and may be attributed to God's providence at work. Miracles, Flach believes, "demonstrate Jesus' compassion for the vulnerabilities of human kind, our susceptibility to disease, the inevitability of death — and so stir our own compassion and abilities to heal one another."

Flach contends that how we experience feelings of helplessness is a powerful determinant of health. He cites four personality types which research finds to be associated with health or illness:

— Type 1 has an increased risk of cancer. These people have strong needs to be close to another person emotionally, or to pursue some goal that is permanently beyond their reach. When they fail they feel "worthless, hopeless, depressed, and helpless — an assortment of physically dangerous feelings that they try their best to conceal," says Flach.

— Type 2 people, who have an increased vulnerability to heart attacks or strokes, show an intense need to distance themselves from disturbing persons or situations. But they cannot. "This results in an ongoing state of irritation and anger, a feeling of being trapped, and again, helplessness," observes Flach.

— Type 3 has a better survival rate. Flach says, "They seem to be people with conflicting desires. They want closeness, but are afraid of it ... although they may experience anxiety or episodes of aggressiveness, they ... do not appear to be at increased risk of physical disease."

—"Type 4 people actually enjoy an increased survival rate. They have a healthy sense of self-confidence and autonomy, and they regard others as having the right to be the same way. They are in touch with their emotions and know how to express them effectively. They like themselves. They like other people. They learn from experience."

Flach postulates that type 1 suffers from the common malady of idolatry. Temple worship, decried in the Old Testament, is not likely to be commonplace today, but other idols — "rock groups, movie stars, wealth, corporate power, sex, activities, politicians, even ... very worthwhile enterprises ... may be more valued than one's relationship with God," he writes. "All these idols, being earthbound, are capable of generating severe frustration and disappointment, providing, in the end, a spiritual emptiness that renders us more susceptible to disease."

Studies further showed that therapy could help individuals move toward a type 4 personality, restoring a their sense of command over life and experiencing reduced helplessness.

Flach writes, "It's safe to assume that the treated patients gained a certain level of faith — although faith isn't mentioned as such — and if they did, we still don't know in what or whom they believe." He asks, "Could similar results have been obtained if these subjects had been directed to participate in 25 hours of prayer?"

Word to Life

April 29, Third Sunday of Easter
Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41
Psalm 30:2, 4-6
2) Revelation 5:11-14
3) Gospel: John 21:1-19

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

How many times have you watched young parents become ecstatic when their toddlers take those first steps or point correctly to nose, eyes or toes? In our family we had a game that came to be known as "How much do you love me?" This game came along somewhere after those first cautious, uncertain steps. The game starts with Mommy, Daddy, Grandma or Grandpa asking one of the little ones: "Do you love me?"

The answer comes with a heart-shattering smile, a giggle and a vigorous nod of the head. The next question follows: "How much do you love me — this much?" The questioner holds his or her hands out as if measuring dimensions of a small fish in the air. The toddler giggles again and nods yes.

The questioner repeats the question, extending the dimensions even farther. After another gale of laughter, the ultimate question comes: "How much do you love me?" The adult questioner's arms now spread as far as possible apart awaiting the game's finale. With tiny arms stretched to their maximum breadth, the little one says, "Love you this much!" and races into the loving arms of the questioner. Both dissolve in laughter and hugs of pure joy.

In today's Gospel the question, "Do you love me?" creates a haunting conversation between Simon Peter and Jesus. At first the scene appears to be a familiar one. Some of the disciples are out on the lake, fishing without success. They then encounter Jesus as they near the shore.

He calls them "children" and suggests they fish over the other side of the boat. In his haste to get on shore to see Jesus, Simon Peter jumps out of the boat into the water. Nets bulging with fish, these astonished men find themselves sharing a meal with the risen Lord.

After the meal Jesus questions the man who denied him in his darkest hour. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Jesus asks not once, not twice, but three times.

Simon Peter answers three times in return from the depth of his soul, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus replies, "Feed my sheep."

Jesus then predicts that Simon Peter will "stretch out his hands," demonstrating his love before he is enfolded in an eternal embrace.

QUESTION:

Since Jesus forgave Peter after his denial and not only accepted him, but made him and his faith the cornerstone of the church, can you see any reason he would not forgive your darkest sins?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of April 29 - May 5, 2001

Third Sunday of Easter, Acts 5:27-32, 40-41, Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19; **Monday (Pope Pius V),** Acts 6:8-15, John 6:22-29; **Tuesday (St. Joseph the Worker),** Acts 7:51-8:1, John 6:30-35; **Wednesday (St. Athanasius),** Acts 8:1-8, John 6:35-40; **Thursday (Sts. Philip and James),** 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, John 14:6-14; **Friday,** Acts 9:1-20, John 6:52-59; **Saturday,** Acts 9:31-42, John 6:60-69

Readings for the week of May 6 - 12, 2001

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14-17, John 10:27-30; **Monday, Acts 11:1-18,** John 10:1-10; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday,** Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday (Sts. Nereus and Archilleus, St. Pancras),** Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

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Video reviews

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Bamboozled" (2000)

Ambitious satire in which an African-American television writer (Damon Wayans) creates a comedy featuring black-faced minstrels to make a statement about the stereotypical imagery of blacks in mass media, but his plan backfires when the show meets with overwhelming success. Taking on racism in network television, writer-director Spike Lee's indulgent film begins promisingly, but loses potency with an overly elaborate and melodramatic narrative. Briefly intense violence, theme of racism, sexual references and recurring rough language with some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (New Line)

"Billy Elliot" (2000)

Stirring tale about a coal miner's young son (Jamie Bell) who rises above the tough macho culture that surrounds him to follow his dream of becoming a ballet dancer. Though debut director Stephen Daldry's coming-of-age story is by the numbers, effective character development, an engaging narrative and well-placed dance sequences create a pleasurable experience. Some homosexual innuendo and fleeting profanity with recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Universal)

"Bounce" (2000)

Flat romantic drama in which an arrogant ad exec (Ben Affleck) falls in love with the woman (Gwyneth Paltrow) whose husband he gave his seat to in a plane that crashed, leaving her widowed. Writer-director Don Roos' sophomore effort plods predictably along with grating soap-opera-like dialogue and bland performances. A couple of implied sexual encounters, alcohol abuse and fleeting profanity, crass words and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Miramax)

"Cleopatra" (1963)

Lumbering Hollywood epic of suds along the Nile as Egypt's queen (Elizabeth Taylor) makes a conquest of Julius Caesar (Rex Harrison), then after his assassination ensnares his avenger, Mark Antony (Richard Burton), but both commit suicide when cornered by the legions of Octavius (Roddy McDowall). Director Joseph L. Mankiewicz manages to hold interest for the first hour, chiefly in Harrison's portrayal of a man consumed by his ambitions, but the next three seem interminable as the gassy love story bogs down in tedium and the visual spectacle wears thin, save for the sea battle at Actium. Stylized violence, sexual situations and much sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox)

"The Legend of Bagger Vance" (2000)

Mythic tale of a mysterious caddie (Will Smith) who helps a dispirited World War I veteran (Matt Damon) regain his confidence to play golf in a championship tournament run by the vet's Southern belle ex-girlfriend (Charlize Theron). As directed by Robert Redford, the underdog tale's classy visuals and an appealing cast produce a soothing, fantasy-like tale of one man's rediscovered integrity thanks to a mystical ally. Brief sexual situations, a suicide and minimal profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (DreamWorks)

"Men of Honor" (2000)

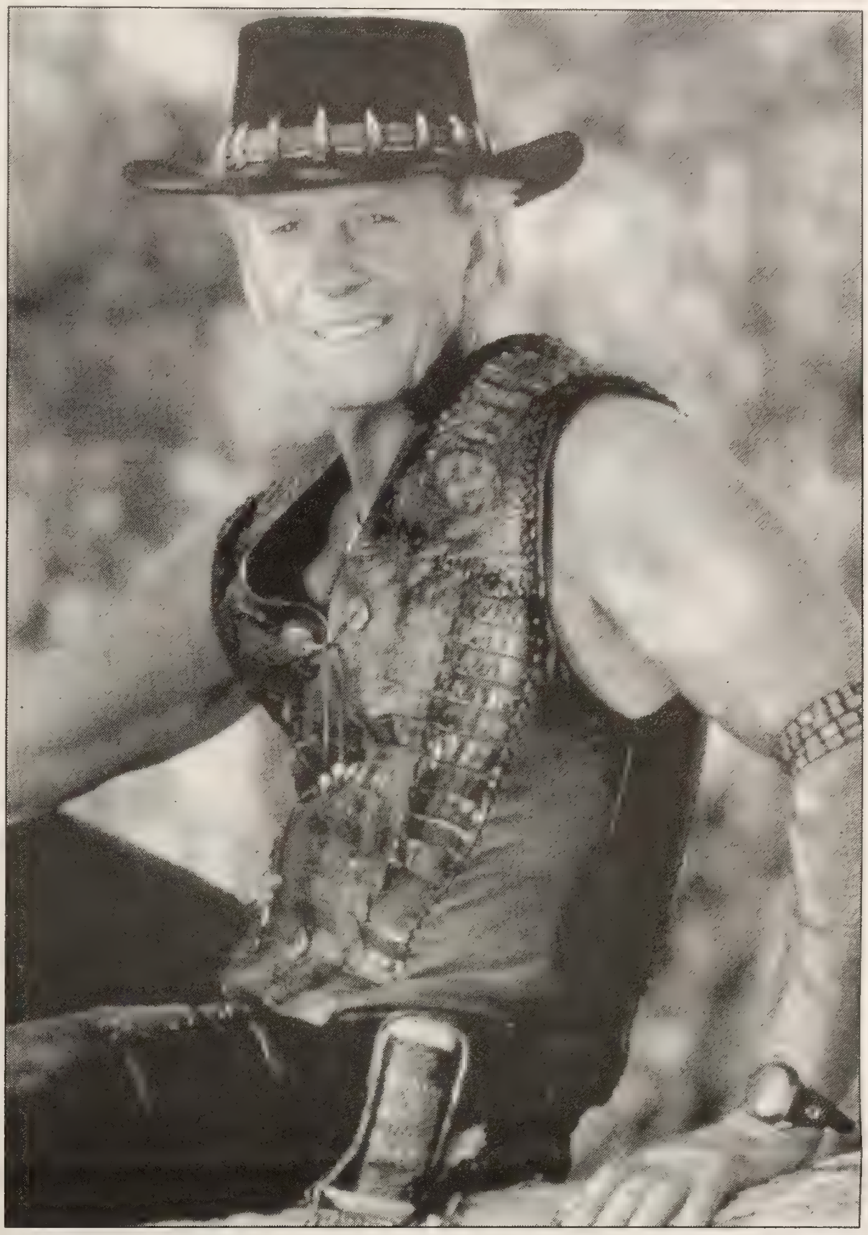
Fact-based drama about a sharecropper's son (Cuba Gooding Jr.) determined to become the first African-American master chief Navy diver despite a vicious instructor (Robert De Niro) and racist attitudes of fellow seamen and those in command. While the diver's story is stirring, even inspirational, George Tillman Jr.'s heavy-handed direction backed by swelling patriotic music reduces a complex struggle to simplistic terms. Some intense peril, drunkenness, frequent profanity and much rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox)

"Space Cowboys" (2000)

Enjoyable action-adventure flick about four retired Air Force pilots (Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland) sent into space 40 years past their prime because only their technical knowledge can stop a malfunctioning Russian satellite from smashing into Earth. While the narrative's plausibility is questionable, director Eastwood's casually paced film maintains interest with colorful characters, impressive visual effects and slight intrigue as well as an unexpected conclusion. Brief menace with intermittent crass language and some profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Warner Home Video)

"What's Cooking" (2000)

Warmhearted comedy that follows the Thanksgiving dinners of four Los Angeles families (including Alfre Woodard, Maury Chaykin, Joan Chen and Kyra Sedgwick) as they cope with situations ranging from parental dismay over a daughter's gay lifestyle, to teen-age violence, to infidelity. Highlighting the ethnically diverse aspects of Angeleno families, director Gurinder Chadha's film contrasts dynamic families — African-American, Latino, Jewish and Asian — while connecting them through turkey and love in an often humorous and touching manner. Brief menace, a lesbian relationship, fleeting rear nudity and intermittent crass language with an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Trimark)



CNS PHOTO FROM PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Publicity photo of actor Paul Hogan in movie 'Crocodile Dundee'

Paul Hogan stars in the movie "Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles." The U.S Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope: Christians, like women at tomb, must tell that Christ lives

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians must follow the example of the women who discovered Jesus' empty tomb and go out to tell the world that Christ lives, Pope John Paul II said.

The Easter season is an invitation "to imitate the faith journey of those who recognized him in the first hours after the Resurrection," the pope said April 18 during his weekly general audience.

Pope John Paul, who returned to the Vatican from the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo just for the audience, had a small cut just under his lower lip. The Vatican provided no explanation.

The pope told an estimated 20,000 people in St. Peter's Square that a Christian's reaction to the empty tomb must be faith and action.

"Love sees and believes and urges one to walk toward ... Jesus, living for all centuries," the pope said.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus after Jesus' crucifixion, "we, too, are reached by a mysterious traveling companion," he said.

"Jesus approaches us along the road, accepting us where we are and asking us the essential questions which open our hearts to hope," the pope said. "He has many things to explain to us about his destiny and our own. Most of all, he reveals that all human existence must pass through the cross to enter into glory."

But Christ does more than just show the disciples the path ahead, the pope said. He breaks bread with them, revealing himself to them and giving them the strength to continue their journey.

"After having recognized and contemplated the face of the risen Christ, we, too, like the disciples, are called to run to our brothers and sisters to bring everyone the great news: 'We have seen the Lord,'" Pope John Paul said.

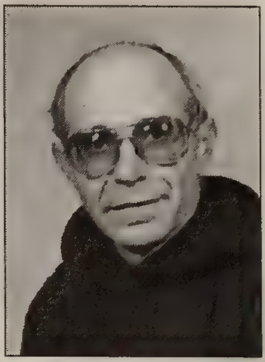
The fact that the resurrection of Christ brings the resurrection of all is the good news that Christians must share with the world, especially through the way they live their lives, he said.

"This is the most beautiful gift which our brothers and sisters want from us in this Easter period," he said.

Pope says Mideast cycle of violence must give way to negotiation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The ever-increasing cycle of violence and reprisal in the Middle East must be broken and give way to negotiation, Pope John Paul II said. "While the light of the risen Christ brightens the whole universe, we cannot help but express solidarity with all our brothers and sisters in the Middle East who suffer in a vortex of armed violence and reprisals," he said April 18 at the end of his weekly general audience. After Palestinians in the Gaza Strip fired mortars on an Israeli settlement April 16, the Israeli government began a fierce land, air and sea attack on Palestinian security offices. The Israelis then sealed off the Gaza Strip and occupied some of the land that had been under Palestinian control. In his Easter week appeal for peace, Pope John Paul said, "The roar of weapons must be substituted with the voice of reason and conscience."

Guest Column



FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

The After-Easter Syndrome: Power for the Powerless

Our real world is made of despair and hope, failure and success, defeat and victory, sin and grace, crying and laughter. Our human nature seems more inclined to despair than to hope; we are more easily susceptible to believing the worst than to count on the best.

Usually, a pessimist is a person who, when there is a choice between two evils, takes both or, to prove that darkness is real, turns out the light. The good news is that we believe in heroes' ability to snatch victory from defeat, and Jesus proves just that with his resurrection.

Jesus' resurrection did not depend on the faith of his disciples (thank God!). If it had, it likely would never have occurred. His resurrection relied on the power of God rather than on our powerless fear. The defeated disciples, however, made the resurrection meaningful when they shared Jesus' triumph. Jesus knew that fear was an overwhelming burden for the disciples, so he reassures them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not fear." (Jn. 14:27) Even with this assurance, the disciples stayed away from his execution. After His burial, they were hiding. The angel encourages them, "Fear not...He is risen." There is no reason to fear.

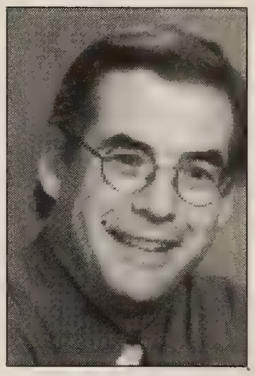
We are paralyzed by fear. Our fear ranges from a vague uneasiness and anxiety about everything in general to nothing in particular. We fear specific things: disease, old age, loneliness, parenting, marriage, strangers, being hurt, punishment, germs, nightmares, bankruptcy, responsibility, death, dark, foot and mouth disease, and the list goes on. Basically, we are afraid of what God will allow to happen to us. What if he allows the same things that happened to his own son?

The worst that could happen is death — well, the resurrection of Jesus has overcome even death. Not even death can snatch us from the Savior's hand. His resurrection has become our personal triumph over our inability and fear. Probably no other disciple felt the sting of Jesus' death more than Peter. Jesus had called him the "rock," perhaps counting on him to be steady as a rock. Peter proved not to be dependable. How do you ever again look squarely in the face of the one you have denied three times? Jesus' love does not fail no matter how much we fail him. Our relationship with him does not depend on our ability but on his love.

There is, sometimes, a great sense of irony and humor in our powerless fear and our courage to overcome fear. We experience confusion, to say the least. I remember a young priest who was delivering his first-pastorate sermon. Excited and wishing to make a good impression, he became confused about a scriptural event. "Consider the scene where the Master fed five people with 5,000 loaves and 2,000 fishes." A visitor nodded his head in a vigorous "NO." Wishing to correct the error, the young preacher began his next Sunday's sermon with the words "Consider the scene where the Master fed 5,000 people with five loaves and two fishes." He pointed to the visitor and emphasized, "You couldn't do that, brother!" "Oh, yes, I could," said the man, "I could if I had what was left over last Sunday!"

The message of Easter morning is that we are not condemned to live a defeated life. God is willing to roll away the stones that have seemed to seal our destiny. It is true that we have limitations and imperfections. So what? What we cannot do, the cross and the resurrection will: "Giving power to the powerless."

Capuchin Father John Aurilia is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.



Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Dad and the Little Girl Who Used To Be His Pal

They wouldn't ever admit it, but for most dads there was a best time ever in his relationship with you, his daughter. Unfortunately, it was when you were 8 or 9.

Most dads, secretly, would like that little girl relationship back.

It's impossible. You're growing up.

This isn't easy for dads. Men don't know how to hang out with their daughters. For example, women go shopping together for the companionship, filling the spaces in their conversations by looking at an occasional pair of shoes. For women, shopping is hanging out.

Men want to go to one store, look at three shirts, buy one and get home in time to watch a game or work on a project in the basement — which is how most guys define hanging out.

Another source of tension is that men equate giving advice with expressing love. They show they love you by telling you how you could improve your homework, your driving and your social life.

Teen-age daughters find this really annoying. They hear it this way: "My dad doesn't trust me to live my own life. He feels he has to be in charge of everything."

Dad's advice-giving isn't about trust. It is simply how men relate.

Listen to your dad with his friends. If you pay attention, you're sure to hear him giving advice, telling his friend what he needs to get for his computer, how he ought to have his car fixed up or what team he ought to back in the upcoming playoffs.

This is a guy way of showing that he cares.

Men aren't good at sharing their stories, their personal experiences. That's how many women show closeness.

Many men do the same thing by giving advice. They can't stop themselves. It's a reflex.

Here's a secret, something nobody may ever have told you: Most adult men are quite lonely. A lot of us grew up not knowing how to get close to people. That's why, when you were a kid, he had so much fun with you. You were somebody he could feel close to, somebody who loved him for who he was.

For most men, their very deepest need is for the people they love to care about them and value them.

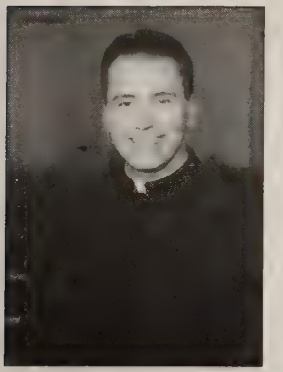
When you're a teen-ager and you're spending all your time at practice or out with your friends, your dad misses the little girl who used to be his pal. Since he doesn't know how to hang out with you any more, he tries to relate to you like you were another guy. He gives you advice.

If you'd like to be closer with your dad, there are two suggestions I can offer.

—First, be open to nonshopping activities. It may not sound really exciting, but if he's picking up a load of sod, you might just ride along. Maybe you'll stop for a soda on the way home — and anyhow, the time in the truck may be the most conversation you'll have for weeks.

—Second, when he wants to give advice, listen. You don't need to do everything your dad suggests. He probably wouldn't want you to. All he really hopes is that you'll listen and occasionally say something like, "That's a good idea, Dad. I'll really think about that. Thanks."

Once that's over with, you can talk about anything that's on your mind — with a man who loves you more deeply than you can imagine.



Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Not Love, But Respect

Gregory Allen Howard is a great man. A big man with a powerful presence, you can see that he must have been a formidable football player in his high school and college years. But his physical size only begins to express the scope of the man. For Greg Howard has a heart which has borne pain, yet risen to amazing heights by transforming the sadness into hope. Mr. Allen is a screenwriter, whose film "Remember the Titans," addresses the suffering and sadness of racism.

Based on the integration of a Virginia High School football team in the late 1960's, the film demonstrates how, in the end, our humanity makes us more similar than we often admit. But writing this stunning script was not just an intellectual exercise for Greg Howard. As an African-American in a culture which still highlights the differences among people, Greg Howard knew, first-hand, the challenges of bigotry.

In a recent interview at The Christophers, Greg shared experiences of his life in California. He recounted how, time and time again, he was stopped while driving. He'd done nothing wrong, broken no laws, driven with care. But he was a black man driving through a white neighborhood and that was reason enough to be stopped, investigated, and (in his view) harassed just for being. His story is not unique. We hear it too often.

Now, Greg Howard had a choice, to close in and become embittered, or to be more positive. He chose the latter. He moved from Los Angeles back to Virginia, settling in Alexandria. He went there because he found it to be a truly integrated community. It's a place of balance and respect for the wonderful differences among peoples and races. There he wrote the script for "Remember the Titans." This film, which stars Denzel Washington and Will Patton, is an unusual look at racism. There are no simply good or bad characters. Instead, it holds up a mirror of America, full of nuances and shades of gray. Two coaches, one black, one white, must work together to integrate their respective football teams into a unit. They accomplish the task from mutual positions of moral goodness. The movie does an outstanding job of showing well-intentioned people struggling to surmount differences and past misunderstandings.

At the heart of both Gregory Allen Howard's personal journey and the film's storyline is a simple message. It may be too much to expect that people of different colors and cultures can completely understand each other, as good as that would be. But we can travel the road to that goal through mutual respect. "You don't have to love me," Greg said, "but I demand your respect" based on our existence as children of God.

The movie (available on video and DVD) should be watched as a family. It will, inevitably, lead to the kinds of discussion that result in new perspectives and new hope.

Gregory Allen Howard, a winner of this year's Christopher Award for films, turned a negative reality into a positive good. "Remember the Titans" reveals a vision for a possible future built on mutual respect, understanding and, yes, love - if we choose to make it so.

See it and be moved by hope.

Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Q. Three of the evangelists, in their narrative of Christ's passion and death, report that when he died, among other natural phenomena (darkened sky, earthquake, dead rising), the veil of the temple was torn. There are also other sources for this happening.

What is the church's teaching on the significance of this tearing of the temple veil? (Florida)

A. The Catholic Church has no official teachings about these verses. It is worth noting that the church has official interpretations for relatively few Bible passages.

Interpretations of Scripture emerge mainly through biblical scholarship, which in turn is based on studies of the history, languages, comparison of texts, customs and so on of the people involved, all viewed in the context of Christian faith and revelation.

The 60-foot high curtain, between what was called the holy place and the holy of holies, was one of the sacred treasures of the Jewish temple. Josephus the historian tells us it was woven with "lavish richness."

All three synoptic Gospels (Mt 27:51; Mk 15:38; Lk 23:45) report the tearing of this veil as one of the wondrous events immediately following the death of our Lord.

Perhaps the most common and most obvious explanation of this event is that it symbolized the break with the past accomplished by the death of Jesus.

The rending of this sacred feature of the Jerusalem temple marked the dividing line between the former covenants God established with the human family through Adam, Noah, Abraham and Moses, and the new and eternal covenant now accomplished through the sacrifice of the Son of God.

This interpretation also fits with the other cataclysmic events you mention (earthquakes, broken rocks, tombs opening and bodies rising), all of which are traditional biblical signs of the final cosmic event in human history, the coming of the Lord in his majesty. (See the similar language in, for example, Isaiah 13:9 and 34:4, Daniel 12 and Joel 2:10.)

Another common interpretation is that tearing the curtain signifies that the death of the Lord marks an uninterrupted access to God, in fact an even greater and more immediate access to the heavenly throne than was possible before.

This would underlie the declaration in the Letter to the Hebrews that the blood of Jesus has opened for us "a new and living path" into the divine presence (10:19-20).

Another suggestion is based on the fact that, among other purposes, the temple curtains marked the limits beyond which only Jews, not gentiles, might pass. It has been proposed, therefore, that the rending of the temple curtain symbolized in some way God's judgment on those Jews who rejected Christ or that there is no longer in God's eyes a distinction between Jew and gentile.

Whatever the specific interpretation, the underlying theme in all of them is that, in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a new age, a new time of salvation, has dawned for the human race.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Facing a Parent's Death: An Emotional Roller-Coaster Time

During the past year and a half I've been on the phone nearly every day with my older sister Rosemary to discuss the daily condition of our 92-year-old mother, now needing 24-hour-a-day care and in a nursing home.

We went through a couple of scary times, like when she fell and broke her hip and shattered her femur bone, and when she had a slight seizure, caused, said the medical people, by a growth in her brain.

I always expected the day would come when my seven brothers and sisters and I would have to face the fact that Mom won't live forever. After all, we already had buried our father, back in 1985, when he died of congestive heart failure at age 83. We could look back at the decades they lived, and thank God for giving them so many years, really good ones, in fact, with excellent health and strong children.

What came as a surprise to me and my sister was the way Mom's physical breakdown put us on a strange path, one full of past memories and future concerns. Seeing Mom, sitting in a chair, not remembering if she went to Mass that day or who I was when I called, throws me into a vision of my own future. I have learned that my way of life, as I now live it, will change — and that is a frightening thought because not one of us knows just what that change will be.

I was having a conversation recently with Barbara Bartocci. She has been widowed twice, and now both her parents have died. Her words were so on target: "Losing a parent — at any age — is a profound loss. It is such a primal connection, that of parent and child. No matter what your age, no matter what the circumstances of your rearing, no matter how loving or how lethal your relationship, it's impossible to completely ignore the people who gave you life."

Bartocci found that few people would discuss their feelings about losing their parents. She had a hard time finding friends and acquaintances who could help her with her grieving after she became what she calls, "an adult orphan." She said, "I had to feel my way, as if walking through an unfamiliar forest."

Little by little she discovered others who had gone through the loss of parents, and she eventually put all these stories together in a book she titled, "Nobody's Child Anymore, Grieving, Caring and Comforting When Parents Die" (Sorin Books). I picked it up because I was curious about what many have experienced in facing that final parental loss.

One woman felt sadness that there was now no one left who remembered her childhood. Some found that they were angry as well as sad, usually because there were some yet unresolved issues that would remain forever in that uncomfortable place.

At this moment my mother has rebounded and is doing well. We feel this is a gift of special time from God to help us prepare for the journey she, like all of us, will one day have to take. I will remember, as Barbara Bartocci put it, that our parents, so much a part of us, never really leave us.

Catholic poet shares gift in verse

PHOTO BY ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON

Leigh Mazaleski, a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton, says poetry helps express her feelings. She shares her works at regular readings in the parish basement.

By **ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON**
Correspondent

MORGANTON — She sits in a director's chair in a candle-lit corner of the church basement that has been transformed into a coffeehouse. About 30 friends and parishioners sit around small tables or relax on soft couches, and they listen as she shares her gift with them.

She is Leigh Mazaleski, a new Catholic, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Church, a mother of four, a self-employed speech pathologist and a poet.

She became a Catholic on Easter a year ago. "I'm still on a honeymoon with this church," she says. "I love this church."

Her poetry comes to her at times in her life when she feels like she needs to express her feelings. "Ten years ago my brother died, and I wrote a lot," she tells her audience. Then again, a year-and-a-half ago, when her feelings for her family and her faith started to overflow, "these words just started coming to me. I went to Father Ken (Whittington), and he told me he thought it was a gift."

Father Whittington, pastor at St. Charles Borromeo, encouraged her to share her poems with others, and the coffeehouses were born.

She writes about many different topics, but mostly about her love for her children, her husband and her faith.

One poem, part of which appears below, describes her feelings as she greets her son when he gets off the school bus at the end of the day.

"You know that they all watch
as I greet you
You contain your enthusiasm
while mine escapes my heart"

Another poem tells about a 2-year-old's feelings for Mommy. (Mazaleski has twin girls, age 2 1/2, and two boys, ages 5 and 6.)

"She knows all three foods I will eat
She gets my favorite cup when I beg

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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FROM previous page

If I can't be her kitchen helper
then let me attach myself to her leg"

She teases her husband because he has brought a newspaper to her poetry reading, but then reads poems she has written for him.

"Please walk between this humble soul
and the man I still adore
Help him see through the layers of stress
and feel the love within my core"

She jokes with her audience, and tells them how she has let other things slip since these poems have started coming to her. "Our house is a lot messier now," she says. She reads a poem in which she is trying to decide what to do with an unexpected free hour, and ends it with this verse.

"And while I ponder, running out of time
I spend precious minutes constructing this rhyme."

She reads a poem inspired by her new neighbors from Guatemala.

"I know not your words
yet the beauty of your way transcends
how my eyes have opened since you arrived
my Guatemalan friend"

She reads a poem about people who are good to others, yet have faith missing from their lives.

"Every day she goes to work
treats those she meets as a friend
They always remember her smile
Yet she goes home to greet emptiness once again
And she knows not why"

Jan Billings, a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo, has been to all of the poetry readings. She became a Catholic herself two years ago at Easter. "She (Mazaleski) wrote a poem for me — my spiritual journey into the Catholic Church," she said. "I gave her the words, and she put it into poetic expression." Billings said that Mazaleski read the poem aloud at the last coffeehouse, with her permission.

Mazaleski says that she would like it if people from other churches would attend the coffeehouses, and that she would even like to travel to other places to share her poetry. "I just want people to know there is so much love out there," she says. "God is not something to be feared."

She reads a poem about her feelings for God.

"Thank you Lord for making me matter

I am one sheep amongst your flock
not even one of brilliant mind
or one of great virtue
nor am I a scholar of your teachings

Yet I know that I am counted
that I am always watched

And though I am but one sheep blending into the rest
You appreciate my differences
And it matters not my years wasted wandering selfishly
As now I am in the fold

And I matter"

The next poetry reading by Leigh Mazaleski will take place on Friday, May 18 at 8 p.m. in the basement of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton.

(Note: The poetic verses quoted in this article are taken from longer poems written by Leigh Mazaleski, except for the last poem, which appears in its entirety. The names of the poems, in the order in which they appear in the article, are as follows: "Until the Bus is Gone," "Mommy Knows," "A Wife's Prayer," "The Laundry's Calling," "My Guatemalan Friend," "She Knows Not Why" and "Grand Praise from a Simple Heart." These excerpts were printed with permission of the author.)

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Pope says human need for God can be almost physical

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The human desire to be with God is not just a wish, but a need that can be as physical as the need for food and water, Pope John Paul II said.

When the biblical Psalm writer tells God, "for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts," he helps readers "understand how essential and deep is the need for God," the pope said April 25 at his weekly general audience.

In St. Peter's Square under a warm spring sun, the pope asked pilgrims to picture the setting of Psalm 62: "It is dawn, the sun is rising in the clear sky of the Holy Land and the speaker begins his day by going to the temple to seek the light of God.

"He needs that encounter with the Lord in an almost instinctive, one could say physical way," the pope said.

"Just as arid land is dead until it is irrigated by rain," he said, so too "the faithful yearn for God, to be filled by him in order to exist in communion with him."

The hunger for God is satisfied by listening to his word and receiving his body in the Eucharist, the pope said.

"Through the mystical food of communion with God, 'the soul clings' to him, as the psalmist says," the pope said. "It is not by chance that he speaks of an embrace, of a clinging that is almost physical."

Even in the darkest night and in the midst of danger and difficulty, the one who is in communion with God feels protected, he said.

"The fear dissolves, the embrace is not a clinging to a void but to God himself, our hand entwines with the power of God's right hand," the pope said.

In the Easter season, Pope John Paul said, Christians know "the thirst and hunger that push us toward God" are satisfied through the risen Christ's gifts of the Holy Spirit and of the sacraments, he said.

Marriage guides deacon's life, shapes ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Nicholas and Irene Fadero have passed the golden anniversary mark. Their nearly 53-year-old marriage has stood the test of time, and through it all, the high school sweethearts remain the other's best friend and partner in spiritual development. In fact, their marriage serves as a guide and basis for Rev. Mr. Fadero's marriage preparation ministry. Long before serving others in the name of matrimonial vows, Rev. Mr. Fadero grew up in a time of economic uncertainty, war and a way of life unknown to those of newer generations.

He met his future wife in the halls of their high school in Phillipsburg, N. J., and the two lived in a world now seen mostly in movies. They grew up during the Depression and World War II eras and witnessed a time when they had to be careful with every aspect of life.

"They were tough times with rations on gas, butter, sugar, etc. We didn't splurge on anything, and we didn't know we were poor because everyone else was," said Rev. Mr. Fadero, remembering a time when students walked everywhere in groups and when many young teens held adult jobs to help support the family and to have pocket money.

Rev. Mr. Fadero himself held several after-school jobs as a delivery truck driver, mechanic and silkscreen printer all before the age of 18. He watched his friends signing up for a war across the ocean, and he wanted to follow suit. However, his father, who wanted his son to finish high school, stopped him.

"The maturity level was much different at that time during the Depression. Responsibilities were present at an early age. I started working at age 11, and Irene and I were married when I was 20," said Rev. Mr. Fadero, who had become acquainted with his wife during their courtship walks, talks and bus rides.

The couple settled in a house built by Rev. Mr. Fadero and began their lives together and continued to develop their spirituality as one. Before they were married, they attended novena one night a week, one of their "dates" at Mrs. Fadero's request. "She was a devout Catholic and was a good influence at the right time in my life. Before that time, I could have gone either way as far as my religious life was concerned."

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero

> *"I wanted to be more involved in my ministry than I had been. Without my wife's cooperation, it would have been difficult," said Rev. Mr. Fadero, who studied while his wife drove them to the classes. "My wife didn't miss one day of class and was with me every step of the way."*
>
> *– Rev. Mr. Nicholas Fadero*

While his spiritual life was developing before and after his marriage, at the same time, his professional life was also taking off. After a stint in Michigan at the General Motors Institute, he came back home and received an associate's degree in business administration. He began working for Riegel Paper in the early stages of what would become data processing and moved on to the cost department and was promoted to assistant controller and, later in his life, to vice-president of finance and regional controller.

The family moved to North Carolina for the first time in 1963 and joined St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte when the congregation only consisted of nearly 125 families. Continuing the church work he had performed in New Jersey, Rev. Mr. Fadero became involved with the parish council, Eucharistic ministry, teaching religion class and other aspects of parish life. After 13 years, the family moved to West Virginia again because of work.

"The three older children stayed in Charlotte, and the three younger ones came with us. We kept the house in Charlotte, and at one time or another, all of them lived in it," said Rev. Mr. Fadero, father of six and grandfather of five. "All of the kids came back to Charlotte, and now, we live within 10 minutes of each other."

It was in West Virginia where Rev. Mr. Fadero decided to become a permanent deacon and was ordained in 1985. "I wanted to be more involved in my ministry than I had been. Without my wife's cooperation, it would have been difficult," said Rev. Mr. Fadero, who studied while his wife drove them to the classes. "My wife didn't miss one day of class and was with me every step of the way."

The couple moved back to Charlotte in 1993 and began attending St. Patrick Cathedral, where Rev. Mr. Fadero is a permanent deacon today. While praying for a ministry, the church bulletin provided the answer. A couple involved with marriage encounter wanted to start the Retrouvaille program, one which aids couples to heal problems in their marriages. Rev. Mr. Fadero and his wife became involved immediately.

"Because of the divorce rate and my experience of being married and raising a family, I thought I had some things to share," said Rev. Mr. Fadero.

Mrs. Fadero added, "Every marriage is different, and we would tell them to do their best, no matter what their problems were. We tried to share what we knew."

Throughout their involvement with Retrouvaille, they calculated that over 3,000 people called to ask about the program, and over 600 couples were helped. Rev. Mr. Fadero still works with marriage preparation and tells the couples that cooperation, commitment and a good sense of humor are key in helping a marriage to survive.

"It (our marriage) has been a trial. You have arguments, but God has kept us together. Prayer is very important," said Mrs. Fadero. "The permanent diaconate has aided in all aspects of our lives because it makes you inclined to do the right things in life, and the Church is on our minds all the time."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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May 4, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 33

Inside

Youth explore spirituality, community at conference ... Pages 4-5

Belmont Abbey College welcomes middle-schoolers ... Page 7

Local News

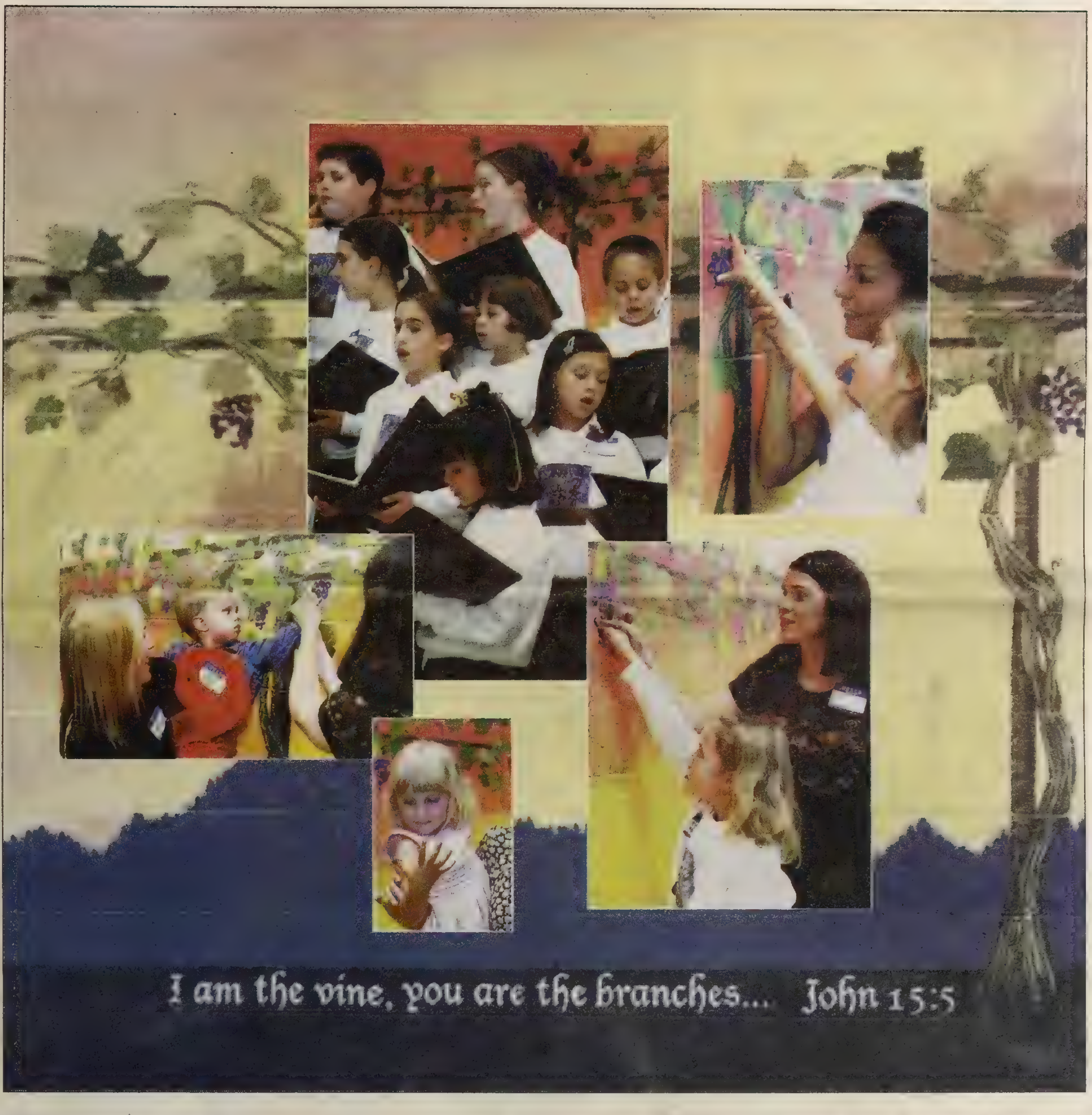
Asheville sister renews faith journey ... Page 15

Retired officer now enforces God's law ... Page 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13


I am the vine, you are the branches... John 15:5

Fruit of the vine

During the 75th anniversary celebration at Immaculata School in Hendersonville, students, parents and friends were invited to leave imprints on the vine mural. With thumbs dipped in purple paint, thumbprints became clusters of grapes. Pictures here show some of the children adding their 'grape' to the vine. Also pictured, members of the Immaculata School choir, who performed during the celebration.

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Diamond anniversary, sparkling celebration

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

HENDERSONVILLE — A parish priest converted his rectory into a parish school, making Catholic education a reality for 23 students. That was 1926.

This past Sunday, Immacula School took time to reflect on 75 years of parochial education in Hendersonville. Over the years, the school's undergone many changes, but a strongly rooted foundation has given the school room to flourish in Western North Carolina.

"So many people over the years have given so much of themselves to this school," said Principal William Meehan to a gymnasium filled with current and former students, teachers, families and friends. "It's humbling to ponder the impact of this school on the lives of these countless individuals over the years. Although all are not with us today, we can be assured they are with us in spirit on this special occasion in the life of our school."

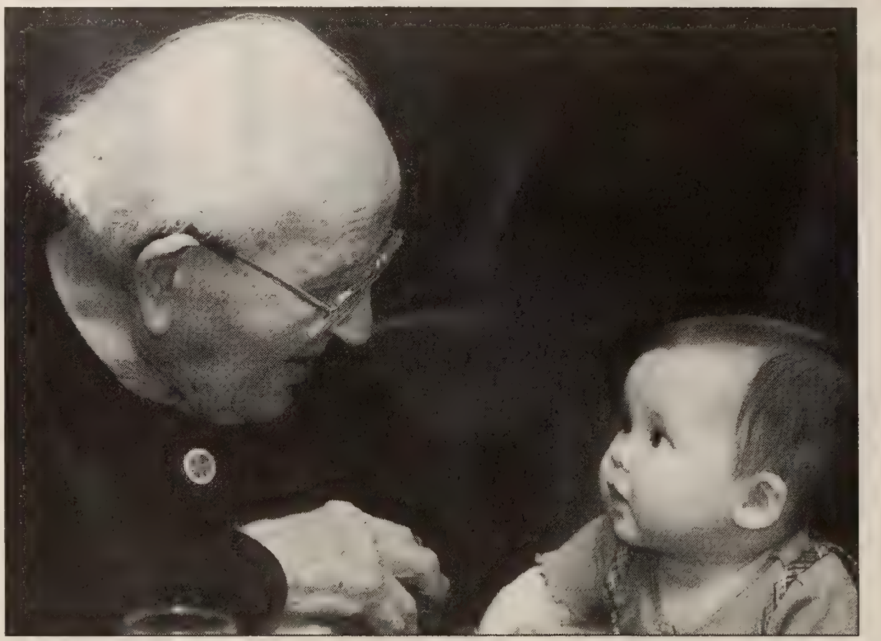
Among the returning alumni, Ann Livingston Pouch recalled her days at Immacula School. It was the early 1940s, and the world was at war. Sisters of Christian Education ruled with strict compassion. "They had their rules, and we obeyed," said Pouch. "The rules I learned then are still the rules I live by today."

"I couldn't have gotten a better education," added classmate Happy Lentz Gibson. The Lutheran woman can't recall why her mother enrolled her in a Catholic school. Gibson was in good company. Less than 50 children took their lessons at the mountain community school. Half the class was non-Catholic. "We were taught the Bible, needless to say. I base my whole religious outlook today on what I learned back in those times."

Back to 2001, as a school family mingled, the stage literally took center stage. To mark this moment in time, an artistic grape arbor — painted as a backdrop on the stage wall — became Immaculata's answer to a time capsule.

Students, parents and friends were invited to step up, dip their thumbs in purple paint, and leave an imprint. From

See CELEBRATION, page 8



CNS PHOTO BY DIANNE TOWALSKI, ST. CLOUD VISITOR

Looking up to great-great uncle

Six-month-old Peyton Crombie looks up to her great-great uncle, Benedictine Father Angelo Zankl, during his 100th birthday celebration April 22 at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minn. Father Zankl is the first member of the community to reach 100 and will celebrate 80 years as a monk in July

Catholic health leader seeks new approaches to graying of America

COVINGTON, Ky. (CNS) — The rapidly aging population in the United States will require Catholic health institutions and Catholic social service agencies to form new partnerships to provide care for the nation's seniors, according to the president of the Catholic Health Association. Father Michael D. Place called for "a shift of focus from treating discrete episodes of acute illness to a focus on chronic illnesses that require care for a prolonged period of time." He made the comments in a talk April 23 at St. Thomas More College in Covington. "We must think of this continuum in terms of the whole person over extended periods of wellness and illness," he added. "And we must think and act beyond the walls of traditional acute health care institutions, to include housing and other community-based services."

Bill to ban human cloning goes to Congress

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bill to ban all cloning of human embryos was introduced in Congress April 26. Strongly backed by a number of religious groups including the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the proposed legislation would impose civil and criminal penalties on anyone who attempts to create a human clone in the United States. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., chief sponsors of the bill, announced its introduction at a news conference. The bill is called the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001. Brownback said the bill responds to "a deep concern in America and the world in general" over recently announced plans by some to "create human beings by cloning." He said the legislation also would prohibit cloning human embryos "for research or as sources of cells and tissues for possible treatment of other humans."

Catholics hope papal trip to Athens will highlight discrimination

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Catholics hope Pope John Paul II's May 4-5 visit to Athens will draw attention to discrimination facing their church in predominantly Orthodox Greece. However, a church leader said he doubted the pope's presence would be enough to encourage reforms, which currently face strong Orthodox opposition. "At some stage, the situation has to change here," said Archbishop Nikolaos Foscolos of Athens in an April 26 telephone interview. "But this is a pilgrimage in the steps of St. Paul, rather than a state or pastoral visit. So there simply won't be time to raise the Catholic Church's problems here." Article 3 of the Constitution of Greece, a NATO and European Union member-state, declares Orthodoxy the "dominant religion" and prohibits Bible translations without the Orthodox Church's consent.

Globalization seen challenging church social teaching

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The challenges of globalization have broadened Catholic social teaching's vision of responsibility for the weaker members of society, said experts at a Vatican meeting in April. In coming years, this evolution likely will lead to more articulated church stances on protection of the environment, operation of financial markets, limits of intellectual property rights, intergenerational differences and the gap between rich and poor, they said. "The church realizes that we have entered a completely new dimension of mankind," said Jesuit Father Johannes Schasching. "And, therefore, the church has to enlarge herself, her point of view," he said. The Austrian theologian and social scientist was one of nearly 50 participants, including economic experts and U.N. officials, at an April 25-28 plenary meeting of the Pontifical Academy for Social Sciences that focused on globalization and ethics.

Anglican leader sees new stage in Christian-Jewish relations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The primate of the world Anglican Communion said he sees Christian-Jewish relations entering a historic new stage, thanks to a recent initiative by a largely American group of Jewish scholars and leaders. "I believe that we are indeed in a unique moment in the history of Jewish-Christian relations," Archbishop George L. Carey of Canterbury, England, said April 24 in a lecture at the National Cathedral in Washington. He urged Christians to approach dialogue with Jews in a spirit of learning, humility and truth. Archbishop Carey attributed "the new situation in which we find ourselves" to the statement "Dabru Emet" (Hebrew for "speak the truth") released last September by the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies in Baltimore.

CRS asks for more federal leeway in granting food aid

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services has asked the federal government for more latitude in determining how U.S.-based charities distribute food aid. In testimony April 25 before the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, CRS executive director Kenneth P. Hackett said federal rules have grown too restrictive in how "private voluntary organizations" distribute food. "We are asking that U.S. food aid be provided to U.S. PVOs to support our own planned relief and development activities," Hackett said. In the last 10-15 years, he added, "we often feel treated as 'contractors' carrying out a changing agenda, one which we have not helped establish and one which has not benefited from our practical on-the-ground experience."

NCCB official applauds passage of Unborn Victims of Violence Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops applauded the April 26 vote by the House of Representatives to approve the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. The act, which passed on a 252-172 vote, stipulates that an individual who injures or kills an unborn child while committing a violent federal crime may be punished for a separate offense. Cathleen Cleaver, director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the vote "sends a powerful message." Said Cleaver in an April 26 statement: "When a violent assault is committed against a pregnant woman and her baby, under federal law, judgment and punishment will be meted out for violent acts against two victims, not one."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 12 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Holy Cross, Kernersville

May 13 — 2 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Barnabas, Arden

May 14 — 9:30 a.m.
Mass and May Procession
St. Ann School, Charlotte

7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. Leo the Great,
Winston-Salem

May 16 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Queen of the Apostles, Belmont

Diocesan planner

May

6 CHARLOTTE — The 50th Semi-Annual International Family Rosary Day will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., today at 3 p.m. Father Chris Gober of St. Michael Church in Gastonia will be the speaker. Call Kathleen Potter at (704) 366-5127 for details.

6 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at the Showfety Activity Center at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

7 CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse will be meeting from 6-7 p.m. tonight and May 21 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

7 CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting will take place tonight and May 21 from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of the parish center's conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459.

7 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. with Father Fidel Melo. The sacrament of reconciliation is being given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will take place on June 4. For more information, call (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

8 CHARLOTTE — St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., will be hosting an estate planning seminar this evening. There will also be another seminar held at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., in Morganton on May 16. For

Quebec bishops call environment, poverty interrelated issues

MONTREAL (CNS) — Environmental devastation and the struggle of the poor for a more equitable distribution of the world's resources are interrelated issues that should be of concern to Catholics, said Quebec's bishops. "The Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor," an eight-page document issued by the social affairs committee of the Quebec Assembly of Bishops as their traditional May Day message, calls on Catholics to stop thinking of environmental degradation as a scientific problem and to wake up to the serious social consequences of ongoing ecological destruction. The challenges of desertification, biosphere imbalances, climatic changes and pollution are not just scientific and technical issues, but also "political challenges that affect the lives of workers at home and abroad, particularly in the developing world," said the Quebec bishops, referring to the 1987 report of the World Commission on Development and Environment.

NFPC official praises priests for implementing Vatican II reforms

WORCESTER, Mass. (CNS) — The head of the National Federation of Priests Councils paid tribute to the priests who helped the U.S. church make the transition from the days prior to the Second Vatican Council through the last 35 years to the present. "You led us over the mountain and we stand here today gazing at the horizons of a church for tomorrow. You are our heroes, and God bless you," Father Robert Silva of Stockton, Calif., said April 24 to priests in Worcester for the 33rd annual NFPC convention. About 280 priests representing 124 dioceses, religious organizations of men and associations of priests were registered for the convention and its House of Delegates. Priests from Canada, England and Ireland also were registered. The theme of the weeklong convention was "The Spiritual Renewal of the American Priesthood."

Jews, Christians examine how to address pro-life issues together

NEW YORK (CNS) — About 100 supporters of the pro-life cause from the Jewish and Christian communities gathered in New York for an April 24 conference on "exploring how Jews and Christians can work together to sanctify human life." It was sponsored by the Institute for Religious Values, an agency based in Purcellville, Va., and Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Mich., which opened last year with financing from the pizza fortune of Thomas S. Monaghan. With ordained and lay speakers from both the Jewish and Catholic communities, the conference explored the similarities and differences in the two faiths' approaches to abortion, partial-birth abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide, as well as the overall topic of the sanctity of life.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Third anniversary of Bishop Gerardi's murder

School girls hold a placard with a photo of slain Guatemalan Bishop Juan Gerardi Conedera near his tomb at the Guatemala City cathedral April 26, the third anniversary of his murder. Bishop Gerardi was found bludgeoned to death at his house shortly after presenting a report blaming the nation's military for human rights abuses during Guatemala's 36-year civil war.

Bike ride to raise funds for Christian Brothers schools

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christian Brother Jeffrey Gros plans to spend his summer vacation riding a bicycle 2,137 miles to raise funds for schools giving tuition-free education to poor children. Weather permitting, he is getting in shape by bicycling three to four hours each morning before going to work in Washington, where he is associate director of ecumenical and interreligious affairs for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "I bicycle regularly anyhow. So I just have to do it a little more now," he said. Brother Gros plans to participate in a cross-country bike ride, called SPOKE-n-WORD. The aim is to provide funds for the San Miguel Network, five schools run by the Christian Brothers. The ride begins June 12 in Portland, Ore., and ends Aug. 10 in Providence, R.I. Brother Gros plans to ride only the Portland to St. Paul, Minn., lap, estimating it will eat up his 30-day vacation.

Former Philippine president arrested for economic plunder

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Former Philippine President Joseph Estrada became the first of his country's leaders to be arrested for economic plunder after the anti-graft court in Manila issued an arrest warrant April 25. The Philippine National Police arrested Estrada around 3 p.m. at his home in San Juan, east of Manila, after pushing through about 2,000 Estrada supporters outside the home. Some 1,000 police escorted the arresting officers. After the van carrying Estrada and the arresting officers left his home, his supporters marched to the nearby Mary Queen of Peace shrine and spray-painted the marker installed there in January to commemorate the uprising that unseated him as president. Under Philippine law, plunder is defined as the accumulation of ill-gotten wealth by a public official through a "combination or series of overt or criminal acts" in the amount of at least 50 million pesos (US$1 million).

Irish president says time to say goodbye to 'Catholic Ireland'

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Irish President Mary McAleese, a Catholic, said it is time to say goodbye to the phrase "Catholic Ireland." Speaking about a recent visit to the United States, where she repeatedly heard Ireland described as a "Catholic country," McAleese said "that in some ways that expression belongs to a time when Northern Ireland could be described as 'a Protestant state' and the Republic described as a Catholic state." In a national radio interview April 22, she said, "I think one of the lessons we have learned from history is the need to transcend those kind of labels because they send messages to people, which I believe can be hurtful messages, as if there is some ownership of Ireland by Catholicism, for example."

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further information, call Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3320.

9 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations will be accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

10 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-3 p.m. on May 20 with a school of leaders only with childcare and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on May 27 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

10 REIDSVILLE — Holy Infant Church will be sponsoring an art show and auction this evening at the Penn Civic Center, 324 Maple Ave., with an art preview hour at 6:30 p.m. and the auction at 7 p.m. Door prizes, hors d-oeuvres and other refreshments will be available for the attendants, and tickets are available now at the church office at 1042 Freeway Dr. For details, call (336) 342-1448, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

11 ASHEVILLE — The Gay and Lesbian Commission of the Diocese of Charlotte will be sponsoring an evening of reflection for gay and lesbian Christians, their parents and family members tonight from 6-9 p.m. at All Souls Episcopal Cathedral Parish Hall. For further details about this night of conversation, prayer and fellowship, the May 8 registration and directions, call Jerry Edwards at (828) 252-2652 or e-mail Phubby@msn.com.

13 CHARLOTTE — In celebration of Mother's Day, St. Matthew Church will be having its Christian Coffeehouse following 5:30 p.m. Mass from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish center. All are invited to join the parish for uplifting fellowship and music provided by Redeemed with Kathy and David, a Christian contemporary band. If interested in being a sponsor or for more information, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

14 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent will meet tonight and May 28 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

19 GREENSBORO — St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St., will be hosting a health fair today from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Breast cancer awareness, blood pressure, diabetes, eye exams and other seminars will be available along with an on-site doctor or nurse to answer questions and vendors selling health-related products. For further information, call Sadie McConnell at (336) 851-5585.

19 MORGANTON — A Disaster Relief Workshop will take place at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Rev. Mr. Gerald Collins will speak about how parishes can prepare to take an active and effective role in disaster responses. For more details, call Gerry Carter at (704) 370-3250.

20 CHARLOTTE — Father John Vianney Hoover of the New Creation Monastery will be celebrating his 25th Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at 2 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd, and invites everyone to celebrate his anniversary. A reception will follow and to RSVP, call (704) 334-9330.

21 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Exploring personal and community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

LAKE WYLIE, S.C. —The afternoon sun shone on Lake Wylie as teens, dressed for summer because of the climbing temperature, took advantage of their free time during the Diocesan Youth Conference 2001 (DYC). The breeze from the gently moving waters bordering Camp Thunderbird roused the still, sun-warmed air and the spirits of the young people in search of spiritual nourishment.

Some sat in quiet thought and prayer, awaiting their turn to confess to one of the priests who joined the young group. Others used the time to play basketball or group Frisbee, while those involved in the closing Mass practiced the liturgical dance component. A group of anxious young men and women waited to be interviewed for a position on the Diocesan Youth Council, the group who, along with adult mentors and coordinators, plan and organize the entire weekend event, held April 27-29.

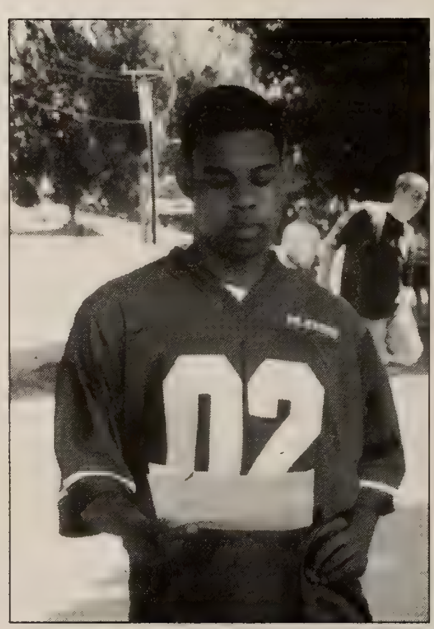
The yearly event, which draws one of the largest concentrations of youth from all parts of the western half of the state, was composed of several scheduled activities of which the teens could take part. The period of free time was only one section of a weekend retreat filled with song, dance, liturgy, workshops and religious interaction.

"The purpose of the DYC is to gather the young Church of Western North Carolina for prayer, education, fellowship and to experience the power of life as we gather as a church," said Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of youth ministry. "It is a time to for the youth to have fun, grow, meet people and meet the Lord through each other and the events."

Youth from all parts of the diocese gathered to reflect on this year's theme, "More than Wood and Stone," based on a biblical verse from 1 Peter 2:1-10, which reads: "...Come to the Lord, the living stone rejected by people as worthless but chosen by God as valuable... ." Kotlowski reiterated the significance of those words to the group at the closing keynote address.

"I talked about the wood of the cross, carrying our crosses and how sacrifice is an integral part of who we are as church and how we need to be about that work as we build the kingdom. I asked them to look at the paradox of living stone and how we need to be rock solid and firm in certain areas but we also need to be abundantly alive."

The DYC theme was reiterated



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Pictured counterclockwise: Michelle Lindstrand, 17, from St. James Church in Hamlet; Robert Simmons, 15, from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and Cheryl Gilreath, 16, from Holy Cross Church in Kernersville fill out Diocesan Youth Council applications while waiting for their interviews. Chris Nunes, 17, from St. Ann Church in Charlotte; Phillip Derrick, 15, from St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte; Kyle Ingle, 16, from Sacred Heart Church in Brevard and Phong Nguyen, 21, a chaperone from St. Thomas, discuss the day's events during free time. Seventeen-year-old Sarah Hamilton from St. Therese Church in Mooresville gathers her thoughts before reconciliation.

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spirituality at 2001 Youth Conference

through the workshops and during other activities. The teens could choose from several workshop themes including prayer, evangelization, liturgy, catechesis, missionary work, social justice and others. One workshop that received many positive comments focused on human sexuality presented by the St. Mark Church Life Teen ministry group from Huntersville. The young men and women were separated, and the presenters talked about the importance of abstinence in the lives of young Catholics.

"That workshop opened my eyes, made me realize some of my own faults and how I need to improve my life," said Peter Shaw, 16, from St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. "The environment here is so profound, and it (the DYC) reassures me and builds me back up when I am starting to get worn down and is a boost for me."

The Spitting Image teen group from St. Therese Church in Mooresville presented different aspects of spirituality through interpretive dance and miming. One of the presenters, Juliette Lee, 17, said that DYC helped her to grow in her faith. "It's very exciting to be able to share God's word with other people. This enables me to see Christ in others and learn more about our faith which helps me to go out and share with people, so we can all feel his love."

With daily Mass — including a closing liturgy celebrated by Bishop William G. Curlin — the group icebreaker games, time for parish bonding and other activities, the teens were treated to a conference that delivered a time for faith and spirituality geared for youth and was reflective of their world, so different from that of past generations.

"The atmosphere is great because there are all of these teens here who are Catholic coming together to celebrate their faith, and you usually don't see teens gathering to talk about their spirituality," said 15-year-old Robert Simmons from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte, who came with members of his parish's youth group, Youth in Action. "We are the new generation that will have to step up and take over our faith when our parents and so forth go on. We will have to be able to say 'yes, I am Catholic.'"

Emily Dillard, 15, from Our Lady of Mercy Church in Winston-Salem had a special message for all teens who have not yet attended DYC: "For anyone who is wondering about DYC, you should definitely come because it is such a good experience, and you won't regret it."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Pope pleased U.S. bishops will implement education norms

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he was pleased that U.S. bishops are close to implementing Vatican norms for Catholic higher education, said the head of the U.S. bishops' conference. "We told him we were about to finish the whole work on 'Ex Corde Ecclesiae,' the application of the mandate," said Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, following an April 27 lunch with the pope. "He was glad to hear that." Bishop Fiorenza, Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., conference vice president, and Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary, met with the pope during a semiannual visit with the heads of various Vatican offices. Other luncheon topics, said Bishop Fiorenza, were the U.S. jubilee experience, the pope's post-jubilee apostolic letter, and the upcoming papal pilgrimage to Greece, Syria and Malta.

Bomb found hidden near bishop's residence in Indonesia

ATAMBUA, Indonesia (CNS) — A bomb was found hidden among banana trees some 160 feet from the bishop's residence in Atambua, the second such incident in five months. "It is really a bomb to terrorize the bishop," one police official said following the discovery. Bishop Anton Pain Ratu of Atambua was not home when a group of East Timorese refugee children found the bomb April 23 at 10:05 a.m.; he was attending a meeting nearby, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. A life insurance employee who was talking with a priest in front of the bishop's residence, immediately took the box from the children and carried it to the Atambua police station, an eyewitness said. Bishop Pain Ratu has been called "the bishop of the refugees" for his efforts to reconcile people in neighboring East Timor with East Timorese refugees in West Timor.

Pope clears way for beatification of 27 Ukrainian martyrs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just seven weeks after the local study of 27 Ukrainian martyrs ended, Pope John Paul II cleared the way for their beatification during his June 23-27 trip to their homeland. The Vatican published the decrees recognizing the martyrdom of the 27 members of Ukraine's Eastern-rite church who died at the hands of Nazi invaders and communist occupiers, in Soviet gulags or as the result of their imprisonment. The same day, April 24, the Vatican promulgated a decree recognizing the martyrdom of Ruthenian Bishop Teodoro Romzsa, apostolic administrator of Mukacheve, Ukraine, who was killed in 1947. He, too, is expected to be beatified by the pope in late June.

U.S. official who helped media at Vatican retires after 30 years

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After 30 years of shepherding photographers, television producers and filmmakers through the Vatican, Marjorie Weeke, a U.S. official at the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, is retiring from Vatican service. Weeke has worked at the council for 30 years and has passed the Vatican's mandatory retirement age of 65 for lay employees. U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, council president, said before hosting an April 24 farewell reception, "It will be difficult to get along without her." Weeke said she has no intention of retiring, although she is looking forward "to seeing what it is like not to get up at 6:30 every morning." She said she probably will work as a consultant on documentary films about the Vatican.

Hispanic growth causing adaptations in youth ministry

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The mushrooming U.S. Hispanic Catholic population is causing changes in youth ministry as parishes and dioceses begin tailoring efforts to attract Hispanics not fitting the mold of traditional programs. So, in the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, church officials have an outreach program to gang members which includes placing ex-members at risk in families living in other dioceses. In the Washington Archdiocese, Hispanic youth leaders go door-to-door three times a year to let young people know where they can attend Masses in Spanish and about programs geared for them. In the Boston Archdiocese, Orlando Vargas arrived from the Dominican Republic 22 years ago and found no programs in Spanish so began forming his own. Now the 36-year-old is a full-time, salaried archdiocesan Hispanic youth official. These examples show a church reaching out to attract the youths and young adults of the fast growing segment of the Catholic population.

ST. BARNABAS
CATHOLIC CHURCH

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

With a little help from his friends

Nicholas Wardwell, 17, works on his Eagle Scout project on the parish grounds of St. Barnabas Church in Arden. Wardwell enlisted a group of friends to complete the landscaping project, which included constructing the parish sign pictured in the background.

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Belmont Abbey College invites students to come and see

PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Dean de la Motte, academic dean at Belmont Abbey College, spoke with middle school students about preparing for life after high school.

About 525 eighth-graders traveled to Belmont Abbey College April 30 for the college's first Catholic Schools Day. Students from the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh and Charleston — including these students from St. Anne School in Rock Hill, S.C., attended.

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BELMONT — Education. Independence. Better job opportunities. A chance to prepare for adult life.

For 525 eighth-graders from 10 Catholic schools in the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh and Charleston who attended Belmont Abbey College's first Catholic Schools Day April 30, these were among the ingredients in their recipe for a college experience.

Catholic Schools Day was an effort to introduce middle school students to campus life at the only Catholic college in the Atlanta Province.

"We were delighted to have that number of students on campus," said Abbot Placid Solari, abbot of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of the college. "It was magnificent."

College officials addressed the students about preparing for life after high school, the history of Belmont Abbey and its college, and the educational, cultural and social aspects of the college years.

"This was an opportunity to introduce middle school students to the campus environment and to show them what life is all about at a small college," said Dean de la Motte, academic dean at Belmont Abbey College, who organized the day.

"This is one of the ways we can connect better with the diocese, the parishes and the parish schools, by bringing students on campus and celebrating Catholic education," he said.

Eliane Kebbe, the college's athletic director, was impressed by the students' range of questions, from the academic to the social, the cultural to the spiritual.

"You can never think about college too early, so hopefully this is a step toward getting them to think along the lines of attending a college, whether they're thinking about Belmont Abbey or someplace else," she said.

Stephen Clipp, 14, who traveled from St. Thomas More School in Chapel Hill, said he appreciates the sense of community that exists in the Catholic school setting.

"Everyone knows you, and you know everyone," he said. "You feel like you belong there. You're part of this whole puzzle that goes on there, and you just don't get that at larger schools."

Incorporating the Benedictine tradition, Belmont Abbey and its college were founded in 1876 by Benedictine monks who settled here from St. Vincent Abbey in Latrobe, Pa.

With a student body of close to 1,000 today, Belmont Abbey College offers a liberal arts curriculum, an athletic program in Division II of the NCAA and a host of social, cultural and extracurricular activities including the Abbey Players, a theater group that has been in continuous production since 1884.

"Part of the point of bringing the students to the Abbey was to point out the role the Abbey has played in the church in the Carolinas as one of the earlier founding centers," said Abbot Placid.

"We wanted them to think of the tradition that has been handed on to them that, to a certain extent, had a focal point in the early days of Catholicism at Belmont Abbey. We hope they will appreciate those who have gone before us in building up the church in both Carolinas."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Bennett urges Catholics to stand up for what's right

By CAROL ZIMMERMANN
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics have a responsibility to "stand up for what is right in today's world," William Bennett told a group of lay Catholics in Washington.

The Republican activist, best-selling author and former Reagan Cabinet member, said Catholics should be courageous in their faith and follow the Gospel message often reiterated by Pope John Paul II: "Be not afraid."

"I'm not afraid," he told members of the John Carroll Society April 20 in an address at a dinner celebrating the group's 50th anniversary. "Part of why I'm not is because of what my Catholic education has done for me."

But Bennett, who is Catholic, acknowledged that he was not always so clear on matters of faith.

He recalled religion classes of his youth when students were asked to "choose the world, the flesh, the devil or God." And at age 7, he pointed out, "that was no problem."

But choosing a life of faith as a teenager was a little more complicated for Bennett, who admitted he was in "a lot of trouble" and was even thrown out of a retreat at Gonzaga High School in Washington.

> *"The family today is under siege, under attack, and if it goes, the nation goes with it."*
>
> *–William Bennett*

"I was very argumentative," Bennett told the crowd.

Now, with a son of his own in high school and another son in sixth grade, Bennett said everything he learned and worked through in school formed him to what he is today.

"What's real endures," he said. "Catholic teaching endures."

He now sees Catholicism as having something to offer, particularly in response to troubled aspects of today's society, such as the family, he said.

"The family today is under siege, under attack," he said, "and if it goes, the nation goes with it."

Bennett, who described the family as the "first department of health, education and welfare," noted that the Catholic Church has much to say about families and "holds the family (as) central."

But for taking that stance, among others, he said, "the Catholic Church is one of two to three institutions that are made fun of without apology."

"It is the only acceptable bigotry left," he said, adding that Catholics should take a stand against such ridicule.

Bennett, for his part, has not shied away from rejecting what he sees as society's lack of values and ethics and its family breakdown.

Bennett wrote "The Book of Virtues" and "The Children's Book of Virtues," aiming to provide, as he writes in the book's introduction — "a moral education."

His books followed time spent in government positions, including chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities and education secretary, under President Reagan, and as head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, known as "drug czar," in the previous President Bush's administration.

Bennett's wife, Elayne, also is outspoken about today's problems. Fourteen years ago, she started the Best Friends Foundation, an abstinence-based pregnancy and drug prevention program for adolescent girls based in Washington.

Elayne, a convert to Catholicism, said she began her organization after seeing so many pregnant teens and wondering what kind of help they were getting.

When her own children were young, she said, the personal contact she had with other mothers helped her through the challenges of raising children. She realized teen-age women needed just as much support and needed to learn how to "say no to their boyfriends" without worrying about hurting their feelings.

She told John Carroll members that she remains committed to that cause and hopes others will join her in helping youths "get through the incredibly trying times of adolescence in today's world."

The Bennetts both received John Carroll Society medals at the dinner for their leadership and faith commitment.

Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick commended the organization for its 50 years of service to the church, telling the audience that if the Washington Archdiocese did not have such a group, he would say, "Could I invent something like that?"

"When a bishop comes to a diocese, he says, 'I need men and women enthusiastic about the faith and each other taking ownership of their faith and evangelizing,'" the cardinal said.

He said bishops do not always find such a group, but that he has.

He urged the more than 1,000 members of the lay group to continue to strengthen their own faith and reach out to others, always remembering that the "church is not made for saints but made to make saints."

"I can't do it without you," he said, "and with you we can do great things and we will."

CELEBRATION,
from page 1

the vines, methodically placed purple thumbprints took the form of clusters of grapes.

Parent Lois Hanson is credited with the artistry, while a collaborative effort brought parents together to paint the massive arbor. "It started out as an idea of trying to do a family tree for the Immaculata family," said Hanson, juggling a bowl of purple paint as big and little thumbs dipped in to create a visual imprint in history. "Over the years, as more students or teachers arrive ... every time someone becomes part of our family, their grape goes up."

From alumni from the 1940s to those yet to enroll, the Immaculata family left their mark on April 30. Even 20-month-old Luke Power added his tiny grape print, his purple thumb guided by mother Monique. Luke's two older brothers are students in the school that he, too, will someday attend. "This is the perfect place to raise children," said the mother of three.

We wanted to let people go and be creative, said Meehan. Working from the gospel of John, "I am the vine, you are the branches," was imprinted for posterity and as the theme for this living mural. "Without Christ, this school wouldn't exist."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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PHOTO BY JOANN KEANE

Thirsting for education

You might want to think twice next time the urge hits for the pause that refreshes. Immaculta School eighth grader, John Ashbrook took first place in the Western division and placed third statewide for his science experiment. Ashbrook explored the toxicity of soft drinks. Curious about the results of his hypothesis? Ashbrook deduced soft drinks, while somewhat toxic, are not likely to kill anything larger than a pinhead. Pictured here, John Ashbrook [background] shows his experiment to classmate Andy Buchman, who peers into the microscopic results.

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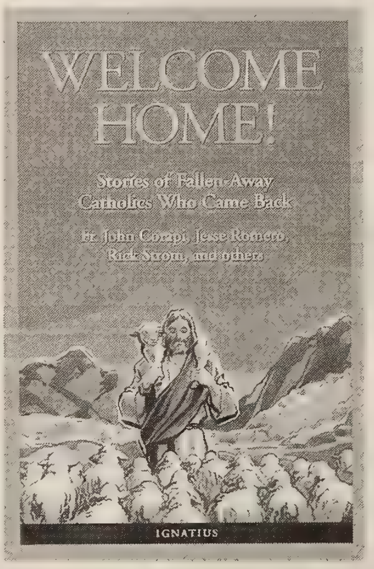
Book Review

Book ponders faith struggles

Reviewed by BRIAN T. OLSZEWSKI
Catholic News Service

Are there any Catholics who have never struggled with some part of their faith, who have never been challenged to live according to the teachings of the church?

WELCOME HOME!: STORIES OF FALLEN-AWAY CATHOLICS WHO CAME BACK, **edited by Victor R. Claveau. Ignatius Press (San Francisco, 2000). 318 pp., $14.95**


WELCOME HOME!
Stories of Fallen-Away Catholics Who Came Back
Fr. John Corapi, Jesse Romero, Rick Strom, and others
IGNATIUS

There might be some, but the rest of the faithful have stories of struggles, disenchantment, of walking away from practicing their faith.

"Welcome Home!" consists of 11 stories from Catholics who left the church and came back. Most follow a similar path: they were born Catholic and attended at least eight years of Catholic school, during which a Baltimore Catechism-approach to faith formation was employed.

Somewhere, be it in college, the workplace or the military, these individuals found themselves searching for something other than what the church taught them. They tried other faiths, or tried living with no attachment to any religious denomination. Different circumstances brought each back to the church, and they are living happily with their newfound rediscovery.

The publisher's intention is that Catholics who have walked away from the church might be inspired to come back after reading these testimonials. It's possible. Most are engaging, but all have a similar theme: I returned to the church because I had found a parish that embraces the traditions — e.g., eucharistic adoration and Marian devotions — with which I was raised. Those giving testimony are very much inclined toward an exclusive "Jesus and me" relationship rather than a "Jesus, the faith community of which I am a part and me" relationship.

While all of the stories have a happy ending (otherwise they would not be in this book), each person manages to include at least one criticism about worship and faith formation, or lack thereof, that took place immediately after the Second Vatican Council and well into the '80s. The criticisms certainly have merit, but they are delivered with spite. Healing of that pain might mean greater happiness.

Since each person's faith journey is unique, one has to accept the stories as they are. But one has to wonder, since most of the stories are from people who went through adolescence in the '70s and '80s, if psychological factors and cultural influences were as much at work as was their detachment from practicing their faith.

The stories should have been edited more tightly. Even the most moving testimony doesn't need to be told in 35-plus pages. In fact, the more inspiring stories are told in fewer pages.

If you are what the publisher terms a "revert," you might enjoy reading how others have come back to the church. For those whose departure from the church parallels the post-Vatican II tumult many experienced, it might be the source of inspiration the publisher intended.

Those who have grown in their faith by immersing themselves in the living, growing church, who have withstood the difficult times in their individual and community religious experiences, and who are able to proclaim and live the Word of God as a result of those experiences will be glad that these 11 "reverted." Their response, however, might be, "Good. You're back. Now, we have hungry people to feed, prisoners to visit, and naked people to clothe. Let's get busy."

Olszewski is editor and general manager of the Northwest Indiana Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

Word to Life

May 6, Fourth Sunday of Easter
Cycle C. Readings:

1) Acts 13:14, 43-52
Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
2) Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
3) Gospel) John 10:27-30

By BOZENA CLOUTIER
Catholic News Service

The same nightmare haunted my dreams for decades. It did not come that often, maybe two or three times a year, but it always left me terrified and drenched in sweat.

Over the years my husband had found that touching me during the nightmare only increased my agitation, so he had learned to wake me by talking to me. It was his familiar voice that used to bring me back from the terror into the safety of wakefulness. I am sure he used gentle words, but I do not remember them. It was his well-known and trusted voice that was my lifeline, and it was only when I was fully awake that he held and comforted me.

Words are so very important, but sometimes they just fail. They are inadequate in times of profound sorrow or ecstatic joy. Sometimes they fail because they no longer are heard and lose all power of communication.

Such is the case in the first reading from Acts when, after an initial preaching success, Paul and Barnabas meet with a barrage of words that becomes increasingly acrimonious and eventually escalates into violence. Paul and Barnabas realize that at that point words can do no more and leave the city.

Unlike words, voices — especially well-known and trusted voices — communicate at a different level. Human beings seem to have an inherent sensitivity to them from before birth till death. Babies can hear while still in the womb. The sense of hearing is the last of the senses to leave as we die. Comatose patients often hear what is said around them. Even very young babies respond to the voice of parents, and, conversely, parents have an extraordinary ability to distinguish their child's voice amid a cacophony of sounds.

The Gospel passage shows us Jesus calling us at that deep, basic level where words matter little. "My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me." The hearing and following of that voice implies that this is a familiar, trusted voice, else why follow? Jesus goes further. Not only will we hear, recognize and follow this voice, but we then will be held safe and secure in his hand and that of the Father.

QUESTIONS:
Whose are the voices that you respond to at that deep, wordless level? How can you develop a greater sensitivity to distinguishing the voice of Jesus in your life?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 6 - 12, 2001

Fourth Sunday of Easter, Acts 13:14, 43-52, Revelation 7:9, 14-17, John 10:27-30; **Monday,** Acts 11:1-18, John 10:1-10; **Tuesday,** Acts 11:19-26, John 10:22-30; **Wednesday,** Acts 12:24-13:5, John 12:44-50; **Thursday,** Acts 13:13-25, John 13:16-20; **Friday,** Acts 13:26-33, John 14:1-6; **Saturday (Sts. Nereus and Archilleus,** St. Pancras), Acts 13:44-52, John 14:7-14

Readings for the week of May 13 - 19, 2001

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-33, 34-35; **Monday (St. Matthias),** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Tuesday (St. Isidore),** Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday,** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday,** Acts 15:7-21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (Pope John I),** Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday,** Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

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TV REVIEW

BY GERRI PARE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Here are capsule reviews of theatrical movies on network television the week of May 13:*

Sunday, May 13, 8-10 p.m. EDT (TNT) "Next of Kin" (1989). Savvy Chicago cop (Patrick Swayze) is torn between the law and his family's backwoods code of justice when his older brother (Liam Neeson) comes to town to avenge the murder of their younger brother (Bill Paxton) by the mob. Director John Irvin attempts to contrast the feuding ethics of hillbilly and mobster clans, but the movie's numerous plot gaps, ethnic caricatures and deterioration into vigilantism weaken the effort. Much profanity and some scenes of grisly violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

Monday, May 14, 8-11 p.m. EDT (ABC) "Con Air" (1997). Overly violent action thriller in which a gang of hardened prisoners (led by John Malkovich) seize control of their federal transport plane, unaware that a parolee (Nicolas Cage) on board is undermining their efforts to escape the country. Director Simon West's shrilly overwrought action movie offers only the empty excitement of pumped-up brutality, murder and deadly chaos. Excessive violence, glamorized mayhem, frequent rough language and an instance of profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

Thursday, May 17, 9-11 p.m. EDT (A&E) "Nell" (1994). A woman (Jodie Foster) living completely on her own in a remote wilderness area of North Carolina and speaking what seems only gibberish is terrified when discovered by a caring physician (Liam Neeson) who, with the help of a research-minded psychologist (Natasha Richardson), tries to communicate with her and prepare her for the likelihood of court-ordered institutionalization. Directed by Michael Apted, the beautifully photographed, sensitively acted story deals with the simple wisdom of innocence, though sluggish pacing and logical inconsistencies diminish the narrative's fablelike qualities. Shadowy skinny-dipping, a flash of nudity, brief sexual references, minimal profanity and an instance of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Friday, May 18, 8-11 p.m. EDT (CBS) "Batman and Robin" (1997). Empty spectacle marks the fourth entry in the series as Batman (George Clooney), Robin (Chris O'Donnell) and Batgirl (Alicia Sliverstone) tangle with deadly seductress Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman) while trying to save Gotham City and its residents from being fast-frozen by demented scientist Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger). Directed by Joel Schumacher, it's an elaborate live-action cartoon, with villains who are somewhat more interesting than the bland superheroes, but the movie sags in between the visually frantic action sequences. Much cartoonlike violence and some sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Saturday, May 19, 8-11 p.m. EDT (ABC) "The Bodyguard" (1992). Sluggish would-be romantic thriller about an Oscar-nominated singer-actress (Whitney Houston) and a former Secret Service agent (Kevin Costner) hired to protect her from a very determined and resourceful killer. Directed by Mick Jackson, the slow-moving action and stilted romance are matched by some unintentionally funny dialogue. Brief violence, an implied sexual encounter and frequent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

CNS PHOTO FROM WARNER BROS.® PICTURES

Scene from movie "Driven"

Sylvester Stallone and Cristian de la Fuente star in a scene from the action film "Driven." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II -- adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Saturday, May 19, 8-10 p.m. EDT (TNT) "Platoon" (1986). The Vietnam War as experienced by a raw recruit (Charlie Sheen) is evoked with relentless realism in scenes of battle and brutality in writer-director Oliver Stone's haunting reminiscence of its horrors and inhumanity. Its excessive violence, unrelenting profanity and graphic depiction of representative atrocities are stomach-churning, but serve as a corrective to Rambo-style romanticizations of the war. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification of the theatrical version was A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was R — restricted.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope calls for end to embargo against Iraq

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Meeting Iraq's new ambassador to the Vatican, Pope John Paul II repeated his call for lifting the international embargo against the Middle Eastern nation.

"Innocent people should not be made to pay the consequences of a destructive war whose effects are still being felt by those who are weakest and most vulnerable," the pope said April 28.

The sanctions were imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and maintained after the 1991 Gulf War, despite the claims of human rights organizations and the Vatican that the sanctions are hurting only Iraqi's poor, not its leaders.

Pope John Paul told Abdul-Amir al-Anbari, the new ambassador, that the Vatican's involvement in international diplomacy aims to benefit all people.

"Although sadly afflicted in many regions by tension, violence and armed conflict," the pope said, the world "is seeking greater equity and stability so that the whole human family can live in true justice and lasting peace."

The desire for justice and peace is not just an ideal, he said, but a value and a right of all people.

Pope John Paul told the new ambassador that, while Catholics form less than 2 percent of the Iraqi population, they want to work with their Muslim neighbors for unity and harmony.

"Their Christian faith and values inspire them to cultivate a spirit of mutual respect with pride in their national identity and concern for the progress of their country," he said.

Pope John Paul urged Iraqi Christians and Muslims to increase their dialogue with each other, which will help them "to respect one another, to rise above all discrimination and to serve the common good in a spirit of brotherhood and understanding."

Al-Anbari told the pope it was a privilege for him to be assigned to the Vatican after serving as Iraq's ambassador to Great Britain, to the United States and to the United Nations during the Persian Gulf War.

"Unlike other great powers, the Holy See has no military force, which gives it a high moral and diplomatic standing in the world," the ambassador said.

He thanked the Vatican for its efforts "to save and protect not only Catholics, but humanity as a whole. In this sense, Catholicism is not just the faith of the Catholics but a universal power seeking to serve and help all humanity."

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Do You Get It? God Loves You

In a way it sounds far too simplistic. It's first-grade religious education stuff, it's right out of a little kid's Bible, it's something that's so obvious, it's not even funny:

God loves you.

Big news, right? When my students in Catholic high school religion classes would reflect on the worst of the worst of their previous teachers, they'd usually come up with at least one (or two or more!) whom they remembered for being able to teach that particular message over and over — and not much else — as an answer to every test question.

God loves you.

And we all had a good laugh.

After all, there's so much more to Catholicism, isn't there? So much more that intelligent teens like you are able to understand and grasp. So much depth and breadth, so much richness to our ancient faith.

Let the little kids have "God loves you." We're ready for something more complex.

Of course you are. You're hungry for more, and you won't find a stronger advocate for meeting that challenge in religious education than this writer.

But aren't there times when those simple lessons of childhood are exactly what we need?

Most teens, for example, struggle at least once in a while with loneliness and isolation. Sure, they may lead busy lives surrounded by loads of other busy people chatting the day and night away.

But despite all that, a feeling nags. "Does anyone really understand me? What if all these people I call my friends really knew the real me — my deepest thoughts and feelings, my secrets and sins? Would they still care?"

"Surely not," we're all tempted to think sometimes. "Surely when you get down to it I'm probably your basic unlovable loser."

God loves you. It's really an amazing thing, this deceptively simple idea.

Perhaps there are times when you wonder what in the world to do with your life. Other people seem on an absolutely straight road to college and a fabulous career of choice. But you? You're still wondering, you just don't know. Sometimes everything interests you, sometimes nothing at all can grab your imagination. You just can't see yourself as an adult. You just don't know what you've been put here to do.

God loves you.

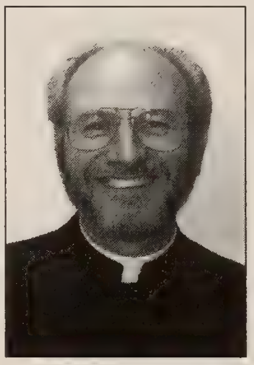
Once again, those three little words cut through the pain. You may not know what is right this minute, but with faith in God's personal love and what that means, you know you'll eventually figure it out because he does have a purpose for you, and he has no intention of hiding it from you forever.

Finally, think about sin. Your sin. Those habits and patterns that seem to have you helplessly entrapped. You're ashamed, you feel as if you're going down a road you know is the wrong one, but you feel helpless to turn around. "After all," you wonder, "I've done this bad stuff now. Isn't it too late for me?"

God loves you. To the rescue once again, it's that simple little phrase.

Think Prodigal Son. Think lost sheep. Think of the thief on the cross. Then think of that phrase and let it happen. Let God love you.

We may learn a lot of theology, and we should, but the truth is, in the dark of night, in the most isolating circumstances, the words we scribbled in crayon so long ago aren't any less true now. They're worth remembering, and more important, they're worth living: God loves you.



Economy of Faith

By FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest Columnist

Creation in Our Hands

The Appalachian Mountains and the Columbia River Watershed lie distant by nearly 2,500 miles, yet they share common concerns about water quality, land use and the overall pollution of the environment. The Columbia Watershed begins in British Columbia, Canada, and is fed in the U.S. by various tributaries in Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon till it flows as the Columbia River into the Pacific Ocean. The watershed balances competing interests for producing hydroelectric power, fishing for salmon, irrigating for wheat farmers, harvesting for timber concerns and preserving sacred places for Native American spirituality.

The Appalachian Mountains, the oldest mountain chain in North America, stretch through all of West Virginia and parts of 12 eastern states from Mississippi to New York. The paramount issues there concern coal production by both underground and strip mining, clear-cut logging for chip and paper mills, plus garbage and toxic waste disposal for outside metropolitan areas.

In the midst of beauty tortured for economic goals, the bishops of Appalachia wrote a pastoral letter in 1995, "At Home in the Web of Life." This year addressing similar tradeoffs the bishops of the western region wrote "The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good." Both pastorals represent a growing awareness that environmental choices form part of the Christian ethic of being in the world.

Already evidence mounts that human influence is affecting global climate. Over the past 100 years the average surface air temperature has increased globally, between 0.3 and 0.6 degrees Centigrade. Scientists project the continued greenhouse gas emissions will warm the air an additional one to 3.5 degrees by the end of the 21st century. Although scientists don't know the exact impact of the change, environmental commentators fear, "If present trends continue, we will not."

Also, hazards from a sick environment demonstrate how closely humanity relies on nature for a healthy life. Asthma attacks increase with smog, and skin cancer occurs more frequently with ozone damage. Dioxin, an industrial waste product, enters the food chain through air or water and lodges in human fat tissue. It's linked to neurological damage in fetuses and is suspected of causing cancer. The upshot: human and environmental health are inseparable.

The pastorals from the bishops focus on some basic teachings in Genesis about creation and humanity's role in God's plan. Humanity, created in the image of God, is given dominion over creation to exercise authority the way God would exercise authority, i.e. in God's stead. Transferred to the political or economic realm, humanity might reflect this image of God by caring for creation like a shepherd (cf. Ezek. 34), or acting like a co-gardener with God (Gen. 2:15.)

Regional bishops issue pastorals when they feel the urgency to address an important issue from a faith perspective. With both the Appalachian pastoral and the one from the Columbia Watershed the bishops adopted a process of reading the signs of the times. They listened to groups of people representing a variety of views, then reflected on the Gospel's social teachings. Straight economic arguments need the insights from ecology and the teachings from theology. God's garden stands to turn brown unless humanity changes its patterns of consumption and some methods of production. Only the spirit of dialogue coupled with God's Word can save the beauty of the Columbia Watershed and the majesty of the Appalachians by transforming narrow attitudes of self-interest to expressions for the common good.

Glenmary Father John Rausch writers, teachers and organizes in Appalachia.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
DIRECTOR, THE CHRISTOPHERS

Evaluating Ourselves

The seminary is a mystery to most people. They know it's a place people go to prepare themselves for ministry, but what happens there is often unknown. It's really not complicated. To work in religious life you need knowledge; you study theology and philosophy. It's also a place of prayer, since developing a personal relationship with God is essential. Whether or not someone is destined to be ordained is left to a group of advisors, or evaluators. Let me share with you one rather unusual story of evaluation.

During my time in the seminary, a written synopsis of faculty opinion would be given to each student on one's readiness for promotion. Needless to say, the evaluation sheet was a source of high anxiety. One of the best and brightest students, diligent in his work, faithful to his prayer life and just an all-around great candidate for priesthood was my friend Joe. But, like all of us, Joe didn't always believe that his goodness was so apparent. He worried that he might not be voted on to the next level of preparation for ordination.

Another classmate, Tony, picked up on Joe's insecurities. Finding a blank form discarded by a faculty member, Tony proceeded to author a bogus evaluation of Joe. Forms were usually dropped off at our rooms at dinner time. I happened to be with Joe when he saw the form envelope tucked under his door. He went to his room to study the assessment of his priestly candidacy. About fifteen minutes later, he was in my room, looking like he'd lost everything. "Well," said Joe, "I guess it's all over for me. They want me gone." The evaluation would certainly lead anyone to the same conclusion. It criticized Joe about everything: his studies, his personality, his multiple inabilities. In short, it was a devastating indictment of this good man.

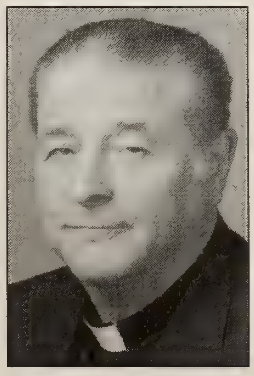
Knowing Joe well, I responded: "Hey, they got it all wrong. This doesn't describe you at all. You've got to challenge this, Joe." But Joe would have none of it. If the faculty thought so little of him, then maybe it was time for him to go. In his face I saw all his hopes vanished. It was a sorry sight.

Not five minutes later, Tony entered the room, picked the evaluation out of Joe's still trembling hands and ripped it into little pieces. Joe shouted "what are you doing?" Tony, laughing and still not realizing the impact his trick had made, told him lightly, "It's not a real evaluation, dopey. I wrote it myself. Just wanted to see you react!" Joe was relieved that he wouldn't be booted from the seminary, but ticked off at the cruelty of the joke.

I think most of us react more like Joe then we should. Joe was none of the negative things described in that report. He was just the opposite. Goodhearted and kind, prayerful and generous, hardworking and intelligent, Joe was a great candidate for ministry. But like most of us, he relied on others in formulating his self-vision. If people said he was bad or weak or lacking character, he believed it! After all, someone else said it. It's got to be true, right? No. Our inner compass, our sense of ourselves, our understanding of our inherent worth and value, shouldn't be dependent on the whimsical feelings others have about us. We are valuable because we're made by the Creator, because we share a mutual human dignity. Every single one of us matters very much. And no arbitrary evaluation or judgment should be the determining factor in our own self view.

I wish my friend, on reading that evaluation, had been able to look in the mirror and say "they got it wrong. They don't really know me. I'll have to let them in on who I truly am." Instead he believed what he'd been told by others. The inner voice of our personal truth should be the final determination of our value, a voice filtered through the prism of our inestimable value as children of a God who does not make mistakes.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Children Who Die Before Receiving Baptism

Q. What is the doctrine of the Catholic Church on the destination of children who die before birth and therefore before baptism? This happens many times just in normal circumstances, but obviously thousands of times in abortions.

I've had people tell me such children go to heaven, some say they go to hell. Others say they go to limbo. Is there a Catholic teaching about this? (Florida)

A. The death of a child before birth and baptism is always an anguishing and confusing experience for believing Christian parents. The tragedy is compounded, of course, when the action is deliberate, as in the case of abortion.

Jesus distinctly told us that baptism is the essential sacramental way people enter into his life, his community of faith. Most Christians have long pondered how exactly to understand this. Billions of people die without baptism, without even hearing of God or Jesus.

If God loves all people and wishes them to be saved, which is certainly part of our faith, how does he make this happen? As the question applies to very young children, theologians through the centuries have offered a variety of explanations.

Whatever the theory, however, one fundamental conviction is considered beyond doubt. God offers the grace of salvation to everyone who does not place a deliberate obstacle to that grace.

Obviously, that includes children who die too young to have consciously chosen any obstacle to God's love. St. Augustine, in fact, uses precisely this principle to support his teaching that God gives the grace of baptism, and therefore salvation, so such children.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church approaches the same idea from another direction. Baptism is necessary for salvation, it says, "for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the opportunity to ask for this sacrament." Little children obviously have not had that opportunity.

God has told us much about his plan for salvation which we are obliged to believe and follow. But there is also much he has not told us. As Pope John Paul II encouragingly put it in his book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope," God is unendingly at work in the sacraments "as well as in other ways that are known to him alone" (Page 134).

As for limbo, this became a subject of heated debate when 18th-century Jansenists insisted that all nonbaptized children are condemned to hell. Against them, Pope Pius VI declared that one may believe in a limbo that is neither heaven nor hell and still be a Catholic (Errors of the Synod of Pistoia, No. 26). That remains the only significant reference to limbo in any major Catholic document.The Catechism of the Catholic Church doesn't even mention limbo, for good reason. Limbo would imply some sort of two-tiered final destiny for human beings. One is eternal life with God, the other a "natural" happiness apart from God (limbo), where people "go" who through no fault of their own do not reach the top level.

The catechism strongly teaches otherwise. There is only one final goal, one desire of happiness for all humanity: life with the God who created us. We may attain that goal, or we may reject it by our own fault, but there is no half-happiness somewhere in between.

The desire for this eternal union with God, according to the catechism, is part of our nature, a gift of God, a vocation addressed to every human being. The ultimate goal of every person is the same, to share in the very happiness of God (Catechism, Nos. 1718-1719).

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS COLUMNIST

A Mother's Day Reminder From a Fish

I was reminded of Mother's Day recently by a fish. She was, I am pretty sure, a sculpin or a close relative. These are ugly, toothy little fish that much resemble what most folks know as bullheads.

Mrs. Feisty Fish and I met in about 20 feet of water in the Straits of Juan de Fuca in a large kelp bed just around the corner from Fresh Water Cove. I was diving for green sea urchins. I had not called in advance to tell her I would be there, and she was clearly not happy about it.

There are actually two layers of kelp in this area of the straits. The first is the lengthy, flowering kind you see floating on the surface and sporting long, ribbon-like "leaves" from bulblike heads.

Underneath and growing close to the bottom are what we call bull kelp. Bull kelp resemble miniature underwater trees like you'd see in a rain forest. Their trunks are about the thickness of your thumb, and they grow three to six feet tall.

When you hover over a bull-kelp forest, it's like being suspended over a Hobbit world. When you descend through the canopy and settle to the bottom amid the bull-kelp "tree trunks," it is as if you are a giant creature squeezing into an elfin world.

You wriggle through the forest. My particular mission was to keep an eye out for small squads of green sea urchins to harvest and place into the bag I was dragging along behind.

Feisty Fish Momma resented this, all 10 or 11 inches of her.

It is common to find sculpins lying on the bottom and giving you a "bet ya can't see me" look from their buggy, beady eyes. But Feisty was not about to be camouflage. She lifted off the bottom, swam about three feet away, turned around, looked me square in the mask and paused.

After a nano-second of face-to-face evaluation, she shot straight at me and bonked me almost in the middle of my forehead. (I sported a knot and small cut for a while to prove it.) The Navy should have underwater vessels that can launch that fast.

She retreated about three feet, turned and looked at me again. Then she finned slowly toward me until she was not 18 inches away. I reached out slowly to thunk her gently between the eyes on her pronounced forehead. When my dive-gloved hand was about four inches from her noggin, I snapped my wrist to tap her. Unbelievably, she spun-and-swam so quickly I didn't touch her. I could hardly believe it.

And I could not believe it again when she came back and positioned herself in the same way. I think she was saying, "Nanner, nanner, nanner."

I was starting to like this little fish. Talk about courage. Nonetheless, for the principle of it, I reached out slowly again to tap her. How could I have missed her lumpy forehead from four inches away?

And back she came.

Like birds who feign a broken wing to seduce a predator away from their babies, this little mommy was willing to put herself in danger, even give up her life. (How would she know I was a sucker for courageous parenting, even in ugly fish?)

So I moved. And was moved.

I was proud of this little, wonderful creature with tiny fins and a huge love for her nest. Funny, as I wriggled away through the kelp stalks and looked back at her, she did not seem homely in the slightest, but quite beautiful.

National conference to be held in Charlotte

By FATHER CONRAD HOOVER

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte will be the site for the annual meeting of the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries in September of 2001. Each year representatives of more than 40 approved diocesan ministries gather to share information, experience and prayer with one another. Other interested persons are also welcome to attend in order to hear the plenary speakers and attend the workshops. Most of those who attend are priests, religious and lay people who are involved in a variety of approved pastoral initiatives and programs for gay and lesbian Catholics.

The emphasis for this year's program is on spiritual nurture and growth within the Catholic Tradition. Plenary speakers will include Father Walter Burghardt, S.J., and Father Ray Kemp, both of Georgetown University and the "Preaching the Just Word" program. Father Burghardt is one of America's renowned preachers. Also featured will be Dr. Keith Egan, who holds the Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, and is full adjunct professor of theology at Notre Dame University. He will share talks on relationships with God and others created through meditation and prayer. In addition, the Very Reverend J. Augustan DiNoia, O.P., will speak on "Ministry with Gay and Lesbian Persons: Catholic Theological and Pastoral Perspectives." In 1997, Pope John Paul II appointed Father DiNoia to the International Theological Commission. From 1993 to April 2001, he served as Executive Director of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and is now the Director of the Intercultural Forum, Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. Workshops on related topics will be offered as well.

Bishop William G. Curlin will welcome the participants on the first night of the meeting and will preside at the closing Mass on Saturday evening at St. Peter Church. The conference will be held at the downtown Hilton Hotel, Sept. 20-21, 2001. Registration forms will be available in mid-May from your local parish or the diocesan offices. Persons can register for the full event or one day's events.

In conclusion, it must be stressed that this is not a gay activists meeting or a gathering of people who do not support the church's teaching. Much misinformation has been spread about this meeting and many good people are questioning its presence in our midst. The orthodox credentials of our presenters speak for themselves. The official teaching of the Church will be presented as it has been at previous meetings of the Association, as in Chicago by Francis Cardinal George. Much careful planning and prayer has gone on in preparation for this gathering of persons supported by their Bishops who reach out in a pastoral ministry to Gay and Lesbian Catholics. We ask for your prayers.

Father Conrad Hoover is pastor at St. Ann Church in Charlotte.

Census shows changing face of Southern California Catholics

LOS ANGELES — Census 2000 numbers reveal a new profile of Southern California, one that has broad implications for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Times has reported that Latinos have replaced whites as the largest ethnic group in Los Angeles County. They now represent more than 40 percent of the total county population.

The population of Asians and Pacific Islanders surged more than 38 percent statewide, making Asians the third largest ethnic group in the state. The white population in Los Angeles County fell some 18 percent, while the black population decreased 3.6 percent.

The numbers confirm that the Archdiocese of Los Angeles — which in its 2001 directory lists Masses celebrated in some 30 different languages weekly — is one of the most diverse dioceses in the world.

PRINCIPAL

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St. Mary's School, a SACS-accredited Catholic school affiliated with the Archdiocese of Atlanta, seeks an outstanding educational leader to begin in July 2001. The principal oversees daily operation and provides spiritual leadership for the school community. St. Mary's enrolls 250 students in grades Pre-K through 8, and plans growth to 400 students in the next five years. Construction is slated for a new facility and will begin fall 2001.

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Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School seeks a principal beginning the 2001-2001 academic year. The school is a well-established parochial school with 61 years of operation. Applicants must be practicing Catholic, hold a teacher certification and a principal's license (or in progress). Applicants must have administrative experience and be willing to relocate to the Rocky Mount area. Please send your resume, references and salary history to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 328 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804 or fax your resume to 252-972-4780.

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy in Winston-Salem has two teaching positions for 2001-2002: Physical Education, part-time, K-8; Guidance Counselor, full-time, K-8. Call school office (336)722-7204.

Teachers: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School, Wake Forest, NC. 2001-2002 school year: certified kindergarten and 3rd grade teachers. Call (919)570-0070 or fax (919)570-0071.

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy High School is seeking full-time teachers in Chemistry/Biology and Studio Art. We are also seeking part-time teachers in Music and French. Interested parties should send a resume to: Our Lady of Mercy High School, John Cobis, Principal, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, Georgia 30213.

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Through illness, Asheville sister finds renewed journey of faith

Peace came to her through re-establishing her relationship with Mary, mother of Jesus.

BY WENDY E. MURRAY
CORRESPONDENT

ASHEVILLE — In 1998, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Charlene Lamb was stricken with Guillian-Barre Disease, an illness that stopped her heart four times, left her speechless, deaf and unable to breathe on her own.

She spent eight months in an Intensive Care Unit, immersed in a totally uncommunicative state. During this life experience, she discovered parts of herself she had never known. She came to know death and more about her relationship with others, but most importantly, she came to know God in the depths of her soul. This is her story.

As one of the presenters in a six-week Lenten series on death and dying sponsored by St. Eugene Church in Asheville, Sister Cita, as her friends affectionately call her, gave a gut-wrenching, inspirational reflection of her journey.

"I came to know death at the doors of the Intensive Care Unit," she said. "I knew about death when my mother and my brother died six days apart. I'm here to tell you about what I learned lying there in that ICU bed all those months."

When it began, the virus took its toll quickly. Sister Cita had a shunt put into her head, a ventilator became her ever-constant companion, she lost her hearing, and had 28 diagnoses and the threat of pneumonia.

"Since I was unable to eat, I was fed intravenously," she said, jokingly adding, "I soon realized how much time is wasted just eating."

In a more serious tone, Sister Cita revealed, "I descended into myself. There was just silence. I withdrew from the world. I was vulnerable to the reality within my body, but I was plunged into an encounter within the depths of my soul. But then I realized that I could be determined to have one goal — to rest and to find my peace."

Sister Cita told the audience that one of the ways peace came to her was through re-establishing her relationship with Mary, mother of Jesus. She drew strength from her childhood prayers. Even now as she recovers, she prays the Memorare each day.

Every night, trying to fall asleep with someone reading or singing to her, she prayed: "Angel of God, my Guardian dear; to whom God's love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen."

Speaking about her relationship with God, Sister Cita said, "As a nun, I wasn't very good at relationships. If anyone asked me who God was, I avoided the question. I was spiritually dead."

She recalled her 30 years of academic professionalism and her recent directorship of the New Hope Alcohol Treatment Clinic in Burnsville. A certified alcohol counselor, she began to practice a 12-Step program from Alcoholics Anonymous.

"All of this prepared me to die," she said. "It gave me a power greater than myself. In my isolation, it gave me a daily practice. I was committed to prayer. I was committed to my Higher Power. It helped me to find the highest priorities in my life, and it is the greatest discovery of my life."

Sister Cita discussed her hallucinations, or 'visions' as she calls them. In her dream-like state, she said, "There was a young carpenter who was my 'Protector.' He never left my side. He had constancy and faithfulness."

Four months after Sister Cita was diagnosed, she spelled out her first word by blinking her eyes. The word was 'deaf.'

"I was petrified that I could not hear," she said. Another operation was needed to correct the damaged nerves in the ear canal.

Eight months later, she entered Shepherd Hospital in Atlanta for physical therapy. "The joy of standing up for the first time was something I will never forget," said Sister Cita.

To her listeners, she publicly thanked her loyal friend, Sister Sara Fahey, someone who read her to sleep, interpreted the doctor's actions and advocated on her behalf. She gave praise and gratitude to Anne Bergeron and Margaret Clagle, two faithful daily visitors lasting the whole course of her journey in the hospital until she was well enough to go to Atlanta for rehabilitation.

"Near death, I saw my mother and my dear aunts waving their outstretched arms beckoning for me to come toward them. But I looked back and saw Sara standing there so I told them I could not come."

Holding her Notre Dame de Namur cross in her hands which says in French, 'Ah! Quil est Bon Le Bon Dieu' [How Good is the good God], Sister Cita Lamb closed her talk with these words. "I am a different person today. I take much more into my stride. I don't sweat the small stuff. I take a lot more risks in my relationships. I'm not wasting my time. Life is short. I have become a grateful person. I had withdrawn from the world. I had silence. Now I have sharing."

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Puerto Rican layman's beatification process moved quickly

By JOHN NORTON

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The beatification process for Blessed Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, a 20th-century Puerto Rican layman, was one of the shortest in church history, in part because of a "fast-track" policy favoring modern lay candidates, said a Vatican sainthood official.

Pope John Paul II beatified "Charlie," as he is popularly known, at an April 29 Vatican ceremony, less than nine years after the Vatican approved the start of his process.

The pope has asked sainthood officials to give precedence to the causes of modern men and women, especially lay people, to offer contemporary believers engaging models of holiness, Archbishop Edward Nowak, secretary of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, said May 2.

Compared to other non-martyrs, Blessed Carlos' process was even shorter than some widely known for their brevity, like that of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer, founder of the personal prelature of Opus Dei. The Spaniard was beatified in 1992, 11 years after his cause was introduced.

Retired officer now enforces God's law

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — It was a shot heard around the country. The 1968 assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. affected many people in various ways. For the students at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, it was devastating and life-altering. Violence and chaos erupted around the historically black university as disillusioned students reacted to the murder of their civil rights leader. The local police department was called in to keep the peace, and Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw was in the middle of the gunfire.

After only three of his nearly nine years after being sworn into the Greensboro Police Reserves, Rev. Mr. Shaw was a witness to events that truly frightened him. "It was the worst time in my life. People standing alongside me were hit with bullets, and there was gunfire everywhere. To be singled out because I was a policeman made me finally understand what it might be like to be singled out because of my nationality or race. I learned firsthand about prejudice. I prayed that if I were able to get out alive, I wouldn't do this (type of work) again."

Interestingly, he began active duty for the Greensboro Police Department in 1973 partly because of a yearning to serve the community. Volunteer work with the reserves unit, which allowed him to "do some of the exciting work that police did in a controlled manner," and being ordained as a permanent deacon in 1988 further satisfied his need to work on behalf of the public. His life has gone in directions that the Northern transplant never imagined while growing up in the Bronx, N.Y.

Rev. Mr. Shaw was raised in a Catholic family as the oldest of eight children and remembers a pleasant childhood filled with swimming and fishing in Eastchester Bay and lining up with his classmates for weekly reconciliation and the Eucharist.

At 18, he was drafted into the Army after the end of the Korean War. While in Korea, he never saw any combat but says he did see a war-torn and poverty-stricken country full of sickness and plagued with the Black Market. "I did my two years of active service very quietly and unobtrusively."

Rev. Mr. Vincent Shaw

After being discharged from active duty, he began working for a tobacco company and met his wife Catherine at a party. "It was just one of those things that happened, and I originally didn't want to go. We sat up all night talking and went to Mass the next morning." After they were married in their neighborhood church, Rev. Mr. Shaw says he experienced a resurgence of his faith.

"My wife brought me back to my faith. I had lost touch with the church after I was drafted into the Army. Everyone tried to test his or her faith when Mom wasn't looking, but when I came home, I started going back to church."

They were transferred to Greensboro when he was promoted to manager of the new order department. So, newlyweds Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw moved to a new town in a South that was unfamiliar to them.

"We left all of our friends and relatives and moved to a town where we knew no one. We were now in a missionary diocese with two strikes against us — we were Yankees and Catholic. But, it was a smooth transition, and our family grew."

During the 1970s, Rev. Mr. Shaw had moved on to data processing. When it was decided that the Greensboro order department be phased out, Rev. Mr. Shaw was asked to move back to New York. He declined the offer and was subsequently laid off. "It was a traumatic time for me and my family. Here I was 35-years-old with four children and no job."

Less than a month after being laid off, he began active duty with the police department and started his second career. He spent nine years in the patrol division and the rest of his time with the traffic division with four years as a motorcycle police officer. He says that despite the adjustment to his family's lifestyle because of a pay cut, he truly enjoyed his job.

"The policemen in the patrol division are the ones who answer when you call the police. I saw everything, and it has its exciting parts. Contrary to what you see on Adam-12, it doesn't go that quickly from case to case. The paperwork is tremendous."

But, when he was transferred to the traffic division, it was then that he found his place.

"I found my true love. I got to run around, chase people and give them tickets. I was the oldest motorcycle cop and earned my radar car later. It is amazing that people don't see the cars or the motorcycles until too late. There are more people killed in traffic accidents than are murdered, and for almost 12 years, I was able to do something about wise guys and wise girls who thought they could use and abuse anyone on the road. I loved it because they knew someone was watching them, and maybe, they wouldn't kill me or someone else."

Even though he loved his job, Rev. Mr. Shaw had to be cautious that his professional life did not take over his personal life with all of the negativity that he saw during his years with the police department.

"It's easy to become jaundiced toward life because you see people at their worst, and you have to fight against that all the time. There is an everlasting war against cynicism because you look at people in different ways. You have to trust and love someone at some point in your life."

That trust and love accompanied him to the permanent diaconate. Although he was steadfast in his belief that God had always been a major part of his life, he reluctantly applied and began attending classes.

"I was one of those who was unsure right up until the end. I guess I didn't consider myself worthy to put on the collar, but my pastor helped me get over those feelings. No one is worthy to be a deacon, priest, etc., but you do the job God gave you to do. My wife and kids were my biggest supporters, and I am doing things now that I didn't before — praying and taking the time to listen to God. This has given me a chance to be among God's people."

Rev. Mr. Shaw, grandfather of four, works part of the day at St. Mary Church in Greensboro, and works with the Moses Cone Hospital Adjunct Chaplaincy Program, with Hanes Lineberry Funeral Home providing Christian funerals and with sick and shut-in parishioners.

Now retired after 33 years with the police department, instead of catching criminals and speedsters on the road, he catches an afternoon nap in his recliner.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Inside

Papal pilgrimage crosses centuries of division ...PAGE 8-9

Alaska Catholics debate oil drilling ...PAGE 15

Local News

Cultural exchange project builds bridges ...PAGE 5

Racial justice of death penalty challenged by NC Council of Churches ...PAGE 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

Spry and spirited seniors step into Spring Fling

By ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

For some attendants, it is considered to be a day of rest and relaxation. For others, it is a time to come together in the name of friendship, spirituality and fellowship as Catholics and as senior citizens in the midst of the autumn and winter seasons of their lives to live them to the fullest degree possible.

The 15th Annual Spring Fling, sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry, was held at two locations this year to accommodate the growing number of older men and women who attend the event filled with activities and information for the opportunity to share with one another. On April 26, St. Mark Church in Huntersville hosted seniors mostly from the eastern half of the diocese, while those from the westernmost part of the state traveled to St. Aloysius Church in Hickory on May 3 to join the festivities.

"We were literally bursting at the seams at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory previously, so we needed to try something new this year. With the help of the Knights of Columbus from St. Mark and the volunteers and youth from St. Aloysius, we were able to give both groups a beautiful day filled with wonderful and exciting people," said Sandra Breakfield, diocesan director of Elder Ministry. "It is like a homecoming or a family reunion for many of the seniors, and the Spring Fling continues to be a day where everyone can leave and forget the demands of life and join others in the spirit of oneness and friendship."

At St. Mark, 17 parishes were present with 194 attendants, and at St. Aloysius, 150 parishioners came from 13 churches.

Erwin and Rita Morweiser, parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi in Lenoir, are repeaters to the yearly gathering of the diocese's older members. "We have been coming for years because it is a relaxing and special day. It is good for us to be a part of it," said Mrs. Morweiser.

"The day offers companionship and camaraderie, and meeting old friends is important," added Mr. Morweiser.

As in past years, the day began after

SEE SPRING FLING, PAGE 4

Seniors from across the diocese gathered for the 15th Annual Spring Fling, sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry, on April 26 at St. Mark Church in Huntersville and on May 3 at St. Aloysius Church in Hickory. The day included seminars and events including bingo, blood pressure and pulse checks and a host of other activities.

Photos By ALESHA M. PRICE

The World in Brief

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Catholic child picks up bullets in Beit Jalla

Elias Slama, 7, displays bullets he picked up in and around his house in the new Christian section of Beit Jalla May 6. His Catholic family's house was hit by Israeli gunfire when troops entered the Palestinian controlled area.

Vatican issues new liturgy translation rules

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican has issued a new instruction on translating liturgical texts. Among topics it addresses are inclusive language — one of the most sharply contested issues in recent years in the English-speaking world — and requirements for exact translation of Latin texts in other languages. The 34-page instruction covers other areas ranging from detailed rules on how bishops' conferences develop translations, the Vatican's role in the process, and procedures for creating new liturgical texts not contained in the normative Latin ritual books. The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments posted the instruction in English, French and Latin on the congregation's page of the Vatican Web site late May 7. It describes the new rules as setting the stage "for a new era of liturgical renewal."

New science of neurotheology uncovers brain's links to spirituality

NEW YORK (CNS) — A new branch of scientific research called neurotheology is seeking to uncover the link between the human brain and religious experiences. Neurotheology — the subject of a cover story in the May 7 issue of Newsweek magazine and of a new book called "Why God Won't Go Away: Brain Science and the Biology of Belief" — is the study of the neurobiology of religion and spirituality. Psychologists and neurologists already have discovered through brain imaging that certain parts of the brain are stimulated and other parts quieted by religious activities such as meditation and prayer. For his book, "Why God Won't Go Away," published in April by Ballantine Books in New York, Dr. Andrew Newberg and his co-authors used data from brain imaging of Tibetan Buddhists and Franciscan nuns during prayer.

Cardinal says faith, not science, key to understanding shroud

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — Cardinal Severino Poletto of Turin said tests on the Shroud of Turin should continue, although faith, not science, is the key to understanding the cloth's image of a crucified man. The Gospel calls believers to know Christ and to see him, the cardinal said May 4 at a Mass marking the liturgical feast of the Shroud of Turin. "It means to see with the eyes of faith, not with those of science or human history," Cardinal Poletto said. Nevertheless, he told the congregation, the church has allowed scientists to continue investigations on the cloth, whose image resembles a photographic negative of a crucified man.

CRS joins others in lauding McGovern-Dole food aid plan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services is one of the many institutions behind a plan to use surplus U.S. crops and other food commodities as part of a comprehensive Third World education program. The plan's components are "the bold, first steps to turn concept into legislation in a hope that millions of young lives can be improved," said CRS executive director Kenneth Hackett at a May 3 press conference outside the U.S. Capitol. The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Act would permanently fund a $300 million pilot program launched last December, turning it into a $1 billion undertaking by fiscal year 2004. The bulk of the money would be used to help poor countries provide school lunches, while the rest would go to infants and to pregnant and nursing mothers. Estimates say up to 30 million children could be helped if the plan is fully funded.

Church theology expert suggests new council every 50 years

NEW YORK (CNS) — Jesuit theologian Father Francis A. Sullivan suggested that the Catholic Church convene a new ecumenical council every 50 years. He also suggested that national bishops' conferences consider reviving plenary councils as a "structure of participation" for the church in their region. Speaking at Fordham University in New York May 2, he said the church's magisterium, or teaching authority, could be enhanced by making church structures of participation more effective. He called in particular for more "active participation of the bishops" in universal church teaching and governance. Father Sullivan, widely regarded as one of the world's leading experts on issues of church teaching authority, was a professor of ecclesiology at the Gregorian University in Rome from 1956 to 1992 and is currently a professor of theology at Boston College.

Cardinals Keeler, Mahony speak out against McVeigh execution

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two U.S. cardinals have said the impending execution of Timothy McVeigh "can only compound the violence" and will not bring genuine healing or closure. "This first federal execution in 38 years is not just about Timothy McVeigh. It is not even primarily about him," said Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony and Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler in a joint statement released late May 2 in Washington. Instead, the execution is about every man, woman and child in the country, in whose name McVeigh will be executed, said Cardinal Mahony, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy, and Cardinal Keeler, chairman of their Committee on Pro-Life Activities. McVeigh is scheduled to die by lethal injection at the federal prison at Terre Haute, Ind., on May 16. He was convicted of murder in the bombing of the Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. The blast killed 168 people.

Call for household 'emergency contraceptives' decried

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A spokeswoman for the U.S. bishops decried a call to make "morning-after" contraceptives more widely available. Dr. Thomas Purdon, the new president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, said at an April 30 press briefing during the organization's annual meeting in Chicago that "if most women had emergency contraception in their medicine cabinet ... we could help cut the U.S. rate of unintended pregnancies in half." He called on doctors to help make that happen by raising the issue with more patients. Cathleen Cleaver, director of planning and information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the drugs to which Purdon referred are essentially a form of abortion.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 19 — 10 a.m.
Confirmation
St. Patrick, Charlotte

May 20 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of Consolation,
Charlotte

6 p.m.
Confirmation
St. John Neumann, Charlotte

May 22 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
St. James, Concord

May 23 — 6 p.m.
School board Mass and dinner
Diocesan Pastoral Center, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

May

14 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent will meet tonight and May 28 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

18 MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be hosting a women's retreat today through May 20. The retreat, "My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord," will be presented by licensed psychologist Dr. Diane Gautney, who will discuss how Mary's life can be a guide for all mothers and their relationships with their children and God and provide enhancement of their lives. For details on this retreat, which could be a belated Mother's Day gift, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

19 GREENSBORO — St. Mary Church, 812 Duke St., will be hosting a health fair today from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Breast cancer awareness, blood pressure, diabetes, eye exams and other seminars will be available along with an on-site doctor or nurse to answer questions and vendors selling health-related products. For further information, call Sadie McConnell at (336) 851-5585.

19 MORGANTON — A Disaster Relief Workshop will take place at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., today from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Rev. Mr. Gerald Collins will speak about how parishes can prepare to take an active and effective role in disaster responses. For more details, call Gerry Carter at (704) 370-3250.

20 CHARLOTTE — Because of Mother's Day, a charismatic Mass, celebrated by Father John Smyth from St. John Church in Concord, will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704)

Survey shows young adult Catholics favor personalized faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A survey of young adult U.S. Catholics reported that they strongly prefer a personalized view of the faith instead of the rules of the institutional church. At the same time, it showed almost total adherence to core Christian beliefs such as that Christ is God or the son of God. The survey also reported an overwhelming desire in young adults to have their children receive religious instruction. The results indicate little difference in attitudes between Latinos and non-Latinos. The survey and an analysis are contained in the book "Young Adult Catholics: Religion in the Culture of Choice," to be published in June by the University of Notre Dame Press. An advance copy of the manuscript was made available to Catholic News Service.

Bethlehem University dorm struck by gunfire twice in two weeks

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — A student dormitory at Bethlehem University was hit by gunfire twice in two weeks, with bullets entering a student's dorm room during the latest incident. In an April 20 letter to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Teresian Sister Ana Garcia, head of the St. Teresa Student Hostel, said, "It is unacceptable that a university residence full of young Palestinian ladies studying at Bethlehem University and expatriate staff working with the church could be a target for an exchange of gunfire. Once again we denounce such a blatant show of force, especially when we repeatedly hear that the protection of civilians is the aim of military action." The patriarchate owns the hostel at the university, run by the Christian Brothers.

Taiwan's bishops consider establishing permanent diaconate

TAIPEI, Taiwan (CNS) — Taiwan's bishops are considering establishing a permanent diaconate, an issue delayed for several years because of a lack of consensus among the bishops. Bishop Lucas Liu Hsien-tang of Hsinchu, president of the bishops' Commission for the Clergy, told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that he thinks the program is likely to be introduced in Taiwan in the near future. "Now that there are more younger bishops in Taiwan, it is a suitable time to re-study the issue, on which the bishops could not have consensus several years ago," said Bishop Liu, 72. The proposed study was discussed during the plenary meeting of the Chinese Regional Bishops' Conference in Taiwan in mid-April. A conference statement said questionnaires would be sent to bishops, priests, religious and laity.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Men place snakes on statue of city's patron

Snakes are placed on a statue of St. Domenico at the beginning of an annual procession May 3 in Cocullo, Italy. The unusual religious festival recalls the legend of the saint in which he saved residents of the city from the bites of snakes and rabid animals in the 11th century.

Canadian churches' group confronts oil company on Sudan

CALGARY, Alberta (CNS) — A coalition of church-based shareholders said a Canadian oil company's involvement in Sudan represents complicity with human rights violations in the African nation. The shareholders, through the Toronto-based Taskforce on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility, confronted Talisman Energy Inc. president Jim Buckee at the company's annual meeting May 1 and asked where $300 million in oil revenues provided to the Sudanese government was used. "It was a simple question," said Joy Kennedy, task force representative. Kennedy said Buckee "went on at length but then wavered at the end. He said, 'We basically don't have any responsibility for that $300 million we gave the government of Sudan.'" The Sudanese government has admitted that the money from oil revenues is being used to fight the war against rebels in the South, Kennedy said.

Ex-mediator predicts hot struggle over Mexican Indian rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mexico is in for "a very hot political struggle" now that the government and indigenous rebels are battling seriously again over Indian rights, said a former mediator of the Chiapas conflict. Their struggle is being played against the backdrop of the overall national transition to democracy after seven decades of one-party rule, said Miguel Alvarez, former executive director of the now-disbanded National Mediation Commission. Alvarez spoke May 1 in Washington, a day after the Zapatista rebels rejected an Indian rights bill passed by Congress and unilaterally suspended talks with the government to resolve the overall Chiapas problem. The Zapatistas, who led an armed indigenous rebellion in Chiapas in 1994, said Congress modified the proposal agreed upon by them and the government during 1996 negotiations.

New Web site is available for Catholic colleges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Information about Catholic colleges in the United States is now just a click away, all on one Web site. The site — www.catholiccollegesonline.org — is sponsored by the National Catholic College Admission Association. It provides information for prospective students, parents and high school counselors. Nearly 200 Catholic colleges are listed on the site's search engine, enabling students to find a Catholic college that suits their needs based on school size, undergraduate program, region of the country and setting — urban, rural or suburban.

Catholic agencies say debt relief plan must improve

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The poverty-reduction strategy for debt relief in the world's poorest countries "is far from fulfilling its potential," a global coalition of Catholic relief agencies said in a major report released April 27. In practice, the poorest people of poor countries are still far from being the participants and targeted beneficiaries they were supposed to become under the 2-year-old strategy, the agencies said. The 18,000-word report by Caritas Internationalis and the Catholic aid coalition CIDSE — International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity — was issued as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank were opening their spring round of meetings in Washington.

527-4676.

20 CHARLOTTE — Father John Vianney Hoover of the New Creation Monastery will be celebrating his 25th Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood at 2 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd, and invites everyone to celebrate his anniversary. A reception will follow and to RSVP, call (704) 334-9330.

21 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

23 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

23 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual May luncheon today at noon at the Sedgefield Country Club. All will have the opportunity to enjoy table-to-table summer fashion modeling from the Acorn Women's Clothing Store, raffle prizes, new board installation and other events. For more information about the May 17 deadline and other details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

23 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for other Irish Catholic men to join for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for further information.

24 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/ Belmont Community Theatre will be presenting its last play of the season starting tonight at 7:30 p.m. through June 2 at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Martin McDonagh's "The Beauty Queen of Leone" is a play set in rural Ireland about the mental and emotional struggles between a mother and daughter. For further information or tickets, call (704) 825-6787.

25 WINSTON-SALEM — The next diocesan Worldwide Marriage Encounter meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Winston-Salem. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, children, chores and phones to focus on each other. For further details about the May 18 deadline and other information, call Tom and Emile Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

26 SYLVA — The Liturgy of the Hours, which includes the Psalter, will be the topic of discussion at the May meeting of the Lay Carmelite Community of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. Anyone interested in learning about the Liturgy of the Hours and in participating in a demonstration of Morning Prayer is invited to attend after the 9 a.m. Mass. Contact Linda Knauer at (828) 631-3561 or Kathy Starr at (828) 586-9303 for details.

27 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

28 CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be taking place today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

SPRING FLING,
from page 1

the greetings and morning presentations, this year from Johnette Nichols, the 'Bag Lady,' the Singing Nuns and the St. Joseph Church Choral Ensemble from Newton and a dulcimer concert from Father Ed Sheridan, pastor. The seniors enjoyed bingo; arts and crafts; informational and interactive seminars about water gardens, Latino traditions and customs and integrated therapies including music, aroma and healing touch; tai chi; activity aprons; raffles; chair massages and sing-a-longs. Afternoon Mass, blood pressure and pulse checks and representatives with items from the Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe were also available for the participants.

Andi Chesser and Kathy Houston from the Mecklenburg EMS explained the importance of regular checkups for the elderly. "Most senior citizens were not raised to go to the doctor unless they felt ill, and regular checkups are critical in detecting and preventing problems at an early stage. High blood pressure can contribute to other ailments like stroke and respiratory problems."

Complete silence was asked from those with their heads bent staring at their boards intent on calling out 'Bingo.' Those who took advantage of the tai chi session; a Chinese form of exercise involving meditation, breathing and slow, methodical movements; also had to work in a quiet space to pay attention to instructions. Women with some artistic talent made magnets and other small crafts, while the line for the five-minute chair massages was always longest.

"It is good to have this type of fellowship among people of different parishes because we really don't get to meet a lot of people," said Herman Pekarek from St. Philip the Apostle Church in Statesville. "The program is good for the elderly because it gets us away from the everyday and gives a chance to get out and meet other people of similar ages. We appreciate that because we see others who are active, and we need to be when we grow older."

This was Gloria Sekulski's first time at the Spring Fling, and she was highly pleased with the day. "I thought it was fantastic, and seeing the different parishes come together all as one family was heartwarming," said the parishioner from St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte. "Everyone looked like they had one goal in common — to be part of Christ's family by coming together in faith."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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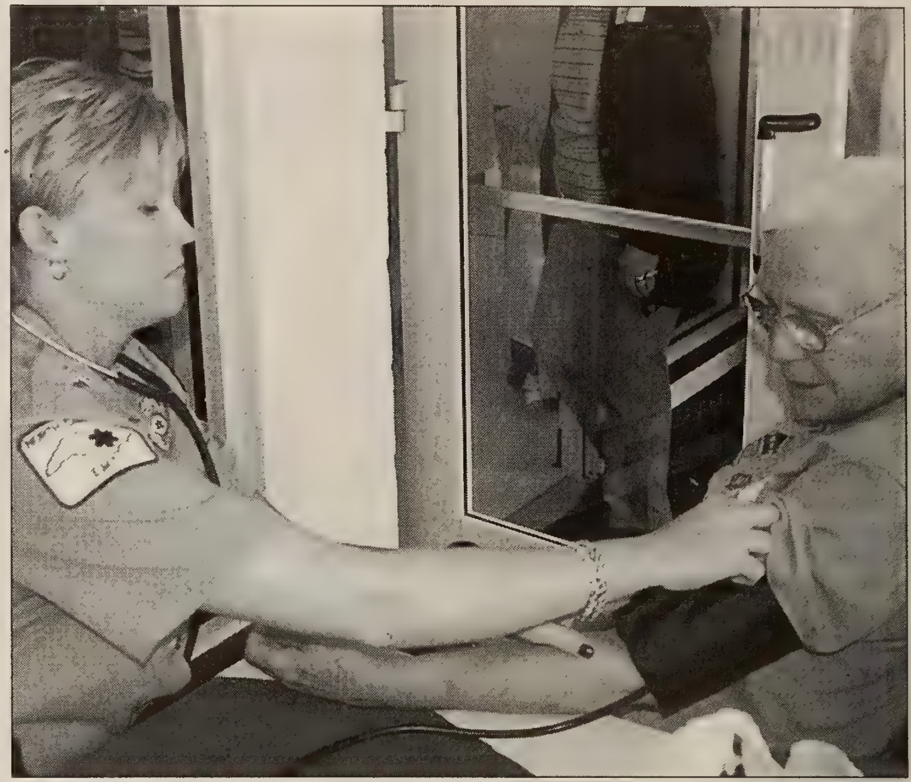

PHOTO BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Pictured on the front page from left to right are: the Young at Heart seniors' group from St. Mary Church in Shelby; including Connie and Thelma Padgett, Margaret Cook and Sylvia Kaiser; concentrates on bingo. Faye Waverchak from St. Vincent de Paul Church in Charlotte smiles while looking at items from the Carolina Catholic Bookshoppe. During a break, daughter and mother Rosemary Gabriel and Ann Trimarco and Frances Asaghi from St. Matthew Church in Charlotte pose in the sunshine during a break. Ninety-four-year-old Trimarco, center, one of the oldest seniors at the Huntersville Spring Fling, says that taking care of yourself is the secret to growing old and feeling young. St. Patrick Cathedral in Charlotte parishioners Alberta Walker and Mildred Patton also play bingo. Herman Pekarek from St. Philip The Apostle Church in Statesville talks with Sandra Breakfield, diocesan director of Elder Ministry. Retired Air Force Major Kenneth Schartz from Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville proudly displays his uniform. On this page, Andi Chesser from the Mecklenburg EMS takes St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte parishioner Jean Foley's blood pressure.

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Catholic neighborhood caught in cross fire of West Bank fighting

By JUDITH SUDILOVSKY
Catholic News Service

BEIT JALLA, West Bank (CNS) — Residents of Beit Jalla found themselves caught in the cross fire as Israeli forces searched for Palestinian gunmen firing on Jewish neighborhoods.

"Beit Jalla is paying an unbearable price, it is suffering," said Father Yacoub Abdel Nur, a parish priest in the West Bank town.

Early May 6, Valentina Hadweh's bedroom became a war zone as Israeli bullets flew through the room.

"I was here making my bed and folding my clothes when I heard the shooting start," 20-year-old Hadweh, a Catholic, said a day later. Her bedroom window looks onto the Israeli checkpoint on the Bethlehem bypass road, known as the tunnel road.

"I was just turning to leave the room when the bullets came at me. I can't sleep here any more. I am afraid to come and take clothes out of my closet," she said.

During a lull in the shooting, Hadweh's Catholic fiancee, Walter Kawwas, 22, dashed from his parents' house nearby to be with her.

Israeli Defense Forces said they entered the Palestinian-controlled West Bank to rout out Palestinian gunmen who have been firing at Jewish residential areas and at Jewish cars using the bypass road. It was the deepest infiltration of Israeli forces into Palestinian territory to date.

The Israelis withdrew their forces after five hours of battle, taking up new positions closer to Beit Jalla than before the incursion.

Media reports said one Palestinian, a military leader, was killed and 20 others — including two children and an older woman — were injured during the fighting.

"There has been shooting here before but nothing like this. We didn't expect anything like this," said Kawwas.

"I don't know if an action like this will stop the gunmen. After the (military) leader was killed, they became very angry and went right back to shooting at Gilo," a disputed Jewish area nearby, Kawwas said.

Beit Jalla resident Makram Arja, 36, watched as Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen exchanged gunfire from two empty houses a few hundred yards away from his house. Then he saw the Palestinian gunmen run toward his backyard.

A short time later, Israeli missiles hit his house. Arja and his wife sought refuge in their garage for the next six hours.

"The Palestinians were running behind my house to get to (the nearby village of) El Khader," Arja said.

"I don't know why they want to shoot from civilian areas. They can shoot from other areas, not in between the houses," he said. "We don't need all those problems here.

"But on the other hand, why does Israel use tanks to shoot back? The Palestinians have only small guns. I am angry at both sides. We civilians are in the middle; they are playing a game with us," he said.

In early May, church and civil leaders from Beit Jalla sent a letter to Palestinian Chairman Yasser Arafat asking him to stop the shooting from civilian areas. Israeli press reported that the letter also was sent to Pope John Paul II and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

One signatory to the letter said the answer they received from Arafat did not mention the gunmen and instead urged them to continue to be "strong and courageous."

Father Abdel Nur said the shooting forced the cancellation of the annual pilgrimage by Catholics and Greek Orthodox to the Shrine of St. George in El Khader.

Despite the gunfire, Father Abdel Nur began Mass at 9:30 a.m. in Beit Jalla and tried to calm the few parishioners who came despite the shelling.

"It was terrible. They were very nervous," he said.

Cultural exchange project designed to build bridges

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — In the diocese that leads the nation in the influx of Hispanic immigrants, a Catholic Social Services program is hosting a cross-cultural project designed to teach Hispanics and non-Hispanics about one another.

The Hispanic/American Cultural Exchange Project is sponsored by Programa Esperanza, a program of the Diocese of Charlotte's CSS Charlotte Regional Office that provides resources to the Hispanic/Latino population here and assists them in becoming part of the local community.

The exchange project "is an outreach effort that offers the non-Hispanic and Hispanic/Latino population a way to better understand each other's culture," said Gina Esquivel, cultural training specialist for Catholic Social Services.

"Programa Esperanza has designed two different workshops to address the specific needs of both populations," said Esquivel. "One offers the non-Hispanic population an introductory learning experience that emphasizes awareness and knowledge about the diverse Hispanic/Latino culture, its concepts and issues.

"The other, called 'Saber es Poder,' offers the Hispanic/Latino community a basic orientation that addresses legal rights and responsibilities, cultural differences, system access and general life skills for living in this country."

In Spanish, "saber es poder" means "to know is to be able."

The workshop for non-Hispanics is designed primarily for social services, health care, education, administration and criminal justice professionals. The session addresses traditional Hispanic/Latin culture; reasons people immigrate; a profile of the Latino community in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County; the impact immigration has on the community; and how to work effectively with the Hispanic community.

The session for Hispanics is offered to clients, advocates and the general public. The workshop includes discussion on education, housing, employment, health care, transportation and immigration issues.

"Hispanic/Latino immigrant families have the same needs and concerns as all families do, but they face the added challenges of being in a new country with a new language to learn and a new culture to understand," Esquivel said.

"This workshop is intended to offer the Hispanic/Latino immigrants a broad view of their rights, obligations and resources in order to facilitate their development as members of their community," she added.

Funded primarily with a grant from the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina, the CSS project is one example of how church, government, legal, human service and education officials are responding to the needs of the growing Hispanic population in North Carolina.

A March 2000 report from the U.S. Catholic bishops said the Diocese of Charlotte had the largest percentage increase in the Hispanic population from 1990 to 1996 among all U.S. dioceses. The Diocese of Raleigh was listed fourth.

For human services personnel, said Esquivel, that influx presents challenges.

"The non-Hispanic community dealing with this population is stretching its services, often straining to be able to serve this growing population," she said. "Key concerns have been identified, such as language barriers, cultural differences and lack of understanding regarding rights and status of Hispanics in Charlotte/Mecklenburg."

The four-hour non-Hispanic workshop will be offered May 22, June 27, July 19 and August 8 at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center in Charlotte at 1123 S. Church St. Fall dates have also been scheduled.

The Hispanic workshop is scheduled regularly as well, with times and locations determined as necessary.

Pre-registration is required for all who attend. For registration information and other details, call Gina Esquivel at (704) 370-3248 or send e-mail to gvesquivel@charlottediocese.org.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Doctor gets five years for manslaughter in abortion death

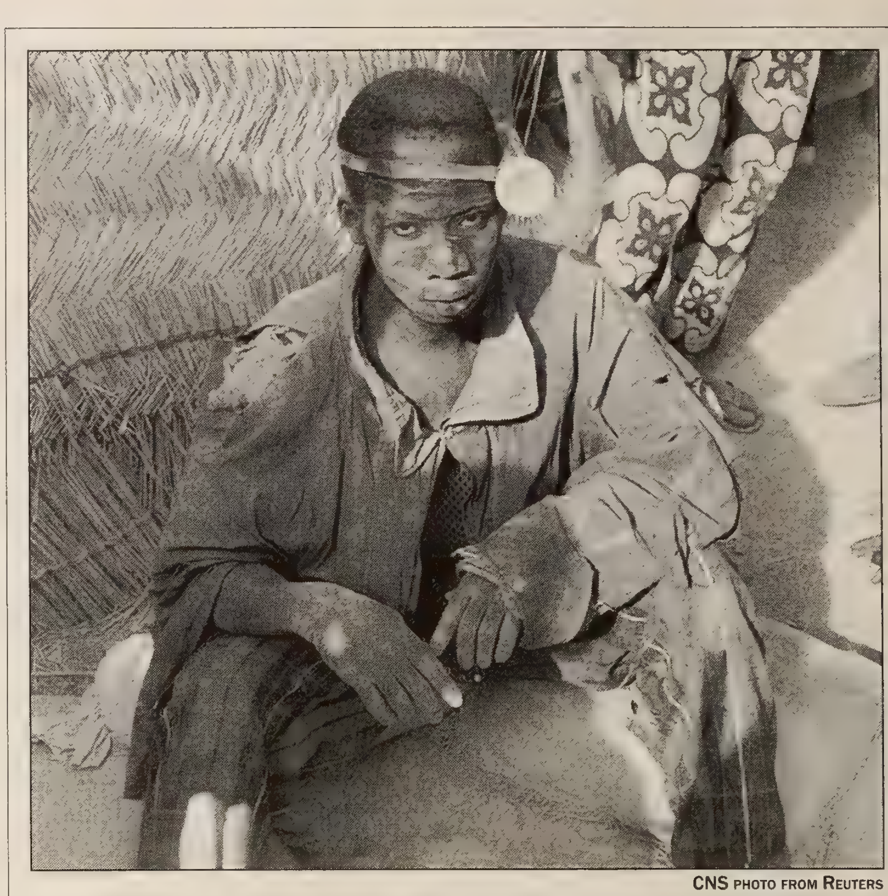
PHOENIX (CNS) — A doctor who was convicted of manslaughter in the death of a patient during a legal abortion was sentenced to five years in prison May 4. John Biskind, 75, was found guilty in February in the death of 33-year-old LouAnne Herron, who died at the now-closed A-Z Women's Center in Phoenix after her uterus was punctured during an abortion. Carol Stuart-Schadoff, administrator of the abortion clinic, was sentenced to four years' probation and 500 hours of community service. The 63-year-old woman was convicted of negligent homicide in Herron's death. Superior Court Judge Michael O. Wilkinson could have sentenced Biskind to as much as 12-and-a-half years in prison or to probation. He also ordered Biskind, who gave up his medical license in August 1998, to pay $12,841.40 in restitution.

U.S. nun shot dead, victim of apparent robbery in Guatemala

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S nun who worked with victims of violence in Guatemala was shot dead in an apparent robbery, her religious order said. Charity Sister Barbara Ann Ford of New York was shot numerous times in a midday assault in Guatemala City May 5. Sister Ford, 62, worked in Guatemala for 20 years, helping victims of the country's 36-year civil war recover from their psychological wounds. "She had a great love and a great compassion for the indigenous people, especially the rural poor," said Charity Sister Doris Smith, spokeswoman for the religious order.

Priest urges strong seminary formation in sexuality, celibacy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Calling for a strong seminary formation in sexuality and celibacy, Sulpician Father Gerald D. Coleman said, "A sexually imbalanced seminarian will be a sexually imbalanced priest." Father Coleman, president of St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif., gave the keynote talk to the seminary department of the National Catholic Educational Association during the association's annual convention this April in Milwaukee. He later made the text available to Catholic News Service in Washington. Currently "the sexualized nature of our social communities" makes it difficult to provide "balanced and proper sexual education," he said. Father Coleman tied formation for celibacy to good formation in sexuality.



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

14-year-old works mine in Niger

A 14-year-old worker sits at the top of a gold mine shaft in Niger, where some say up to 30 percent of mine workers are children. The west African country is on the International Monetary Fund's list of the most heavily indebted poor countries.

Catholic clergy, laity back anti-slavery protest against Sudan

NEW YORK (CNS) — The American Anti-Slavery Group drew Catholic lay and clergy support at a sidewalk demonstration it sponsored against Sudan in New York May 2. The anti-slavery group, based in Boston, contends that Arab Sudanese of the predominantly Muslim North not only enslave blacks of the predominantly Christian and animist South, but also engage in widespread killing, torture and rape of black Sudanese. Franciscan Father James E. Goode, president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life, was among those addressing the rally, held outside the building where Sudan's U.N. Mission has offices.

Bishops' spokesman backs federal ban on human cloning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An official of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops backed a federal bill to prohibit all human embryo cloning at a Senate hearing May 2. "Human cloning shows disrespect for life in the very act of generating it," said Richard Doerflinger, associate director for policy development of the NCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "In reality, a cloned human being should be treated as a human person with fundamental rights," he said. "Cloning is not wrong because cloned humans lack human dignity — it is wrong because they have human dignity but are brought into the world in a way that fails to respect that dignity." Doerflinger was one of 10 witnesses appearing before the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to discuss the proposed Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001.

Congress has 152 Catholic members

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There are 152 Catholics in the 107th Congress, one fewer than two years ago. The balance of Catholics in each party remains nearly the same, with 93 Democrats and 59 Republicans this term, two fewer Democrats and one more Republican than two years ago. The same goes for the breakdown by House and Senate, with 128 Catholics in the House and 24 Catholics in the Senate, a difference of one fewer senator.

Marriage prep must address anti-marriage attitude, speaker says

RAPID CITY, S.D. (CNS) — Catholic marriage preparation must deal with a strong anti-marriage environment in the United States, Notre Dame Sister Barbara Markey told a Rapid City diocesan gathering of 250 pastoral ministers. Sister Markey, family life director for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb., and associate director of the Center for Marriage and Family at Creighton University in Omaha, was keynote speaker at the diocese's Pastoral Ministry Days in April. "We live in a time when marriage and family are under attack in a way that probably has not happened before," she told the participating priests, deacons and lay leaders. To underscore her point, she said that for the first time, in 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau did not ask people on the short form if they were married.

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Catholic leaders, groups urge end to death penalty

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders and groups continued to speak out against the death penalty in general — and its application in the Timothy McVeigh case in particular — in the days leading up to McVeigh's scheduled May 16 execution.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., said kin of the victims and survivors of the 1995 bomb blast that killed 168 in an Oklahoma City federal building are not likely to find closure or peace from McVeigh's death.

"For those of us struggling with the enormity of this evil action, we must ask ourselves this question: Will this death by lethal injection bring about any lasting satisfaction or so-called closure for the victims?" Bishop D'Arcy said. "For them, closure will never take place. His death will bring no lasting peace to the family and friends of those who perished."

The bishop reiterated church teaching and Pope John Paul II's statements about the death penalty in his remarks, which were published in the May 6 issue of Today's Catholic, the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan newspaper.

The church's position on the death penalty "brings satisfaction to some and confusion and even hostility to others," Bishop D'Arcy said.

"They point out how the Old Testament upheld the death penalty and how Christ never spoke directly against this practice. Yet John Paul II, in St. Louis, called the death penalty 'cruel and unnecessary.'"

While "the church has always taught, and still does, that the state has the right to execute someone who has committed this 'crime of crimes,'" Bishop D'Arcy said, "as it journeys through history, the church receives increased light from the Holy Spirit."

He added, "The church believes that the only reason that justifies the execution of a criminal, even someone guilty of an unspeakable crime like this, is when this is the only means to protect society. With all the technological advances, society can be protected by lifetime incarceration."

In a May 7 statement, Pax Christi USA, the U.S. arm of the Catholic peace organization, said McVeigh's execution "will be a clear indication of our society's willingness to substitute vengeance for justice."

"Even in the face of such a horrendous crime, Pax Christi USA stands firm in opposing the death penalty," it said.

Noting that McVeigh served with the Army during the Persian Gulf War, Pax Christi repeated McVeigh's description of the children who died in Oklahoma City as "collateral damage," saying that it was "the same term the U.S. government used to refer to innocent civilian victims killed during the Gulf War."

Pax Christi added, "Speaking of killing Iraqis, he stated, 'After the first time, it got easy.' ... There may be no single factor which caused Timothy McVeigh to commit the Oklahoma City bombing. But it is clear that government-sanctioned violence and McVeigh's participation in it sowed seeds which grew into the most violent terrorist act committed on U.S. soil."

The organization said its members would join in prayer vigils throughout the nation May 15-16 to mourn the deaths of the Oklahoma City bombing victims and of McVeigh.

One prayer vigil and march will be held May 16 at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Harlem, sponsored by the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life and the Archdiocese of New York's Office of Black Ministry.

"We are marching, praying and witnessing the sacredness of all human life, even the lives of those who have not witnessed through their actions the respect for others," said a May 7 statement from Franciscan Father James Goode, the apostolate's president.

"We will be marching for life and proclaiming unconditionally the teaching of the church, which states: 'We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing those who kill,'" he said.

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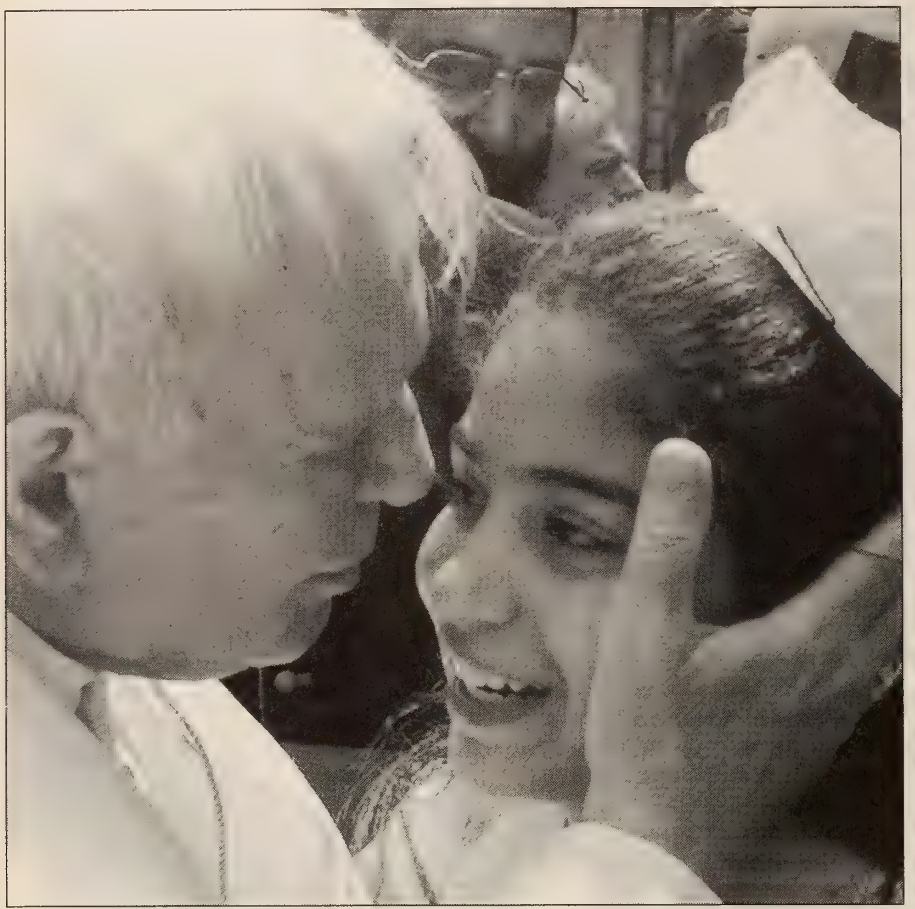

CNS PHOTOS FROM REUTERS

Above: Pope John Paul II embraces a Syrian girl as he arrives at El Quneitra in the Golan Heights of Syria May 7. Pope John Paul II prayed at the ruins of a Greek Orthodox church there. The city was totally destroyed by withdrawing Israeli troops in 1974.

Below: Pope John Paul II waters an olive tree -- a symbol of peace -- outside the destroyed Greek Orthodox church at El Quneitra in the Golan Heights May 7. In Syria the pope appealed to people to forgive past wrongs and commit themselves to peace.

Pope’s trip to Gree across centur

BY JOHN THAVIS
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

DAMASCUS, Syria (CNS) — On a pilgrimage highlighted by bold ecumenical and interreligious gestures, Pope John Paul II reached across centuries of division to Orthodox Christians in Greece and Muslims in Syria.

In Greece May 4-5, the pope issued a dramatic apology for past treatment of the Orthodox and said it was time to “heal the wounds” that have divided Eastern and Western churches for nearly 1,000 years. Vatican and Orthodox officials called the visit an ecumenical breakthrough.

In Syria May 6, he became the first pope in history to enter a mosque, where he was warmly greeted by his Muslim hosts. He said Christianity and Islam should forever put aside conflict and ask forgiveness for past offenses.

The pope was tracing the footsteps of St. Paul, and he encouraged the minority Catholic communities in Greece and Syria to follow the Apostle’s example in combining evangelization and dialogue. He said St. Paul had approached the ancient peoples of the region on their own cultural terms 2,000 years ago, launching the church’s universal mission.

The pope, who turns 81 later in May, appeared tired as he labored through receptions and liturgies during the first three days of his May 4-9 pilgrimage, which also was to take him to Malta, the site of St. Paul’s shipwreck on his way to martyrdom in Rome.

But the pontiff was clearly buoyed by the apparent success of his first two stops and the welcome he received — cordial in Greece and enthusiastic in Syria.

“It has gone beyond our expectations. The pope is very pleased,” Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said at midtrip.

The pope arrived in Greece with little fanfare and a pilgrim’s humble demeanor. He made his biggest ecumenical impact with a unilateral apology on behalf of Catholics, delivered in front of the head of the Orthodox Church in Greece, Archbishop Christodoulos of Athens.

“For the occasions past and present, when sons and daughters of the Catholic Church have sinned by action or omission against their Orthodox brothers and sisters, may the Lord grant us the forgiveness we beg of him,” the pope said.

Among the especially painful memories for the Orthodox, he said, was the “disastrous” sacking of Constantinople by Western Crusaders in 1204. Constantinople, today the city of Istanbul in Turkey, was the center of the Eastern church in Greece at the time.

“It is tragic that the assailants, who had set out to secure free access for Christians to the Holy Land, turned against their own brothers in the faith. The fact that they were Latin Christians fills Catholics with deep regret,” he said.

The pope followed his strong “mea culpa” statement with a call to turn the page, saying the time had come for Christians to put aside rancor over past injustices and “walk together.”

At the end of the day, Archbishop Christodoulos prayed the Our Father with the pope and called his visit the start of “a new era” between the churches. The archbishop flew to Moscow the next day for talks with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei II, a coincidence Vatican officials found promising.

The pope visited the Areopagus, the Athens hillside where St. Paul first preached to the Greeks, and venerated an icon of the apostle. He called Paul a model for the church and a special inspiration to his own papacy.

Throughout his stay, he lauded Greek culture and encouraged the country’s new role as a member of the European Community. He met with Greek President Konstantinos Stephanopoulos and other ministers, who said they were pleased that anti-pope demonstrations earlier in the week had run out of steam by the time the pope arrived.

Before leaving for Syria, the pope celebrated a low-key Mass with 18,000 Catholics in an Athens basketball arena, on a small altar placed on one end of the court. The simple liturgy seemed designed to assure Greeks that the pope’s visit had no triumphal aims.

The visit to the Umayyad Great Mosque in Damascus marked a milestone

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e, Syria reaches s of division

in Christian-Muslim relations, and in a talk to Muslims the pope urged others to take note of the historic event.

"It is my ardent hope that Muslim and Christian religious leaders and teachers will present our two great religious communities as communities in respectful dialogue, never more as communities in conflict," he said.

"It is crucial for the young to be taught the ways of respect and understanding, so that they will not be led to misuse religion itself to promote or justify hatred or violence," he said.

The pope, who greeted the Muslim leaders with the Arabic expression, "Assalamu alaikum" ("Peace be with you"), received long applause and a warm reception from dozens of imams and other Islamic leaders gathered in a courtyard of the eighth-century complex.

After removing his shoes and donning a pair of white slippers, he walked down a long aisle of the mosque's prayer hall, pausing occasionally for an explanation from his Muslim guide. Then he stopped silently for a minute before a memorial shrine to St. John the Baptist, held by local tradition to be the place where the saint's head is buried.

Syria greeted the pope warmly. He received his first enthusiastic welcome of the trip at an Orthodox cathedral in downtown Damascus May 5. Tens of thousands of cheering Christians — Catholics and Orthodox — lined the streets of the old city and the courtyard of the church, tossing flower petals as he rode in his popemobile with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ignatius IV.

After listening to a chanted prayer, the pope gave a speech in which he recalled the flowering of the faith in Syria during the early centuries of the church.

He said he was pleased at the generally excellent relations between Syrian Catholic and Orthodox churches today, but urged them to do more in terms of cooperation. A prime example in which the Middle Eastern churches should show leadership, he said, is reaching agreement on a common date for the celebration of Easter.

The pontiff paid a visit to the Syrian Orthodox cathedral the next day, meeting with clergy and laity from all nine of the Catholic and Orthodox church communities in Syria. This time he shared his popemobile with the Syrian Orthodox patriarch.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Greek Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos escorts Pope John Paul II from Areopagus hill in Athens May 4. Behind them is an icon of St. Paul, who preached to the Athenians there nearly 2,000 years ago.

At a three-hour-long Mass in a Damascus sports stadium May 6, the pope told a congregation of about 25,000 Syrians that Christians, Muslims and Jews were called to work together for regional peace.

He asked them to remember that "Christian identity is not defined by opposition to others but by the ability to go out of oneself toward one's brothers and sisters."

The pope's message of interreligious and political reconciliation contrasted with a strident arrival speech delivered by President Bashar Assad. It assailed Israel — though not by name — for its policies in occupied Palestinian territories and suggested Israel was acting with "the same mentality of betraying Jesus Christ and torturing him."

A Vatican spokesman downplayed the remarks, saying they were merely the Syrian point of view.

For his part, the pope called for respect for U.N. resolutions, the banning of acquisition of territory by force and the right of people to self-determination.

"Once I calculated the benefits, I knew it was time for a change."

As owner of an accounting and bookkeeping firm, Joanne Ury seemed to have it all — a comfortable home, a predictable and plentiful income and a new red SUV with plenty of options.

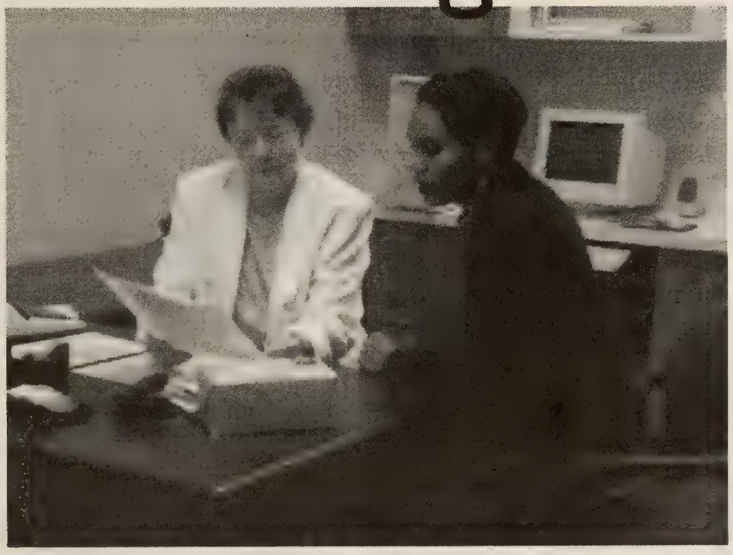
But something was amiss. The more she grew her business, the higher her income rose, the lower her career satisfaction dipped. Sound familiar?

There was an undeniable question that crept into her thoughts during quiet moments.

By 1996 she decided to answer that question. She became a candidate with the Sisters of Mercy. For two years she ran her business with the most noticeable change being that instead of going home to an empty house, she was now a member of a supportive, prayerful community of women whose values were in sync with hers. She was getting her answer.

When she took her vows this year, she realized that for her the real bottom line is measured by the satisfaction of putting smiles on faces of the elderly or serving the parishioners of a local church.

"Although I thought I had it all, I wasn't even close. Now I'm putting my faith into action; actions that add up on the plus side of God's ledger. Serving others, today and into the future, balances my accounts down to the penny."



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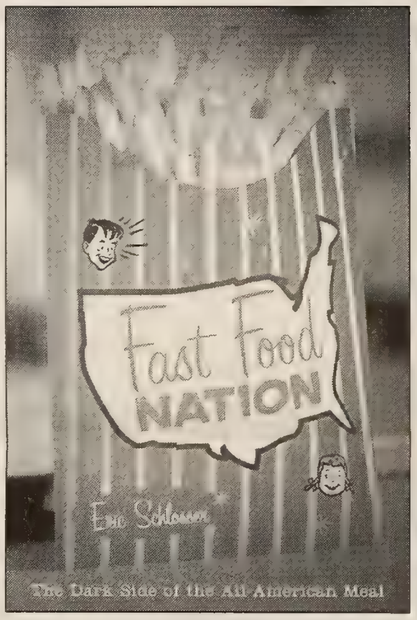
Book Review

‘Fast Food Nation’ is compelling story that doesn’t trivialize

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

When a book with a somewhat unpopular message, a 19-page index, 55 pages of notes and six of bibliography, and a $25 price tag finds a receptive audience, one must conclude that all is not lost, that the American social conscience is not moribund.

What other lesson is one to take away from the popularity of “Fast Food Nation” (Houghton Mifflin), Eric Schlosser’s damning assessment of the fast-food industry and the calamitous social changes it has fostered?



It would be a mistake, however, to attribute the book’s success solely to its subject matter and the public’s sensitivities. Rather, “Fast Food Nation” succeeds as well because Schlosser knows how to marshal his facts and present them in compelling fashion without the common-scold shrillness of too many good-cause advocates and without trivializing his thesis by engaging in mere entertainment.

Nevertheless, in 10 workmanlike chapters, each of which could stand as a feature article on its own merits, Schlosser never loses sight of the fact that to make his points effectively he needs to hold the reader’s attention even when dealing with the production of french fries or the gory business of slaughtering steers quickly, without waste and at minimal cost.

Quickly, without waste and at minimal cost — these are the keys to fast-food service. But that service doesn’t begin and end with the restaurant and the consumer; it extends back through marketing, distribution, franchising and production, the producers, of course, being the farmers who raise the chickens and the cattle and grow the potatoes.

They are the ones saddled with the financial risks (of the $1.50 you pay for an order of fries, two cents makes its way back to the farmer) and they are chief among the victims Schlosser identifies. The others include the workers at the retail level (kids mostly, where the turnover rate is 300 percent), meatpackers and handlers (many of them migrants working under foul conditions while wearing up to 80 pounds of protective armor), and, to some extent, the consumers who are also putting their health at risk.

Schlosser’s chapter on food handling — it’s titled “What’s in the Meat” (and what’s in it is less than appealing) — is frightening in some regards. But his effort to lay blame for burgeoning obesity on the fast-food industry is one of the weakest sections of the book.

Additionally, the epilogue, in which Schlosser takes up the what’s-to-be-done-about-it question, suffers from the absence of a strong call for concerted action. The just-say-no approach isn’t likely to accomplish much when the burgers and the fries and the chicken nuggets taste so good.

There’s a reason for that too. It lies in the fragrance industry which makes processed food so appealing after all the flavor has been boiled, blanched and frozen out of it. The very existence of that industry, and its relationship to food as much as to soap and deodorants, is one of the more interesting subjects Schlosser takes up.

But what makes the whole so appealing is the history (of the french fry and franchising, for instance) and the personal stories Schlosser weaves into what could otherwise be a boring statistical account of the number of burgers consumed in a day.

The stories are those of successful entrepreneurs (one founded a plant that processes a million pounds of spuds a day), injured workers, ambitious migrants, beleaguered franchisees, status-conscious teens and financially pinched farmers facing the loss of their independence. (Moans one: “The only thing I control is what time I get out of bed in the morning.”)

Through them, Schlosser’s two years of on-site research take on the human face that is the strength of “Fast Food Nation.”

Ultimately, however, the book is the story of a revolution — in farming, in food service, in technology, in real estate and in marketing concepts — that has taken place almost without notice. Fascinating in its details, it nevertheless has the power to sadden, shock and anger the thoughtful reader.

Thomas, retired editor in chief of The Christophers and a former diocesan newspaper editor, is a frequent reviewer of books.

Word to Life

May 13, Fifth Sunday of Easter
Cycle C Readings:

1) Acts 14:21b-27
Psalm 145:8-13
2) Revelation 21:1-5a
3) Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

BY JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

My husband and I take a trip every year to the convention of his professional organization. When our children were young, their grandmother generously would come spend that week with them. In preparing to leave, I always wrote out a detailed schedule so everyone would remember to get to his or her appointments and activities on time. But just before going, I also would give face-to-face final instructions to the children regarding their responsibilities and behavior.

Although from Day 1 parents continually are teaching their children essential lessons so they will act decently and responsibly when they are on their own, when the time to be separated arrives there’s a sense of urgency to voice the most important concerns. Once, I took my daughter aside and told her how to access the safe deposit box, which held our wills. (She protested, “Gosh, Mom!”) Usually, though, I would try to impart some ultimate guideline for their own decision making, such as, “If you’d have to lie about it to not get in trouble, don’t do it,” or “Don’t put Grandma in a difficult position.”

In today’s Gospel passage Jesus is dealing with that same sense of urgency as he prepares to leave his loved ones. So he gives them one more, all-encompassing commandment. He’s been instructing them right along, showing them how to forgive and heal, reminding them to be servants of all, demonstrating compassion for those most in need, telling them to love their enemies. But, finally, he says it all in one line: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

For me, it’s the ultimate guideline that I can plug in just as I once hoped my children would remember and follow the “if you have to lie about it” suggestion. When I want to get even after someone speaks harshly to me, when someone in my family takes out his or her anger on me just because I’m the one who will listen, when I’m ignored by someone I care about, when an act of generosity is unappreciated, when I’m impatient with a friend’s self-pity I can simply try on Jesus’ commandment and remember how he’s loved me and forgiven me when I’ve treated him that very same way.

God wants us to keep up with our daily activities and develop our gifts in order to use them for his purposes. But, ultimately, what he most wants us to do is to love one another as deeply and selflessly as he has loved us.

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 13 - 19, 2001

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Acts 14:21-27, Revelation 21:1-5, John 13:31-33, 34-35 **Monday (St. Matthias),** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26, John 15:9-17; **Tuesday (St. Isidore),** Act 14:19-28, John 14:27-31; **Wednesday,** Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8; **Thursday,** Acts 15:7 21, John 15:9-11; **Friday (Pope John I),** Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17; **Saturday,** Act 16:1-10, John 15:18-21

Readings for the week of May 20 - 26, 2001

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, Joh 14:23-29; **Monday,** Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; **Tuesday,** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5 11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (The Ascension of ou Lord),** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53; **Friday (St. Bede, St. Gregor VII, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday (St. Philip Neri),** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

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Video reviews

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Bedknobs and Broomsticks" (1971)

In an English seaside village during World War II, a would-be witch (Angela Lansbury) invokes an army of spectral warriors to rout 20th-century German invaders and takes some trips with three children on her big brass bed. Director Robert Stevenson keeps this Disney musical moving merrily and emphasizes the smiling high spirits of the youngsters. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was G — general audiences. (Disney)

"The Emperor's New Groove" (2000)

Wonderful animated feature in which the cocky emperor (voice of David Spade) of a mythical South American kingdom is turned into a lowly llama by his wicked adviser (voice of Eartha Kitt) and must rely on a good-hearted peasant (voice of John Goodman) to regain his empire. With its simple message that kindness is best, director Mark Dindal's sprightly film tickles with crisp animation, bouncy music and an excellent ensemble cast of voices. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was G — general audiences. (Disney)

"Finding Forrester" (2000)

Generic drama about the special relationship forged between a gifted teen-age writer (Rob Brown) from the South Bronx and his unlikely mentor, a recluse (Sean Connery) who stopped writing after his Pulitzer Prize-winning first novel. Despite some touching moments, director Gus Van Sant's perfunctory narrative takes on too many issues without presenting any one in a compelling manner. A few sexual references and a couple of instances of rough language with fleeting profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia TriStar)

"Girl on the Bridge" (2000)

Enchanting French romantic comedy about a young woman (Vanessa Paradis) contemplating suicide on the railing of a Paris bridge when an itinerant professional knife thrower (Daniel Auteuil) recruits her to be his new human target. As directed by Patrice Leconte, the black and white film has exciting thriller elements with stylish camera work and an eclectic score, but the intriguing premise disappoints with an anti-climactic conclusion. Subtitles. Some sexual encounters, mild violence and a few instances of rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Paramount)

"Hamlet" (2000)

Pretentious adaptation of the Bard's masterpiece set in the greedy, consumerist world of 21st-century New York City in which the country of Denmark is replaced by the Denmark Corporation and the story's hero (Ethan Hawke) is a mopey, aspiring filmmaker. Director Michael Almereyda ambitiously fuses the contemporary world with classic Shakespearean dialogue and cuts the piece to a lean two hours, but the edgy feel of the modern world is lost in crowded staging and poor performances. Some violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax)

"Little Nicky" (2000)

Second-rate comedy in which Adam Sandler, the son of the devil (Harvey Keitel) and an angel (Reese Witherspoon), must save his father from being destroyed by Sandler's two conniving, evil-to-the-bone brothers (Rhys Ifans and Tommy "Tiny" Lister Jr.). Low on laughs, director Steven Brill's flop of a film has minimal appeal with unfunny gags, stale special effects and limp performances. Satanic subject matter, much comically intended violence, some crude sexual references, brief drug use, an instance of rough language and intermittent crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (New Line)

CNS photo from Universal Studios

Scene from movie 'The Mummy Returns'

Brendan Fraser and Arnold Vosloo star in the action film "The Mummy Returns." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV -- adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Love, Honor & Obey" (2001)

Sick flick in which a young man (Jonny Lee Miller) in a dead-end courier job earns a place among North London gangsters then stirs up unimaginable — and unnecessary — trouble with a rival South London set. The ensemble cast in writers-directors Dominic Anciano's and Ray Burdis' film wander aimlessly through the brutal, pointless narrative that tries to pose itself as a dark comedy, but is instead a base collection of vulgar antics. Gratuitous, nauseating violence, many sexually explicit situations, some drug abuse and recurring rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Trimark)

"Yi Yi (A One and a Two)" (2000)

Absorbing domestic drama about the midlife malaise of a Taiwanese businessman (Wu Nianzhen) who struggles to keep his family and computer company together while sorting out feelings for an old sweetheart (Ke Suyun) whom he unexpectedly bumps into after 20 years. Set in Taipei, director Edward Yang's three-hour film is a rich, funny and humane family portrait with keen observations, but the film's otherwise finely tuned pace lags somewhat in the final third. Subtitles. Mature themes, brief violence, fleeting nudity and some rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Winstar)

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Guest Column

Editors note: With Pope John Paul II on pilgrimage; the weekly audience did not take place. Instead, we bring this guest column from Warsaw, commenting on this historic pilgrimage.

Greek church leaders welcome ecumenical aspects of pope's visit

By JONATHAN LUXMOORE

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Leaders of Greece's Catholic Church have welcomed the ecumenical aspects of Pope John Paul II's May 4-5 pilgrimage and voiced hopes of improvement in the status of minority churches.

Meanwhile, a survey suggested public hostility had dropped sharply during Pope John Paul's visit, the first by a modern pontiff to the traditionally Orthodox country.

"The realities of this pilgrimage surpassed our expectations," said Archbishop Nikolaos Foscolos of Athens.

"It raised all the questions which need resolving between the churches, and although these can't be settled easily, we hope an official dialogue can now begin," he said.

The archbishop spoke May 7 shortly before chairing a session of Greece's bishops' conference to discuss the pilgrimage.

In a separate Catholic News Service interview, the church's spokeswoman, Maria Kutatsi, predicted the visit would encourage calls for legal status by the Catholic minority, as well as spurring center-left government efforts to separate the state from Greece's predominant Orthodox Church.

"All such moves will be discouraged as long as such a tight church-state relationship exists here," Kutatsi said.

"But this event has the potential to change Orthodox attitudes. If the political will exists, improvements could follow," Kutatsi said by telephone.

The 28-hour visit, which included a joint declaration between the pope and Orthodox Archbishop Christodoulos, was welcomed May 5 by most Greek newspapers.

The pro-government Ethnos daily said May 5 the pope's statement of regret for past Catholic misdeeds would "change history and open a path to unification," while the opposition Kathinerini daily concurred that the pope's remarks had "created a much more positive climate for conducting talks."

Meanwhile, a May 7 Gallup poll indicated a sharp fall in opposition to the visit among Greek citizens, with 7 percent believing it was "not good for Orthodoxy and the Greek state" compared to 30 percent in April.

Asked if the visit could benefit other Christian minorities, the secretary-general of Greece's small Evangelical Reformed Church, Antoni Koulouris, welcomed the pope's call for closer cooperation among Christians and said his church had opposed anti-Catholic demonstrations during the pilgrimage.

"We aren't expecting a united church and are further away from the Catholic Church theologically than the Orthodox. But we all think ecumenically and favor better relations," Koulouris told CNS.

The 200,000 Catholic minority has frequently complained of discrimination in Greece.

The pope referred to the "very difficult conditions" facing the church in a May 4 message to Greece's bishops, two of whom — Bishop Franghiskos Papamanolis of Thira Santorini and Archbishop Nikolaos Printesis of Naxos — thanked the Greek government and Orthodox Church for approving the visit.

Archbishop Foscolos told CNS he believed the stopover had "broken the ice" between the Catholic and Orthodox churches and could improve ties internationally, as well as helping "change mentalities" within Greece.

"We can't expect miracles, but we have at least laid one of the stones for building a bridge," said the archbishop, who concelebrated a May 5 papal Mass.

"A separation lasting almost a thousand years can't be made to disappear in a few days and weeks. But this 24-hour visit has been a historic event for Greece and all its churches," the archbishop said.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

A Teen's Own Phone?

Teen-age kids live on the phone. Our daughter spent so much time on the phone that we called it "the respirator" because she couldn't breathe without it.

The teen years are spent discovering new ways of getting along with peers, and for the modern teen a major tool in that process is the phone.

In almost every household a teen-ager at some point will sit down with Mom or Dad and make this little proposition:

"I know you think I tie up the phone, and it's a drag for you to answer calls when it's just my friends again. I was thinking I should get a private line up in my room. It's only $18 a month, I already checked, and I'd pay for it."

On the surface it makes sense. Lots of parents take the bait. "Jane has been so responsible," they tell themselves, "it just makes sense to let her have a phone of her own."

To which I must add my professional opinion: "No way!"

Here's my take. If teen-agers have been responsible, have not gotten into trouble and are not in the habit of sneaking around behind their parents, why set them up for failure? Why create a problem where none exists?

Once a teen-ager has a private line, a huge shift takes place in the family communication pattern. With a shared telephone line, making and receiving calls is a process of negotiation and interaction. The phone rings, and if a parent answers he or she gets a chance to hear the voice on the other end of the line.

—If it's a familiar caller, there's a little conversation — the parents and friends get to know each other, even if it's on the simplest level.

—If it's a stranger, the parents ask, "And who is this calling?"

Once the teen-ager has a private line, those little conversations don't happen. It becomes more likely that the teen-ager's friends are total strangers to the parents. There's a loss of parental involvement, just at a time when Mom's or Dad's presence may be especially important.

If the phone rings and the teen-ager lunges across the room to grab it, and then talks in hushed, inaudible tones, his parents get to ask, "What was that about?" It might be the cute new girl who just moved into his geometry class or it could be some guys he met at the mall calling about some plans he'd rather Mom and Dad didn't know about.

If a girl hangs up the phone and says, "Oh, that was just JJ," unless parents have a chance to hear the voice on the line now and then, they don't know if JJ is a 17-year-old girl or a 22-year-old guy.

If the phone rings and somebody clicks off when an adult answers — three times in a row — the parents need to ask what's going on.

If a phone rings at 2 a.m., it should ring in the parents' bedroom, not the kids'. If parents hear a mumbled conversation in the middle of the night, they need to pick up the receiver and hear who is talking on the line. Secret phone calls late at night commonly signal a kid who's having problems.

It isn't a popular opinion with teens, and it disappoints parents who might want the phone back to themselves. Nevertheless, I strongly hold that giving a teen-ager a private line is setting up a connection for trouble.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Guest Column

MARA ANNE DORSCH
Guest Columnist

Community living: Is it essential to Christian living?

Last year I joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, a Catholic service organization centered around four values: simplicity, social justice, spirituality and community. I live in an intentional faith-based community with four other volunteers.

Communities differ from living with friends by a common mission to share our faith in Christ with each other and to put our faith into action at our job placements. We do this by sharing a house, eating most of our meals together and sharing our time and faith on designated nights during the week. Each of us works at different social service agencies and is paid a small stipend. One of our JVC challenges is to "look for the face of Jesus in our clients."

Growing up, my life centered around my family, Catholic school and church communities. These communities guided me until I left for college. It was only when I attended a large public university that I realized that Christian community was ingrained in me. I was a part of small communities in my residence hall and academic department, but I found I needed a Christ-centered community. That search led me to the Catholic campus ministry program.

I knew after college I wanted to volunteer for at least a year. In time, I realized that I needed to volunteer through a faith-based program so that my Christian community needs would be met.

I now understand more clearly why Jesus surrounded himself with his 12 Apostles and why the early church was made up of small faith communities. God created us to work as the Body of Christ, not to face this world alone. When we are isolated, we can easily become overwhelmed and despair about the lack of love, hope and justice in the world. In community, we can support each other while we try to live out the gospel message.

However, community living can be risky to our pride and ego. It involves letting down our guard and being vulnerable. This year, I found myself struggling with homesickness. It was painful and hard to deal with in front of four strangers. Fortunately, my community members supported me through that time.

I like to think about this struggle in reference to Luke 8:22-25. In this passage, Jesus and the apostles are crossing a lake, and Jesus falls asleep in the boat. A large windstorm threatens to destroy their boat, and the apostles wake Jesus up in a panic. In return, Jesus quiets the storm and asks them where their faith is.

This passage applies to my community in two ways. First, I was like the apostles because I panicked at being away from my family and faith community. My new community reminded me that I have two choices. I can act like the apostles and let fear take over, or I can step out in faith and believe that God would always take care of me. Second, after that realization I was humbled to see that my community and I were in the same boat. They, too, were in a new situation and around strangers. That we were in the same boat and were trying to center ourselves around Christ made the difference.

In time, I was able to open up and communicate my fears and not feel ashamed about feeling weak. What I perceived as my weakness actually helped bring me closer to my community members.

Christian community is not just limited to volunteer programs and religious life. It can be found in Christ-centered communities in our families, schools, parishes, jobs and other organizations. Through them, we experience God's love for us and can grow enough to share that love with others.

Now after eight months of service, in addition to looking for the face of Jesus in my clients, I continually see the face of Jesus in my four community members. Have you seen the face of Jesus lately?

Mara Anne Dorsch, a parishioner of St. Leo the Great Church in Winston Salem, is a Jesuit volunteer serving in Mobile, Ala.

Light One Candle

Msgr. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Remembering Who Matters

One of my boyhood schoolmates, a friend who has remained a true friend through the years, now heads a major record company. His work puts him in daily touch with some of the biggest recording artists of our time. As music and music makers intrigue me, I often ask my friend what the famous folks are "really like."

Some of the most successful, he tells me, are surprising for their goodness and normalcy. They say "thank you," they don't forget where they came from and are attentive to their families. Some of the brightest stars are also aware of the luck they've enjoyed. They know that most musicians who long for success don't make it: the vast majority are either underemployed or unemployed.

Then my friend describes another group: those who think they were meant to succeed and who forget the folks they used to know. These are the more obnoxious success stories, people who think they invented themselves. These people tend to be spoiled, self-absorbed and given to overwhelming ego.

My friend, for obvious reasons, prefers the first group to the second!

Among the biggest and most accomplished musical entertainers in America are The Backstreet Boys. This group, more men then boys at this point, are musicians and singers with a truly Midas touch. Their albums sell in the gazillions. The group includes Kevin Richardson, Howard "Howie D" Dorough, Alexander James "A.J." McLean, Brian "B-Rok" Littrell and Nick Carter.

There is much to admire in these singing artists. First, they have talent and produce a quality product. Their songs, blessed with a magnificent use of harmony, both uplift and impress. They've also clearly overcome individual ego (a death blow for many musical groups) and work superbly as a team. I richly admire the sense of God's presence in their lives. In person, in interviews and in their album notes, they never fail to remember who made them and acknowledge that every gift is from above.

It's also great to note that the "boys" haven't gotten so big that they forget their families. You can hear the power of their gratitude to their mothers in the beautiful lyrics of their song "The Perfect Fan." We are reminded of their moms' love, prayers and guidance, as well as the blessings of God's grace, that got these young men where they are, as they salute Mom — the Perfect Fan:

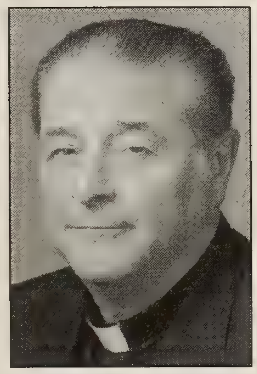
And it pleases me when I see a smile upon your face
I wanna thank you for what you've done
In hopes I can give back to you
And be the perfect son.

Its nice to achieve success. It's even better to appreciate all we have received from God and all who give of themselves to us. Mother's Day is a perfect time to say "Thank you" to all the good women who formed us, shaped us and loved us unconditionally. We are so richly blessed!

Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist



Reader Inquires About Confusing Biblical References

Q. Two Scripture readings during Lent really have me confused. On Tuesday of the third week of Lent, the first reading includes Daniel 3:34-43. In the Good News Bible and in others I consulted, Daniel ends at verse 30. Is this a misprint?

Also, on Thursday of Week 1, it says the first reading is from "Esther C." What and where is Esther C? (Wisconsin)

A. You're very alert to catch these anomalies, and they are confusing. Both involve parts of the Old Testament which are in Catholic Bibles but are not included in Bibles printed under Protestant auspices.

Protestant tradition refers to these books and parts of books as "apocrypha"; they are holy writings but, for reasons we cannot explain again here, are not considered authentic sacred Scripture.

All the Bibles to which you referred were obviously so-called Protestant Bibles. In Catholic Bibles, the book of Daniel contains several famous dramatic episodes not found in Protestant Bibles. And Chapter 3 has many more than 30 verses.

The book of Esther, another hoary, attention-grabbing tale sacred in Jewish tradition, was written originally in Hebrew. A later Greek edition added lots of detail (107 verses) to the original story.

These interspersed additions are also among the apocrypha and are therefore not part of the Protestant Bibles. Catholic editions do contain them, but precede these verses with the letters A through F to distinguish them from the original Hebrew sections which are numbered. The reading to which you refer is found under the letter C.

An excellent Catholic Bible to read and have as reference is the St. Joseph Edition of the New American Bible. It offers brief and understandable explanations of these sorts of concerns.

The Tomb of Mary

Q. I have asked several priests but cannot find out where exactly is the real tomb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Is it Ephesus? Or the Church of Dormition in Jerusalem? Or somewhere else? (New York)

A. Maybe one reason you haven't received a direct answer is that no one really knows.

According to the Gospel of John, shortly before his death on the cross Jesus gave the care of his mother to the "disciple whom Jesus loved." Since this beloved disciple was perhaps the apostle John, and John supposedly died at Ephesus (in present Turkey), one tradition is that Mary died and was buried there.

I believe the more commonly accepted opinion today, however, is that she spent her final years in or around Jerusalem and died there. At least today, there seems to be no claim that the Church of the Dormition (Sleeping) of Mary, near the Cenacle in Jerusalem, is the true location of Our Lady's death or burial.

Before I'm flooded with letters about assorted private revelations certifying that the mother of Jesus was definitely buried in one of these locations or another, let me repeat that such disclosures may be helpful to some people's faith. They add no historic authenticity, however, to what we know about such matters from early Christian witnesses, including the Scriptures.

Wherever she was buried, if in fact she was buried at all, Catholic belief is, of course, that her body was assumed into heaven when her life on earth was completed.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

The National Religious Retirement Fund is deeply grateful for the generosity of the people of the Diocese of Charlotte for their generosity in contributing to the care of senior religious. We religious are humbled by the love and respect for the lives and service of our senior religious that is evidenced by such generosity. The contribution of $219,063.90 from Appeal XIII for 2000, will be of great assistance in funding the well-deserved care of our 52,000 senior religious.

The support made possible by the generosity of the donors is a great consolation for retired religious. It gives them peace of mind when they see their religious institutes able to continue to carry out the mission entrusted to them.

May our loving God bless you for your generosity.

Gratefully,
Sister Andree Fries, CPPS
Executive Director
National Religious Retirement Office
Washington, DC

Dear Bishop Curlin:

On behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, I am writing to thank you and all of the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte for your very generous contribution of $107,015.11. This support reflects the strong commitment of Catholics to helping the 32 million Americans living in poverty create more secure lives and stronger communities.

Over the past 30 years, through your generous support, the CCHD has strengthened its efforts to help people help themselves. CCHD-funded groups uphold the sacredness and dignity of human life by encouraging self-sufficiency and by educating all to the root causes of poverty and other injustices in our communities. Your generosity assisted CCHD-funded groups to secure successes like these:

Job creation. A group of young women who previously relied on welfare to support themselves and their families are now in business for themselves, selling fresh gourmet pastas at a southern city's local farmer's market.

Youth leadership. Young people in the Midwest launched a billboard and media campaign to reduce neighborhood crime and drug use.

Community revitalization. A community group in an eastern city successfully urged banks to reopen branches in their neighborhood.

Pope John Paul II appeals to Christians to change the structures of injustice in society: "The promotion of justice is at the heart of a true culture of solidarity. It is not just a question of giving one's surplus to those in need, but of helping entire peoples presently excluded or marginalized to enter into the sphere of economic and human development." (World Day of Peace Message 2001)

Through their gifts to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the people of the Charlotte Diocese have joined with CCHD to help build that solidarity. We are grateful for your leadership and for the invaluable cooperation of your Diocesan Director, Dr. Bernard J. Offerman, whose partnership with us makes the CCHD's mandate a reality. This contribution represents a 15.4 percent increase over last year's gift. Many thanks to your clergy, religious and laity for this increase which is essential to meeting the needs of the poor in our country.

Gratefully in Our Lord,

Rev. Robert J. Vitillo
Executive Director, CCHD

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Misa En Español A Las 12:00
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PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Something old, something new

A weathered sign welcomes parishioners and visitors to St. Joseph Parish in Kannapolis as a new church is under construction on the parish grounds. Bishop William G. Curlin presided May 14, 2000, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new church, which will stand on the site of the old sanctuary built in 1949. If all goes according to schedule, the multicultural Catholic community in Kannapolis will be celebrating Mass in their new church by September. Redemptorist Father Karl Aschmann is administrator at St. Joseph Church, where a rapidly growing Hispanic community comes to worship with the U.S.-born families.

Diocese's former Web address now goes to porn site

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Because the address of its former Web site has apparently been purchased by a pornographic site, the Diocese of Cleveland is warning other Catholic dioceses to be sure to use its new domain name of www.dioceseofcleveland.org.

The diocese changed its Web site address a year ago. It kept its old domain name after the switch, but relinquished it May 3, said Bob Tayek, Cleveland diocesan communications director, in a May 7 e-mail to other diocesan communications directors.

"By Sunday (May 6), a porno site in Russia or Ukraine picked up the old address," he added. "Now anyone who is still using the old address comes upon that site."

The old name — an abbreviated and cryptic form of the diocese's name — also surfaces in some Internet searches for the Diocese of Cleveland.

Tayek told The Plain Dealer local daily newspaper that the diocese was exploring what recourse it had "to stop the site from luring the faithful to a porn marketplace."

Diocesan officials had not imagined that anyone would want to buy the diocese's old domain name, he said. "It's a hard lesson to learn," Tayek added.

School Board Openings for the Diocesan School Board

The Diocesan School Board has school board vacancies beginning 2001-02 school year. The School Board is a consultative body to the Bishop's representative, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools.

The Board meets monthly from September to May at various schools throughout the Diocese. The meetings take place during the week beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m.

To be eligible to serve, a board member must:

1. Be a practicing Catholic. A letter of verification and recommendation by the pastor is required.
2. Be a participating parishioner of a parish in the Diocese of Charlotte.
3. Have a genuine interest and commitment to Catholic schools.
4. Be able to work effectively with others in achieving consensus.

Members shall serve terms of three years.

Individuals having school committee, board, PTO, Athletic Association or other school experience are particularly encouraged to apply by sending a resume stating professional background and parish/school participation and letter stating why you would like to serve by June 8 to:

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Catholic Schools Office
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Parish Catechetical Leader: St. Joseph Parish, Kannapolis. Seeking a dedicated and spiritual leader for our faith education program. Must be certified catechist. Completion of Lay Ministry courses helpful but not necessary. Candidates shall have experience working with children, strong organizational skills, and leadership. Bilingual skills (Spanish) preferred but not necessary. Part-time (20-30 hours per week) with competitive salary. Send resume and salary requirements to: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Attn: PCL Position, PO Box 220, Kannapolis, NC 28202. Call (704)932-4607 for information or fax: (704)932-0566.

Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School seeks a principal beginning the 2001-2001 academic year. The school is a well-established parochial school with 61 years of operation. Applicants must be practicing Catholic, hold a teacher certification and a principal's license (or in progress). Applicants must have administrative experience and be willing to relocate to the Rocky Mount area. Please send your resume, references and salary history to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 328 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804 or fax your resume to 252-972-4780.

Stewardship & Development Officer - Newman Catholic Student Center at Duke University. New position responsible for all aspects of the planning, implementation and management of an effective stewardship and development program to support Catholic Campus Ministry financially. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree; five years successful experience in higher education or non-profit development; excellent organizational, planning and communication skills. Must be practicing Catholic. EOE. Send resume to Newman Catholic Student Center, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974 or email joev@duke.edu

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy High School is seeking full-time teachers in Chemistry/Biology and Studio Art. We are also seeking part-time teachers in Music and French. Interested parties should send a resume to: Our Lady of Mercy High School, John Cobis, Principal, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, Georgia 30213.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706)722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop Middle/High School and Young Adult Ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

JOBS WANTED

Nanny: Seeking position as full-time nanny in Charlotte area. Second grade teacher at Catholic school. References available. Please call Susan: (704)557-9264.

Alaska Catholics among those debating oil drilling in Arctic

By GEOFF KENNEDY
Catholic News Service

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (CNS) — The debate over developing an area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is as hot a topic for local residents as it is for environmentalists and lobbyists on Capitol Hill, as the Bush administration gears up for potential oil drilling there.

Catholics interviewed by The Catholic Anchor, Anchorage's archdiocesan newspaper, reflect the broad range of opinions on the issue. Some see it as responsible stewardship and others feel the proposal is the result of overzealous consumption.

Father Leo Walsh, pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Eagle River, described himself as "marvelously noncommittal" about developing the region.

For him, it is "a matter not of having all the answers, but asking the questions such as, can you develop responsibly and avoid undue harm to the environment?"

Humanity is part of the environment, he said, and "the earth is given for us to care for." But he added that care requires us to realize we are stewards, not owners of the earth.

"I lived here through the oil boom — and I can see the differences it made," Father Walsh said. "I want to live here the rest of my life and to be proud of where I live."

Since 1992, the average annual oil revenue going to the state has been $1.6 billion, according to the Alaska Department of Revenue.

Holy Cross Father LeRoy Clementich sees the prospect of drilling for oil in the wildlife refuge a global issue.

"How much longer can we continue to use those naturally limited resources at the rate we are using them and expect the people of the world to be able to exist in an ethically humane manner?" he asked.

Once the refuge is depleted, "what then?" he added.

Father Clementich, who is director of pastoral education for the Archdiocese of Anchorage, finds support in Scripture for both sides of the debate.

"On the one hand one could reasonably say that the resources of the earth were made for our responsible use; let's use them," he said. "But let us ask the correlative question: Are we being responsible stewards for the future or are we simply concerned about filling our 'gas guzzlers' in our own times?"

K.C. Kaltenborn of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in south Anchorage agreed that people are not just stewards of the earth but also of the future.

He is concerned about treating the Arctic refuge the way 19th-century Americans used the buffalo — as a mere commodity to be consumed as quickly as possible.

But Dave Campana, a member of east Anchorage's St. Patrick Parish, said, "God has put oil out there for our use."

He said it's only practical to drill for oil in the refuge because the current political climate doesn't encourage developing alternatives like wind, solar, and tidal power.

"They won't develop new types of energy sources until they use (up) the ones we have," he said.

Holy Family Cathedral parishioner Cecilia La Cara, who said she hasn't decided what is the right thing to do, said it should be decided by the people who live there.

But the opinions of those living near the refuge are just as divided.

A jurisdiction known as the North Slope Borough supports oil development on the refuge's coastal plain, which, residents say, is a lot safer than offshore development. Drilling on the Beaufort Sea threatens the bowhead whales that the Inupiat Eskimos depend on for subsistence and preservation of their culture.

Residents of Kaktovik, the only village in the refuge, mostly support oil development. Not only does it promise them jobs, but also more revenue for the North Slope Borough, which relies on money from taxing oil companies.

The Gwich'in Athabascans of the eastern Arctic do not live in the refuge, but for many generations they have survived by hunting caribou there. In fact, the name of the Indian tribe literally means "people of the caribou."

Cathie Schumacher, a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, thinks of these people and others who have little to live on, when she considers the effects of oil drilling in the refuge, also called ANWR.

She believes Pope John Paul II's 1990 statement on the environment speaks to the current situation, particularly the words: "It is manifestly unjust that a privileged few should continue to accumulate excess goods, squandering available resources, while masses of people are living in conditions of misery at the very lowest level of subsistence."

"We are the privileged few" the pope described, she said.

"Drilling in ANWR shows us accumulating more excess goods and squandering more resources," she added, "with no thought of future consequences."

CNS photo by Michael Dinneen, Catholic Anchor

A caribou grazes underneath pipes near Prudhoe Bay, west of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Development experts say that the caribou have not been negatively impacted by oil fields there.

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Racial justice and the death penalty

RALEIGH — Race plays a defining role in determining who lives and who dies within the state of North Carolina's capital punishment system according to a groundbreaking study sponsored by the North Carolina Council of Churches and the Common Sense Foundation. The study, conducted under the leadership of a University of North Carolina political scientist and a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law, found that homicide defendants whose victims were white were 3.4 times more likely to be sentenced to death than those with non-white victims.

"This is a significant and major breakthrough....it proves the claim that racial bias exists (in the imposition of the death penalty)," said Robert W. Estill, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and former president of the North Carolina Council of Churches. "This is a vital piece of information."

> *"This is a significant and major breakthrough....it proves the claim that racial bias exists (in the imposition of the death penalty),"*
>
> *— Robert W. Estill, retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North*

The study, the first of its kind in the state in a generation, looked at more than 500 homicide cases in North Carolina from 1993 to 1997. Researchers using a 33-page list of questions set out to determine whether capital punishment cases were being driven by legal factors or by race. The data was reviewed for 36 factors that could impact the sentence in a death penalty case — variables that ranged from the age of the victim to the time between the trial and the district attorney's reelection. Factors which can legally play a role in determining whether the death penalty is imposed, such as previous convictions by the defendant for violent felony or homicide, were also considered.

When all the statistics were gathered, the study found that a defendant, regardless of race, whose victim was white was more likely to receive the death penalty. Indeed, statistically speaking, that defendant would more likely face death than someone who killed more than one person.

Isaac Unah, an assistant professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was the study's principal investigator, and Jack Boger, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law, was its principal director.

They write in their report, "North Carolina's capital system in the 1990s continues to be infected with patterns of racial discrimination that cannot be explained by any of the legitimate sentencing considerations that have been sanctioned by North Carolina's legislative and judicial branches."

The North Carolina Council of Churches opposes the death penalty.

"It is appropriate for us to be involved with this significant study," said George Reed, the Council's Executive Director. "Racial justice has been on our agenda since the Council's first days. Criminal justice issues, and especially opposition to the death penalty, have also been important to us over the years. So this combination of the two issues, racial justice and the death penalty, is one on which we, as people of faith, need to be involved."

The Chapel of the Cross, a part of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, which is a member of the NC Council of Churches, provided the impetus and a substantial portion of the funding to undertake the study. Syd Alexander, an attorney and Senior Warden on the Vestry there, said a donation from a church member made possible the $25,000 which served as seed money for the study. He said the Chapel Hill church's involvement in the project continues a history of activism on issues including pacifism and integration.

"The Chapel of the Cross has a long history of being socially active," Alexander said. "It's been a church that has taken stands."

Boger, a former director of the Capital Punishment Project of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, described the study as the most extensive of its kind in state history and proof that application of the death penalty was not color blind.

"It may have been permissible pre-Civil War. It may be have been permissible in Jim Crow North Carolina. It's shameful now," Boger said.

For more information, contact George Reed, Executive Director, The North Carolina Council of Churches at 919-828-6501 or e-mail nccofc@nccouncilofchurches.org

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Former teacher learns about the love of God

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — Parental influence was not the reason Rev. Mr. Tom Kak first embraced Catholicism. His mother faithfully took him to church every Sunday and was with him as the sacraments were administered, but neither she nor his father was Catholic. However, Rev. Mr. Kak suspects that his father had been baptized Catholic but never practiced the faith. A usual seven-day-a-week work schedule with the railroad and providing a stable home life for his family was his father's first priority.

Rev. Mr. Tom Kak

"It was very unusual in the 1930s for the Church to baptize kids who weren't Catholic, but there were two older cousins living with us at the time I was born who were Catholic, which is probably why I was baptized into the faith," explained Rev. Mr. Kak, who was born in Chicago. "I had a parochial school education and attended Jesuit high schools, starting with Campion, a prep school in Wisconsin." While in boarding school, he developed his love for books and also developed a knowledge of his faith by reading and attending daily Mass.

After his father's retirement, the Kak family moved to Tampa, Florida, and Rev. Mr. Kak was introduced to a new world, quite different from his own. "Back in those days, when you retired, you moved South. You did anything to get away from the winters. Tampa was a strange, little city to me at that time, and this was my first exposure to the Hispanic culture."

Because it was the "only thing that interested him and it seemed to be traditional," he majored in English and minored in French at the University of Tampa. After graduating, he began teaching in the public school system and then moved on to military schools in Kentucky, Indiana and Tennessee. The military school experience suited him better than public schools because of his experience with all-boys' parochial schools and during his year in a boarding school. "In military school, most often, I was the only Catholic on the staff, so a great deal of responsibility for the Catholic students fell my way. I got them to Mass, oversaw their catechism in the afternoons and helped them to prepare for confirmation."

Thus, Rev. Mr. Kak's dormant faith was reawakened because of his involvement with the students' spiritual lives. "I had put my faith on the back burner for a great many years from college on. Sunday morning comes, and you simply don't get up. I still talked about religion, but I wasn't practicing it as much."

While teaching, a desire to further his education led him to Notre Dame University for a master's degree in English and to McGill in Canada for a master's degree in French during the summers.

In 1970, after earning his master's in English, he moved to Hickory, North Carolina, to work at a non-public, co-ed school where his future wife, Emily, was the secretary. Two years later, they married, moved to High Point and began attending the Catholic and Episcopal Churches, his wife's faith.

One of their four children asked to go to faith formation classes at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, and it was that action that prompted Mrs. Kak's conversion. "I said 'God, thank you for the sign.' It was an easy transition for me," remembered Mrs. Kak.

Square and ballroom dancing helped Rev. Mr. Kak find his next job after leaving teaching. He met his next two bosses while twirling his wife on the floor. He worked part time for Davidson County Community College teaching English transfer classes while employed at the Employment Security Commission from which he retired a year and a half ago.

The idea of becoming a permanent deacon also danced around in Rev. Mr. Kak's head, but his wife decided that their children were too young for him to make that kind of commitment necessary. When the call for the diocese's second class came around, they were both ready; however, a mild heart attack threw a monkey wrench in his plans. "We figured the class had passed us by, but suddenly, they decided they would start another class. The eight of us were taken into formation when the second diaconate class started its second year."

Rev. Mr. Kak was ordained in 1989 and says that it was something that originally appealed to him and has kept him in focus. "The permanent diaconate is another tie to the reality of God rather like that of the working world or a family. It is a part of the 'trinity' of life - work, family and God - and the permanent diaconate makes all of that stronger."

He says his biggest supporter, his wife, has been with him every step of the way, and his children and granddaughter have also lent support. "The first time around I was a little hesitant because my conscience would not allow me to think about Tom not being able to remarry with four small children if something were to have happened to me. The second time, we were both ready, and I was willing to do what needed to be done," said Mrs. Kak, who works with Engaged Encounter, a hospital volunteer program and at the local community clinic with her husband.

"The permanent diaconate has done more for my marriage than anything. My husband and I have shared the diaconate from day one. I am incredibly proud to be a deacon's wife and to be a part of the ministry of the Catholic Church."

The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

May 18, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 35

Inside

Bishop Howze of Biloxi retires; served in N.C. ... Page 7

Pope gives World Communications Day message ... Page 11

Local News

Belmont Abbey College welcomes new president ... Page 4

Young adult program helps shape communities ... Page 15

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

Christ's Ascension gives us hope. He who made the promise is trustworthy.

- Sunday Missal
- Catholic Book Publishing Company

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Community service leader receives CSS Beatty Award

BY JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — For more than a quarter century, the names of Caroline Love Myers and Crisis Assistance Ministry have been synonymous. As one of the agency founders, Myers spent years connecting the needs of many with the resources necessary to keep a shadow population from falling through a void and into despair.

On May 10, Catholic Social Services bestowed its highest honor — the Colonel Beatty Award — to Myers during the service agency's annual 'Wings of Hope Annual Gala.'

The Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award — established in 1991 — is presented annually to an individual whose strong religious faith promotes effective church and public service in Mecklenburg County.

Former recipient Diane English called the selection of Myers a perfect match. "As we remember and honor Colonel Beatty and his life, his faith and his service, we know that he would be particularly delighted by tonight's award," said English. "Like Colonel Beatty, Caroline has blended family, faith and service."

"Seeing those in need and seeking to respond is what led Caroline to devote herself to Crisis Assistance Ministry which she helped found in 1975," said English. "Caroline and Crisis Assistance have helped all sectors of our community."

Crisis Assistance, as its name implies, exists for those in dire need. It is a first-line response agency for families and individuals facing crises. Be it a potential eviction, need for food, or someone facing disconnection of utility services, in Mecklenburg County, those in need know to call Crisis Assistance for a myriad of needs.

"We can attest to the fact that this community has a passion for caring growth. In honoring me, you are honoring the accomplishments of that wonderful organization," said Myers. "Thankfully it is a community-wide effort to which many people are called. The clergy and lay people who formed the first board of directors wanted to involve the entire faith community. Their commitment was not only to lend a helping hand ... but also to form an organization that would continue to be there when it was needed by those at the bottom of the economic ladder."

"During my 25 years of intense involvement with Crisis Assistance, I truly felt called to do God's work," said Myers.

"It's almost ludicrous that I should get an award for doing a job that meant so much to me," she added. "Nevertheless, I thank you and applaud Crisis Assistance Ministry and Catholic Social Services for their distinguished effort to serve the people God holds most dear."

Past recipients of the Colonel Francis J. Beatty Award include: James Babb, Chuck Grace, Ray Farris, John Engler, Peter Keber, Mercy Sister Mary Thomas Burke, Diane English, Janice Valder-Offerman, and Jerry Fox.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Foundation for faith and learning

As the new Bishop McGuinness High School nears completion, teachers Shirley Shaw, Connie Rafferty and Susan Layman look over the school blueprints with Principal George Repass. BMHS will open this fall for students in the Triad.

Athletes, parents, coaches discuss character in sports

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — A conference sponsored by the University of Notre Dame's Mendelson Center for Sport, Character & Culture May 10-12 brought together athletes, psychologists, parenting experts, parents, coaches and youngsters for a win-win event. "Sports for All, Sports for Character," a free community event for children ages 10 to 14, closed the conference May 12 with help from Notre Dame coaches Mike Brey, Muffet McGraw, Deb Brown, Tim Welsh and representatives from the Notre Dame men's and women's soccer teams. While two dozen youngsters were running dribble drills and defense stances in the University of Notre Dame's Joyce Center, some of their parents upstairs listened to a lecture on a sportsmanlike approach to youth sports.

Pope calls for end to 'spiral of absurd violence' in Mideast

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Israeli-Palestinian violence escalated, Pope John Paul II appealed to the international community to step in and help end the "spiral of absurd violence." The pope made his remarks at a Sunday blessing at the Vatican May 13. The same day, Israeli helicopters shelled Palestinian offices near Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Gaza, and five Palestinian policemen were killed in a shootout with Israeli troops in the West Bank. The pope said that during his May 4-9 trip to Greece, Syria and Malta, he had been saddened by continuing reports of attacks in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Lech Walesa credits pope for communism's downfall

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (CNS) — When communism collapsed in Eastern Europe in 1989, the world had two sons of Poland to thank — Lech Walesa and Pope John Paul II. But when Walesa spoke through an interpreter at a press conference in Kansas City May 4, on the eve of "Polski Day" celebrations commemorating Polish independence, there was no question in his mind who deserved the greater credit. "At the moment when the pope was elected I think I had, at the most, 20 people that were around me and supported me — and there were 40 million Polish people in the country," said Walesa. "However ... a year after (the pope's) visit to Poland, I had 10 million supporters and suddenly we had so many people willing to join the movement," he added. "I compare this to the miracle of the multiplication of bread in the desert." Walesa, the shipyard electrician who formed the first noncommunist labor union in the Soviet bloc in 1980 and was elected the first postcommunist president of Poland in 1990, met with reporters in Kansas City before going to nearby Warrensburg to speak at Central Missouri State University.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pilgrims rush to touch statue of Mary in Spain

Pilgrims rush to touch the statue of the Virgin of the Defenseless in Valencia, Spain, May 13. Each year the statue is carried in procession from the city basilica to its cathedral in honor of Mary.

Foreign aid not enough to rebuild El Salvador, says bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Foreign aid funds are not enough to rebuild El Salvador after the series of devastating earthquakes in January and February, said Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador. The political situation also must be rebuilt so that people have a better quality of life, he said. Salvadorans want a new country without the "vices of corruption and impunity," he said during a May 10 briefing in Washington for journalists and congressional aides. Bishop Rosa Chavez asked Americans to pressure the U.S. government so that it requires greater accountability from the Salvadoran government regarding use of foreign aid funds.

Heads of women's religious orders vow to defend all women

ROME (CNS) — Women religious are called to bring God's tenderness to all who are hurting, especially to exploited and abused women and children, said participants in an international meeting of religious superiors. More than 750 superiors of women's orders from 77 countries met in Rome May 6-10 for the plenary meeting of the International Union of Superiors General. The superiors vowed to work together "to alleviate and counteract globally all forms of injustices, misuse of power, domination and exploitation, especially when these are directed toward children and women, including women religious." The meeting came on the heels of media reports about the sexual abuse of women religious, particularly in Africa, by priests.

Charity tax credit has good points but flaws, panelists say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The use of tax credits to spur charitable giving could be a good thing, suggested some panelists at a May 9 forum on the subject, but they also warned of the financial and public policy effects of such a move. In her study of three states that have some form of charity tax credit, former White House domestic policy adviser Margy Waller said there is no evidence that charitable giving increased as a result of the tax credit. Sharon Daly, Catholic Charities USA's vice president for social policy, said the charity tax credit "is just one tool in the toolbox," and that in attempts to take it nationwide, "both God and the devil are in the details." Waller's report said, "People give where they live, and poor communities would be losers in a system that depends on charitable giving to support community needs."

Vatican document undermines Vatican II, says ICEL chairman

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — A new document setting rules for translating the liturgy threatens to undermine the values of the Second Vatican Council, said the chairman of the English-speaking bishops' commission on liturgy. Bishop Maurice Taylor of Galloway, Scotland, chairman of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy, said the Vatican instruction appears to centralize authority and remove it from the local bishops. Responding to publication of "Liturgiam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy") by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, he said it "seems to go against some of the principal values that were stated in the Second Vatican Council, notably the principle of subsidiarity — that decisions should be taken not at the top, but at the lowest possible level."

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 24 — 7:30 p.m.
Feast of the Ascension Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

May 25 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of Mercy,
Winston-Salem

May 27 — 11:30 a.m.
Confirmation
Immaculate Conception,
Hendersonville

May 29 — 7:30 p.m.
Confirmation
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
High Point

May 30 — 7 p.m.
Confirmation
Sacred Heart, Salisbury

Diocesan planner

May

23 GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual May luncheon today at noon at the Sedgefield Country Club. All will have the opportunity to enjoy table-to-table summer fashion modeling from the Acorn Women's Clothing Store, raffle prizes, new board installation and other events. For more information about the May 17 deadline and other details, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

23 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for other Irish Catholic men to join for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location of tonight's meeting.

24 BELMONT — The Abbey Players/Belmont Community Theatre will be presenting its last play of the season starting tonight at 7:30 p.m. through June 2 at the Haid Theatre on the campus of Belmont Abbey College, 100 Belmont-Mt. Holly Rd. Martin McDonagh's "The Beauty Queen of Leone" is a play set in rural Ireland about the mental and emotional struggles between a mother and daughter. For further information or tickets, call (704) 825-6787.

25 WINSTON-SALEM — The next diocesan Worldwide Marriage Encounter meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Winston-Salem. Marriage Encounter is a 44-hour weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, children, chores and phones to focus on each other. For further details about the May 18 deadline and other information, call Tom and Emile Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

26 SYLVA — The Liturgy of the Hours, which includes the Psalter, will be the topic of discussion at the May meeting of the Lay Carmelite Community of St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St. Anyone interested in learning about the Liturgy of the Hours

Ecology, liturgy, doctrine, ethics, refugees on bishops' agenda

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Global warming, the Middle East crisis and U.S. refugee policy are among issues the U.S. Catholic bishops will face at their June national meeting. They also will be asked to approve documents on questions ranging from ethics in health care to Catholic eucharistic teaching, from liturgical norms to how theologians are authorized to teach in Catholic colleges. One liturgical proposal would make each Jan. 22, the anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court abortion decisions, "a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person." A Mass for Peace and Justice would be celebrated throughout the country that day, and if Jan. 22 is a Sunday, the liturgical observance would move to Jan. 23. The bishops will meet June 14-16 in Atlanta.

Collection for retired religious hits another new high

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The annual collection for retired religious hit a new high, as last December's collection raised $32.6 million, topping the previous record of about $31.5 million set the year before. In all, the appeal has raised $351.1 million in its 13 years, making it by far the most successful nationwide Catholic collection in history. Of the $32.6 million raised in the most recent collection, $27.5 million will be distributed in basic grants in June. Nearly 500 congregations of religious sisters, brothers and priests are expected to receive the grants. Another $4 million will be distributed during autumn in the form of supplemental grants to meet special needs of some religious orders. The remaining $1 million will be given out in grants next spring.

Fla. lawmakers expand vouchers by using tax breaks for business

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Florida lawmakers expanded a state school voucher program by approving legislation to give tax breaks to corporations that provide scholarships to children from low-income families who want to attend private school. They also approved a bill to help disabled students get access to public funds to attend private schools. Florida lawmakers approved the measures before closing their 2001 60-day legislative session at midnight May 4. The Florida Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops, said it planned to evaluate the new legislation.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Poster for exhibit promotes 'coexist' theme

A large poster promoting the theme of coexistence hangs in the Old City of Jerusalem May 13. The poster, incorporating the Islamic half moon, the Jewish Star of David and the Christian cross, is part of a showing of international artists. The outdoor exhibit is to travel worldwide to cities that have a history of violent confrontation and division.

Pope beatifies three Maltese, calls them guides for future

VALLETTA, Malta (CNS) — On the last day of his pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Paul, Pope John Paul II beatified three Maltese Catholics and called them guides for the church's future. Malta, an almost entirely Catholic country with deep feelings of friendship toward the pope, gave him a rousing welcome during his May 8-9 visit. Many on the Mediterranean island took a two-day holiday in the pope's honor. Celebrating Mass in Valetta May 9, the pope beatified Father George Preca, who founded a movement devoted to Catholic teaching and evangelization; Sister Maria Adeodata Pisani, a cloistered nun known for her commitment to the poor; and Ignatius Falzon, who evangelized among British sailors and boat workers in the 1800s.

'Decisive action' urged on Catholic politicians who back abortion

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio (CNS) — Catholics United for the Faith is urging its 10,000 members to pray daily that the church "take appropriate, decisive action" against Catholic politicians who support abortion. "We encourage pastors of souls who have pro-abortion Catholic legislators within their jurisdiction to exercise their moral and, if need be, canonical authority to bear prophetic witness to the truth," said an eight-page position paper issued by the group April 30. Calling abortion "a pressing human rights issue" and "always and everywhere an abominable crime," the paper noted that there are currently about 70 Catholics in Congress "who consider themselves 'pro-choice.'"

U.S. bishops' leader welcomes new liturgy instruction

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops welcomed the new Vatican instruction on translating liturgical texts and said it reflects long consultations between the Vatican and English-speaking bishops. "It is now our hope and expectation that there will be a much quicker approval of liturgical texts" by the Vatican, said the NCCB president, Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston. The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments issued the new instruction, "Liturgiam Authenticam" ("The Authentic Liturgy"), May 7. It bears the subtitle, "On the Use of Vernacular Languages in the Publication of the Books of the Roman Liturgy." The instruction sets stricter rules for the translation of Latin liturgical texts into other languages.

Pope, in Malta, says Gospel offers world a moral beacon

VALLETTA, Malta (CNS) — On the last leg of a pilgrimage that traced the missionary route of St. Paul, Pope John Paul II arrived in Malta and said the Gospel offers a moral beacon for the world. On the island where St. Paul was shipwrecked during his final missionary voyage to Rome, the pope recalled that the apostle and his companions were taken care of by the Maltese "with unusual kindness." Malta became a place where the "humanism of the Gospel" flourished, and this heritage is especially needed in the fast-changing modern society, he said at an airport welcoming ceremony May 8. The pope was greeted by Maltese President Guido de Marco, and was to preside over a beatification Mass the next day, the last event in a six-day trip that also took him to Greece and Syria.

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and in participating in a demonstration of Morning Prayer is invited to attend after the 9 a.m. Mass. Contact Linda Knauer at (828) 631-3561 or Kathy Starr at (828) 586-9303 for details.

27 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will be meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

28 CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia will be taking place today and every fourth Monday from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

June

1 MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be hosting a men's retreat, "Take Courage and Be a Man," today through June 3. Themes for the retreat include being a Christian and family leader, responding to challenges, reconciling and being reconciled and "letting go and letting God" and will be presented by Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, director, and others. For further details about this event which could make an early gift for Father's Day, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

3 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

3 CHARLOTTE — Because of Pentecost, a charismatic Mass, celebrated by Father Dean Cesa from St. Patrick, will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

3 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at the Showfety Activity Center at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

3 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic/healing Mass at 4 p.m. today followed by prayer teams and a potluck dinner. Father John Putnam will be the celebrant. For further details, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

4 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on June 5 at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217. For further information, call Bob Poffenbarger, Sr., coordinator, at (704) 553-7000.

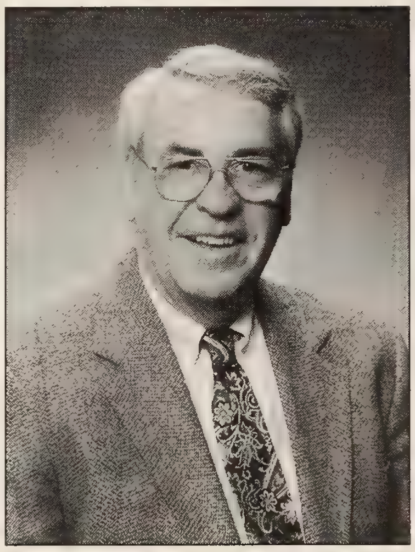
4 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on July 2. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Belmont Abbey College announces new president

BELMONT — The trustees of Belmont Abbey College have selected Dr. James L. Gearity as the 125-year-old school's 14th president. He succeeds 1953 Belmont Abbey graduate Dr. Robert A. Preston, who will return to teaching and direct the college's Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture.

"I am pleased to welcome Dr. Gearity as the next leader of our historic liberal arts institution," said Jerry Schmitt, chairman of the board of trustees. "Dr. Gearity's vision for Belmont Abbey College fits squarely with our mission. I am confident that he is the person to help us achieve our next level of excellence."


Dr. James L. Gearity

Dr. Gearity has almost 30 years of experience in higher education as faculty member and administrator, most of it at Catholic colleges and universities.

He comes to Belmont Abbey from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, where he has served as provost and professor of history. He was dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1991-1999 at Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., following a career in academic administration at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minn., and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Dr. Gearity was also the senior development officer for American Public Radio (now Public Radio International) from 1985-1988.

He has taught at each institution for which he has worked, as well as at the College of Mt. St. Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y. and the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minn. His teaching specialties include contemporary American popular culture, research methodologies and the non-profit sector in the United States.

Dr. Gearity earned his bachelor's degree in English from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. He holds master's degrees in Theology from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisc. and in History from Fordham University in the Bronx, N.Y., where he was also assistant dean of students. His doctorate in American Studies is from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Preston will continue to serve through June 30 and Dr. Gearity will assume his duties as president on July 1.

"I am very pleased both with the search process and its successful conclusion," said Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B., chancellor of the college and co-chairman of the search committee. "All constituencies were heard in the process and Dr. Gearity consequently enjoys broad support among the entire college community. I am confident that Dr. Gearity has the right combination of intellectual acumen, personality and dedication to uphold Belmont Abbey College's mission as a Catholic and Benedictine institution, and to promote its continued excellence as a liberal arts college."

Dr. Gearity said of his appointment, "I am proud to be invited to be a part of the Belmont Abbey College community. I thank everyone for the trust they are giving to me, and I am eager to join the college."

Massachusetts nun ringing bells against death penalty

By LISA GENTES
Catholic News Service

MEDFORD, Mass. (CNS) — Sister Dorothy Briggs is swamped with work: painting, praying and recruiting religious organizations to ring their bells in opposition to the death penalty.

The Dominican nun is one of the U.S. founders of "For Whom the Bells Toll," an international campaign to end capital punishment.

U.S. participants in "For Whom the Bells Toll" ring bells for two minutes at 6 p.m. every evening that there is an execution in the United States.

Sister Briggs has run the nationwide program from the tiny office in her home in Medford since last September when she sent out 700 letters to church-related organizations. "It has taken on a life of its own," she said. "This campaign, it's mushrooming. Three to 400 people are involved."

The program has the most supporters in Kentucky, Illinois, and Michigan, she said. "I never wanted this to be all Catholic. I wanted it to be all people of faiths. We have a lot of non-Catholic groups."

Philippine Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila founded the first "For Whom the Bells Toll" movement, asking the Catholic churches in his country to toll the bells in mourning of a Philippine citizen's execution. Bishop Walter F. Sullivan of Richmond, Va., learned of the initiative and started the bell tolling in his diocese.

Currently 100 churches in 32 states are participating in the program, Briggs told The Pilot, newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese.

Among its supporters are Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants, a criminal justice reform organization; Sister Briggs' order; and the American Friends Service Committee's criminal justice program in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Participating parishes in Massachusetts include St. Luke's Church and St. Joseph's Church in Belmont, St. John the Evangelist Church in Swampscott, and Sacred Heart Church and St. Joseph's Church in Medford.

To protest death sentences, participants do not need bells. They can drape a black cloth over their front door, or tie a black ribbon on a utility pole to spread awareness to their own communities, Sister Briggs said.

The program has received some negative feedback. "One comment often heard is, Why don't you toll the bells for dead babies?" Sister Briggs said. "This is not a campaign for the abortion issue. It is a campaign for life. We can't mix the two as one issue. It wouldn't work. However, I certainly deplore abortion."

Sister Briggs has hope for the campaign against capital punishment.

"The collection of all the groups that are trying to end the death penalty will succeed eventually," she said.

She added that she "never dreamed" the bell-tolling effort would go so far.

But "there's still a lot of work to do," Sister Briggs said. "I'm going to get schools and everyone involved in it. If I had more help it would go faster, but I'm taking it one day at a time. It's the hardest thing I've ever done."

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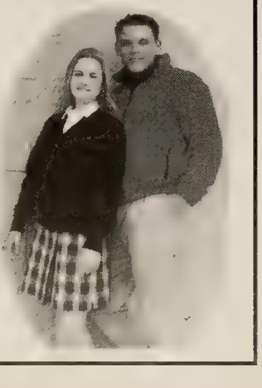

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St. Joseph Church hosts Spanish Mission

KANNAPOLIS — St. Joseph Church, 108 St. Joseph St., will be having a parish mission in Spanish from May 28-June 2, beginning each night at 7:30 p.m. Redemptorist Fathers Pablo Straub and Roberto Coleman from Mexico will be the facilitators and will be visiting with area families for the duration of the mission. Those who know the Spanish language or wish to learn more about the Hispanic culture are invited to attend the mission for talks, fellowship, reconciliation and Mass. For further details, call the church office at (704) 932-4607 from 9 a.m.-noon weekdays.

Light Weigh Workshop

CHARLOTTE — The Light Weigh is a 12-week Catholic, spiritual growth, weight-loss program designed to deepen one's relationship with Jesus while learning to eat favorite foods in moderation. An orientation will be offered May 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., in the faith formation wing of the parish center. For more information, call Karen Acken at (704) 556-9404.

Christian Coffeehouse scheduled

CHARLOTTE — The Christian Coffeehouse at St. Matthew Church's "Youth and Young Adult Night" will be June 10 at 7 p.m. in the parish center at 8015 Ballantyne Commons Parkway. Spiritual messages, live music, snacks and socializing will highlight the event.

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May 18, 2001

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Pentecost Sunday, June 3, 2001, I will gather with Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Diocese of Raleigh and Bishop Leonard Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Covenant which bonds Catholics and Lutherans in North Carolina.

It was on Pentecost Sunday, 1991, when Bishop John Donoghue, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman and Bishop Michael McDaniel signed the original Covenant. The commitments of the Covenant are still important. Among them we:

— pray for each other as we celebrate Eucharist in our respective communions;
— pray together at joint services;
— continue observances such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
— invite official observers to councils and assemblies;
— share programs and personnel at the diocesan/synodical level;
— encourage local covenants;
— reflect together on God's Word in Scripture and theology classes;
— seek a better understanding of each other's traditions and beliefs;
— study together the results of Lutheran/Catholic dialogues at the national level;
— collaborate in training and planning programs;
— communicate and act at the parish level on matters of common concern;
— cooperate in areas of justice and human service;
— develop a deeper working relationship between the bishops and their staffs;
— promote social events that will bring people together.

Over the past ten years much has been accomplished in pursuit of these goals, and yet, there is so much more to do. It is my prayer that this celebration of renewal will breathe new life into the Covenant, that people who were not a part of our Diocese or Synod ten years ago would be active in its ongoing implementation.

I invite you to come join us at St. Pius X Church, Greensboro, on June 3, 2001, at 4:00 p.m. and to pray in your local parishes on Pentecost Sunday that the Holy Spirit will continue to empower us to achieve full communion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

CNS PHOTO BY JOE BOLLIG, THE LEAVEN

Lech Walesa addresses U.S. media

Former Polish President Lech Walesa speaks at a news conference in Kansas City, Mo., May 4. The former president of Poland called Pope John Paul II "the gift of divine providence" for his contributions to the eventual defeat of communism in Europe.

Blessed Damien observance moved

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican has agreed to move the U.S. observance of the feast of Blessed Damien de Veuster from April 15 to May 10. Blessed Damien is the Belgian Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary priest who served at the leper colony of Molokai in the Hawaiian Islands from 1873 until his death in 1889. Leprosy, now known as Hansen's disease, was incurable and Father Damien contracted it from working with his people. Pope John Paul II beatified him in 1995. The U.S. bishops asked that the memorial be observed May 10, the anniversary of Blessed Damien's arrival in Molokai, rather than April 15, the anniversary of his death. The May date already was established as the observance by the Diocese of Honolulu and by his religious order.

U.S. cardinal addresses lay spirituality

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — The spirituality of lay people ought to be characterized by poverty and freedom of spirit, said the Vatican's top laity official. U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, spoke April 29 to more than 200 participants at "Spirituality in the Workplace," a workshop sponsored by the Sacramento Diocese. He also gave his talk the previous day in San Francisco. Since the Second Vatican Council, lay people are perceived as integrally involved in the mission of the church, he said. But he suggested that lay Catholics must both study and go beyond Vatican II's explicit references to the laity.

Church, civic activities earn woman Mexican mother-of-year honors

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — She is a tiny, tireless dynamo, as widely known among fellow parishioners for her delectable dishes as for her decades-long devotion to St. Lawrence of Brindisi Church in Watts. And at age 91, Margarita Calderon Flores — or "Tia Maguita," as her nieces call her — is very much a live wire, with an infectious sense of humor. "I'm only 4-foot something — and I'm shrinking more and more every year," joked the 4-foot-10-inch Flores in an interview with The Tidings, Los Angeles archdiocesan newspaper. Her pastor, Capuchin Franciscan Father Peter Banks, said that she "still cooks tamales for the school children, works for the seniors, raises funds for the parish — she is a walking example of love."

Actor Kelsey Grammer finds joy in all occasions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Actor Kelsey Grammer, TV's "Frasier," has been fodder for enough supermarket tabloids and tabloid-TV shows because of his past drinking and drug excesses.. Now clean and sober, Grammer said during a May 9 conference call with television writers that there is always a reason to be joyful. "Despite the absurdities of life, there is still a reason to rejoice," said Grammer, a Catholic. "That's the way I've lived my life." Asked what books he would bring to a desert island, Grammer replied, "Frasier might pick (Marcel) Proust, but Kelsey would choose the Bible and Shakespeare."

Nun says learning has been lifelong passion

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — At 84, Sister Anne Joachim Moore is one of the oldest graduates in the history of the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. In December, the Sister of St. Joseph added a master's degree in theology to her academic track record. Her other degrees include a nursing degree, which she earned in 1937; bachelor's in science degrees, earned in 1946 and 1949; a master's in education, 1958; and a doctorate in educational administration, 1977. "I earned those other degrees to be qualified for a job," Sister Anne Joachim told The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. "I earned my master's in theology because I wanted it personally."

Lasorda's proud to be a Catholic, supporter of charitable causes

VERO BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — Chatting with Japanese reporters while leading a pack of baseball scouts from the Dominican Republic through the "Dodgertown" spring training camp this year in Vero Beach, Tommy Lasorda of the Los Angeles Dodgers was all energy. "Dodger Blue" spoke to his guests from Santo Domingo in the rough Spanish he picked up back when the Brooklyn, N.Y., Dodgers trained in Havana. He had just finished serving as lector for an annual memorial Mass celebrated locally for deceased members and friends associated with Dodgertown since 1948. Lasorda, a vice president for the Dodgers, has long been committed to church-affiliated causes and charities, especially Catholic education. He has addressed numerous Catholic organizations and diocesan events around the country.

Heads of religious charities urge changes in tax law on children

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of Catholic Charities USA has joined with the heads of other religiously affiliated social service organizations in urging Congress to make the Earned Income Tax Credit and the child tax credit benefit more families. Specifically the leaders recommended that the Earned Income Tax Credit be expanded to families with more than two children and that the proposed $1,000 child tax credit be fully refundable, even for families who owe no taxes. "These relatively simple measures can provide a great deal of relief to low-income working families and their children," said Jesuit Father Fred Kammer in a May 7 letter to Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. The letter also was signed by representatives of Lutheran Services in America, Volunteers of America Inc. and the Salvation Army.

Human rights group: U.S. nun's murder may have political roots

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) — The killing of a U.S. nun in Guatemala may have political roots, said human rights activists in Guatemala City. The Mutual Support Group, Guatemala's largest group of war victims and human rights activists, said May 7 that the killing of Charity Sister Barbara Ann Ford of New York was "of a political nature." Sister Ford died of gunshot wounds after an assault in Guatemala City May 5. Initial reports indicated she was shot while resisting an attempt by thieves to steal her church-owned pickup truck. In a statement, the group said Sister Ford's vehicle was taken, then abandoned a few blocks away, where the killers robbed a second vehicle, only to abandon it. The group also said Sister Ford's work of "encouraging reconciliation among Guatemalans" was "surely not appreciated by those responsible for the pain and grieving" of people in the remote Quiche province where the 62-year old nun worked since 1989.

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Bishop Howze of Biloxi retires at 77; served in N.C.

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has accepted the resignation of Bishop Joseph L. Howze of Biloxi, Miss., and named the chancellor and vicar general of the New Orleans Archdiocese to succeed him.

At the time of his retirement, the 77-year-old Bishop Howze was the top-ranking active African-American bishop, having served as a bishop since 1972 and headed the Biloxi Diocese since 1977.

Msgr. Thomas J. Rodi, 52, was appointed as the new bishop of Biloxi.

The announcements were made May 15 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Born Aug. 30, 1923, in Daphne, Ala., Lawson Howze took the name Joseph when he converted to Catholicism in 1948. He graduated from Alabama State University in 1948, and entered the Seminary of Christ the King in East Aurora, N.Y.

In 1959 he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C. He became a priest of the Charlotte Diocese when North Carolina was divided into two dioceses less than a year before he was made a bishop.

He was a pastor in Asheville, N.C., and diocesan liturgy commission chairman, home mission director and Society for the Propagation of the Faith director when he learned he was to be named an auxiliary bishop of Natchez-Jackson, Miss., on Nov. 14, 1972. He was ordained to the episcopacy on Jan. 28, 1973.

When he was installed as bishop of the newly created Diocese of Biloxi on June 6, 1977, he was the first black bishop in this century to head a diocese. At the time the only African-American in the U.S. hierarchy was Auxiliary Bishop Harold R. Perry of New Orleans, who died in 1991.

The only other black bishop in U.S. Catholic history had been Bishop James A. Healy, Georgia-born son of an Irish immigrant father and a slave mother, who headed the Diocese of Portland, Maine, from 1875 to 1900.

With Bishop Howze's resignation, Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis, Tenn., becomes the ranking black Catholic bishop active in the United States. Five other African-American bishops currently head dioceses and five more serve as auxiliary bishops.

In his nearly 24 years as bishop of Biloxi, a diocese that covers the southern third of Mississippi, the Catholic population grew from about 50,000 to nearly 68,000 in a total population of more than 737,000.

Thomas John Rodi was born March 27, 1949, in New Orleans. He attended Catholic elementary and secondary schools in his home town, Georgetown University in Washington and Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans, where he earned a law degree in 1974.

In 1974, Bishop-designate Rodi entered Notre Dame Seminary where he pursued theological studies and obtained a master's of divinity degree. In 1986 he earned a degree in canon law from The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Ordained to the priesthood on May 20, 1978, Bishop-designate Rodi served from 1978 to 1989 as an assistant pastor and an administrator in several parishes in the New Orleans Archdiocese. He was director of the archdiocesan office of religious education, 1978-79; executive director for pastoral services, 1989-92; and was appointed chancellor of the archdiocese in 1992.

Named vicar general and moderator of the curia in 1996, Bishop-designate Rodi also served in various capacities in the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, including defender of the bond and prosynodal judge.

His episcopal ordination was scheduled for 3 p.m. July 2 in the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Biloxi.

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Catholic Church reaches out to Hispanics on social issues

BY AGOSTINO BONO

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The growing number of Hispanics in the United States is catching the eye of politicians.

President Bush recently began broadcasting a Spanish version of his weekly radio address. Democrats also have gotten the message. Digging into their cadre of Hispanic congressmen, they started a weekly Spanish radio program pushing their agenda.

"The Latino vote is coming out. I would like to believe we in the Catholic Church had a part in this," said Louis Velasquez, Hispanic ministry director for the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Velasquez and others involved in Hispanic ministry said in interviews that the church's work in reaching out to Hispanics with its social teachings and emphasis on political participation is starting to pay dividends.

Velasquez said that he uses a Spanish play on words to encourage voter registration. "Voto" in Spanish means "vote" and a "religious vow," he said.

"We tell Latinos that to vote means fulfilling their vow to be their brother's keeper," he added.

Through parish-based ministry, community organizing, seminars, workshops and lay leadership training courses, dioceses and church organizations across the country are informing Hispanics about social teachings and their public policy implications.

Velasquez said that he once brought a voting booth into a parish to show Hispanics the practical steps to casting their ballots.

The 2000 census reported 35.3 million Hispanics, 12.5 percent of the population. The number is a 57.9 percent increase over the 1990 census figure.

Based on the 2000 census, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials reported that 122 of the 435 congressional districts have significant Hispanic populations, defined as districts with at least 13 percent Hispanic makeup.

The Hispanic population is heavily Catholic. Although there are no precise figures, general estimates say 70 percent of Hispanics are Catholic.

For church leaders involved in Hispanic ministry, political participation goes beyond voting, especially in the Hispanic population with its significant number of non-U.S. citizens.

"We help people understand their role even as noncitizens," said Ronaldo Cruz, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Hispanic Affairs. "They have rights and responsibilities. They can work on issues. They can go door-to-door."

It also means putting Spanish in the classrooms and in printed materials.

The Los Angeles Archdiocese runs a three-year lay leadership course in Spanish which stresses social teachings as an integral part of the churches' pastoral and evangelical mission. About 300 people are enrolled in the current classes. It also operates a three-weekend summer course in Spanish just on social teachings.

Velasquez estimated that from 60 to 70 percent of the archdiocesan Catholic population of 4.1 million is Hispanic.

The California Catholic Conference posts public policy statements in Spanish on its Web site and makes Spanish-language materials available to diocesan officials.

One result has been growing Hispanic participation in the annual Catholic lobbying day in Sacramento, said Linda Wanner, the conference's associate director for government relations.

"We try to reach out and make those who speak Spanish feel welcomed," she said. This includes providing Spanish translations at briefings outlining the techniques of lobbying, she added.

In the Orange Diocese in Southern California parish-based community organizing is a major thrust in reaching Hispanics, said Auxiliary Bishop Jaime Soto. Several Catholic parishes are part of a network including Protestant churches and labor organizations.

The approach is "seeing the world through the Gospel and using the power of the Gospel to make change," he said.

Bishop Soto estimated that at least half of the diocese's 1.2 million Catholics are Hispanic.

In many dioceses, parish-based ministry and periodic diocese-wide meetings on social issues are the main outreach to Hispanics.

"Social ministry is part of pastoral ministry," said Father Aniceto Villamide, vicar for Hispanics in the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn.

The diocese also holds two to three seminars a year in the evenings, usually on immigration issues, he said.

Father Kirch, retired diocesan priest, dies at age 78

TAMPA, Fla. — Reverend Edmund Donald Kirsch, 78, a Catholic priest who served in the Diocese of Charlotte, died Sunday, May 13 at Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, Fla. He was born Nov. 12, 1922, in Quincy, Ill., to the late Frank and Mary (Mae) Fuelbier Kirsch. He was educated in Quincy schools and graduated from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. He married Dorothy Blomer on Sept. 23, 1948, in Quincy, Ill. After her death in February of 1983, Edmund entered Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn., in September 1984.

Father Kirsch was ordained a Catholic priest on May 21, 1988, in Charlotte, N.C. He served the Diocese of Charlotte until his retirement in July 1998. For seven years he served concurrently as pastor of St. William Parish in Murphy, N.C. and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Hayesville, N.C. Since his retirement, Father Kirsch had been residing in Sebring, Fla., where he assisted at St. Catherine Parish.

Prior to entering the seminary, he worked for 25 years at Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago, Ill. From 1956 until 1975, he and Dorothy lived in Kenosha, Wisc., and were active members of St. Mary Catholic Church. They are survived by five children: a daughter, Kay Sharp and her husband, John, of Bristol, Wisc.; three sons in Kenosha, Wisc., John Kirsch and his wife Sharon; Ronald Kirsch and his wife Karen; David Kirsch and his wife Jean; and a son, Dr. Michael Kirsch and his wife, Dr. Gayle Obermayr, of Sebring, Fla. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren. In addition to his wife, two brothers and five sisters preceded him in death.

Reverend Edmund Donald Kirsch

During World War II, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Army Infantry from October 1942 until January 1946. He was awarded bronze battle stars for action in Northern France, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Rhineland and Central Europe. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a Fourth Degree Member of the Catholic Knights of Columbus.

Interment was to take place at All Saints Cemetery.

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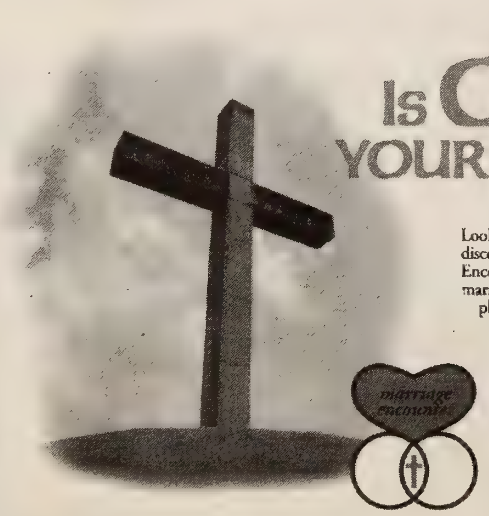
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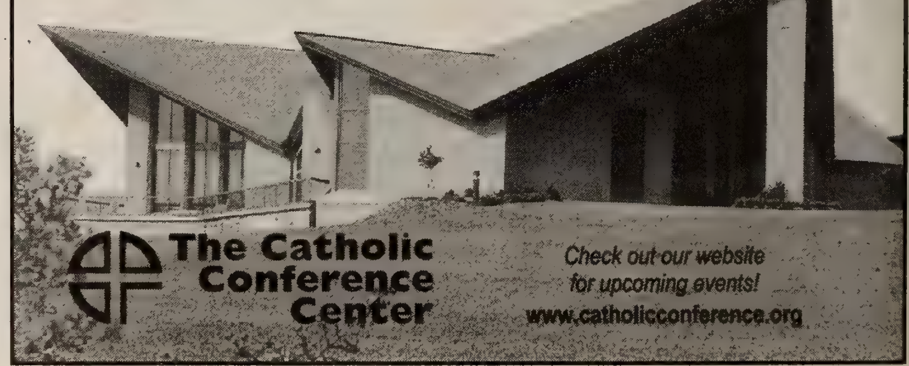
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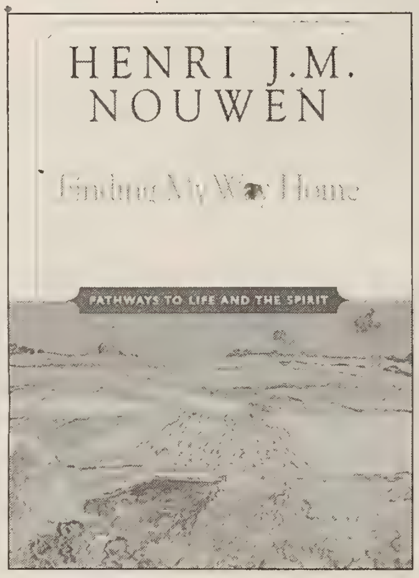
Book Review

Priest's book of essays addresses societal, spiritual issues

REVIEWED BY WAYNE A. HOLST
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

"Finding My Way Home" is a newly released collection of four essays by the late Father Henri Nouwen. Three of these essays appeared previously in booklet form. The fourth is new — edited rather liberally from Father Nouwen's notes by his literary executor, Sue Mosteller. Mosteller worked with Father Nouwen at L'Arche Daybreak near Toronto, a community for mentally and physically challenged people where Father Nouwen lived and worked for 10 years until his death in 1996.

***FINDING MY WAY HOME: PATHWAYS TO LIFE AND THE SPIRIT*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Crossroad (New York, 2001). 157 pp., $18.95**



Explaining the title of the collection, Mosteller writes in the preface: "Henri invariably stopped when a homeless person accosted us on the street. Not only did he find some money to share, but he generally took time to speak to the person, ask some questions and listen to the story." She recalls that in the following days Father Nouwen would remember the individual by name during his celebration of the Eucharist. "Henri felt akin to the homeless because he was deeply conscious of his own longing for home," Mosteller writes.

"The Path of Living and Dying," the book's final essay, represents a personal transformation after a serious accident. Father Nouwen survived the mishap but was deeply affected. During recovery, he became aware of life's "unfinished business." A revelation from God indicated: "I am going to bring you home." When he died seven years later Father Nouwen had begun to lose much of his fear and to see death as a fruitful experience.

"The Path of Waiting" — this reviewer's favorite because it addresses an important aspect of his own spiritual development — speaks of both the waiting for God and the waiting of God. "The Path of Power" deals with destructive and redemptive forces operative in the world and in our own hearts. "The Path of Peace" focuses on Adam, a profoundly disabled man with whom Father Nouwen lived at Daybreak.

Father Nouwen's pastoral and professional career is an example of a contemporary priest-psychologist who successfully integrated psychology's insights to broaden and deepen his ministry. He also demonstrated psychology's potential for modern spirituality. He was truly sensitive to the cultural currents of his age and provided spiritual responses to them through his writing.

Some have quipped that Father Nouwen did not write 40 different books, but rather one book 40 times. Most of his innovative themes have now been thoroughly presented. With his papers lodged at the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, researchers now have ready access to his total work. A whole new generation of Nouwen literature will no doubt be released to a reading world that continues to hunger for what he has to say.

New publications of material by and about Father Nouwen continue to debut. While the danger of becoming a cult figure always looms, the appearance of "Finding My Way Home" is an indication of this modern spiritual master's continuing relevance and substance.

Holst is an instructor in religion and culture at the University of Calgary.

Word to Life

May 20, Sixth Sunday of Easter
Cycle C Readings:
1) Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
2) Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
3) Gospel: John 14:23-29

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In the Gospel one of Jesus' disciples asks him, "Lord, why is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" How many of us have asked a similar question? There's even a contemporary Christian song that goes into great detail, suggesting that as curious as people are about him in our own age, why doesn't Jesus mount a big media campaign, "go on MTV," announce who he is and what he came to do?

We find it curious. Jesus just asked a few people to love the Father and be true to the word he had spoken to them, promising those who would comply that "we will come ... and make our dwelling place with him," and then, later, he promised he would send the "Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name."

We do well to ponder the progression given us in the four Scriptures for this Sunday. The Psalms reading speaks in grand terms of God's rule of all the peoples of the earth, saying, "May all the peoples praise you!" Yet, in Acts we have a tiny delegation from the early church being sent to instruct a new group of believers at Antioch and making the least possible requirements on them as they begin to center their lives on the "cause of our Lord Jesus Christ."

By the time we get to the Revelation reading, we have a vision of the completion of the building of the Kingdom of God on earth culminating in heavenly worship where there is no temple or need of sun or moon, "for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb."

But how do we get from the vision of the grand God who "rules the nations in equity" in Psalms to the city which needs neither light nor temple because God himself is its light and its center of worship? Through a crucified Savior, risen from the dead; by way of a small, perhaps even pitiable, band of followers, following as simple a set of directions as it was possible to give, and, oh yes, by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit — with them, guiding them, leading them, helping them build the kingdom.

And what is asked of us? We are not asked to accomplish great things, only to love the Father and the Son he has sent, to follow his teachings and to allow his Spirit to come and dwell with us.

QUESTION:
Keeping in mind that church teaching and the Scriptures must inform our consciences and our walk with God, can we really simplify our following of Jesus as much as these readings suggest?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 20 - 26, 2001

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Acts 15:1-2, 22-29, Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23, John 14:23-29; **Monday,** Acts 16:11-15, John 15:26-16:4; **Tuesday,** Acts 16:22-34, John 16:5-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1, John 16:12-15; **Thursday (The Ascension of our Lord),** Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Luke 24:46-53; **Friday (St. Bede, St. Gregory VII, St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi),** Acts 18:9-18, John 16:20-23; **Saturday (St. Philip Neri),** Acts 18:23-28, John 16:23-28

Readings for the week of May 27 - June 2, 2001

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26; **Monday,** Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday,** Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday (The Visitation of Mary),** Romans 12:9-16, Luke 1:39-54; **Friday (St. Justin),** Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs),** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

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World Communications Day 2001

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's message for 2001 World Communications Day, May 27, on the theme, "Preach from the Housetops: The Gospel in the Age of Global Communication."

1. The theme which I have chosen for World Communications Day 2001 echoes the words of Jesus himself. It could not be otherwise, for it is Christ alone whom we preach. We remember his words to his first disciples: "What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops" (Mt 10:27). In the secret of our heart, we have listened to the truth of Jesus; now we must proclaim that truth from the housetops.

In today's world, housetops are almost always marked by a forest of transmitters and antennae sending and receiving messages of every kind to and from the four corners of the earth. It is vitally important to ensure that among these many messages the word of God is heard. To proclaim the faith from the housetops today means to speak Jesus' word in and through the dynamic world of communications.

2. In all cultures and at all times — certainly in the midst of today's global transformations — people ask the same basic questions about the meaning of life: Who am I? Where have I come from and where am I going? Why is there evil? What is there after this life? (cf. "Fides et Ratio," 1). And in every age the church offers the one ultimately satisfying answer to the deepest questions of the human heart — Jesus Christ himself, "who fully reveals man to himself and brings to light his high calling" ("Gaudium et Spes," 22). Therefore, the voice of Christians can never fall silent, for the Lord has entrusted to us the word of salvation for which every human heart longs. The Gospel offers the pearl of great price for which all are searching (cf. Mt 13:45-46).

It follows that the church cannot fail to be ever more deeply involved in the burgeoning world of communications. The global communications network is extending and growing more complex by the day, and the media are having an increasingly visible effect on culture and its transmission. Where once the media reported events, now events are often shaped to meet the requirements of the media. Thus, the relationship between reality and the media has grown more intricate, and this is a deeply ambivalent phenomenon. On the one hand, it can blur the distinction between truth and illusion; but on the other, it can open up unprecedented opportunities for making the truth more widely accessible to many more people. The task of the church is to ensure that it is the latter which actually happens.

3. The world of the media can sometimes seem indifferent and even hostile to Christian faith and morality. This is partly because media culture is so deeply imbued with a typically postmodern sense that the only absolute truth is that there are no absolute truths or that, if there were, they would be inaccessible to human reason and therefore irrelevant. In such a view, what matters is not the truth but "the story"; if something is newsworthy or entertaining, the temptation to set aside considerations of truth becomes almost irresistible. As a result, the world of the media can sometimes seem no more friendly an environment for evangelization than the pagan world of the Apostles' day. But just as the early witnesses to the Good News did not retreat when faced with opposition, neither should Christ's followers do so today. The cry of St. Paul echoes among us still: "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:16).

Yet, as much as the world of the media may at times seem at odds with the Christian message, it also offers unique opportunities for proclaiming the saving truth of Christ to the whole human family. Consider, for instance, satellite telecasts of religious ceremonies which often reach a global audience, or the positive capacities of the Internet to carry religious information and teaching beyond all barriers and frontiers. Such a wide audience would have been beyond the wildest imaginings of those who preached the Gospel before us. What is therefore needed in our time is an active and imaginative engagement of the media by the church. Catholics should not be afraid to throw open the doors of social communications to Christ, so that his Good News may be heard from the housetops of the world!

4. It is vital too that at the beginning of this new millennium we keep in mind the mission "ad gentes" which Christ has entrusted to the church. An estimated two-thirds of the world's 6 billion people do not in any real sense know Jesus Christ; and many of them live in countries with ancient Christian roots, where entire groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith, or no longer consider themselves members of the church and live lives far removed from the Lord and his Gospel (cf. "Redemptoris Missio," 33). Certainly, an effective response to this situation involves much more than the media; but in striving to meet the challenge Christians cannot possibly ignore the world of social communications. Indeed, media of every kind can play an essential role in direct evangelization and in bringing to people the truths and values which support and enhance human dignity. The church's presence in the media is in fact an important aspect of the inculturation of the Gospel demanded by the new evangelization to which the Holy Spirit is summoning the church throughout the world.

As the whole church seeks to heed the Spirit's call, Christian communicators have "a prophetic task, a vocation: to speak out against the false gods and idols of the day — materialism, hedonism, consumerism, narrow nationalism" ("Ethics in Communications," 31). Above all, they have the duty and privilege to declare the truth — the glorious truth about human life and human destiny revealed in the Word made flesh. May Catholics involved in the world of social communications preach the truth of Jesus ever more boldly and joyfully from the housetops, so that all men and women may hear about the love which is the heart of God's self-communication in Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever (cf Heb 13:8).

CNS PHOTO FROM COLUMBIA PICTURES

Scene from movie 'The Knight's Tale'

Heath Ledger and Paul Bettany star in a scene from the film "The Knight's Tale." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope ordains 34; calls effort for priests 'necessary and urgent'

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II ordained 34 new priests for the Diocese of Rome, thanking believers around the world who, "in silence and in their daily thoughts, offer their prayers and sufferings for priests and vocations."

A greater effort to draw more young men to the priesthood was "necessary and urgent," he said May 13 during the liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica.

"What this means is increasingly kindling and cultivating a 'vocations mentality,' which translates into a personal and communitarian style marked by listening, discernment and a generous response to God who calls," he said.

A week from his 81st birthday, the pope lightly laid his trembling hands on the heads of each man being ordained and read a long prayer over them as they lay prostrate before the basilica's main altar.

Among the new priests was a set of 30-year-old Italian twin brothers, two men from the United States, and one each from New Zealand, Australia and Cuba. The group ranged in age from 26 to 66 and hailed from 16 countries.

The pope told the new priests to "aim at sanctity (and) radiate love.

"Above all, be in love with the church — the earthly church and the heavenly one — looking at her with faith and love, despite the blemishes and wrinkles that can mark her human face," he said.

Christians are called to share God's love, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians are called to share God's love for all men and women, relying on God's own power to overcome obstacles of indifference and hostility, Pope John Paul II said. "Jesus calls us and sends us as he did with the apostles," the pope told more than 100 national directors of the pontifical missionary works meeting in Rome May 3-11. God does not choose missionaries "on the basis of our merits or our works; rather, he supports us and fortifies us with his Spirit," the pope told the directors during a May 11 audience at the Vatican. "Only 'armed' with his grace can we bring the good news to the ends of the earth. Difficulties and obstacles will not stop us because the heavenly Father's love for all humanity will be our continuing support," the pope said.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Everything Appears as Before

In Pope John Paul II's 2001 Easter message he said, "Everything appears as before, but in fact nothing is the same as before." The pontiff's words were explaining the transformation of human life because of Jesus' resurrection. Yet, they also apply to many family experiences.

Our honeymoon in 1975 was in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains at the height of the fall colors. We were so touched by nature's beauty that it forever changed our awareness. Coming home to the more insipid landscape of Northern Illinois, we were again touched by the autumn colors in our own backyard. We saw what we had never noticed before, though it had always been there.

I (Andrew) remember driving home from the hospital the night our first child was born. Lamont Road was the same as it was hours earlier, but through the eyes of this new father, everything was new. The red, yellow and green of the traffic lights caught my attention as never before. The sweetness in the air tasted as never before. The love in my heart radiated as never before. In the car on the drive home with newborn Andréa days later, we experienced ourselves as family very differently. We two were the same; but we had become three, very different and new.

After family members die the world revolves the same as always. Yet, our family organic matter is different, and the world, through our senses, is not the same as before.

As our children each progress toward adulthood, through every phase of development, our family changes so that it seems that nothing is the same as before.

Our marriage over the years has experienced, through trials and joys, such transformation. Watching each other develop in our respective professions, as parents, as friends, we have witnessed transformation. And our marriage is not the same as before.

Critical to these "rebirth" experiences is firstly our paying attention — to each other and life around us. Secondly, we need to live boldly, undaunted by change, willing to redirect our course because of change. Sometimes we want everything to stay as they are.

Finally, we need to anticipate "Easter" moments when "everything appears as before, but in fact nothing is the same as before." We must expect newness in life. If we can't see it, look again. When we search for God in our midst, we always find what we are looking for. It's having a kind of spiritual literacy that helps us see more clearly, breathe more deeply and love more passionately.

Touched by beauty, awed by the evidence of God's grace in our life together, families must hold one another in faith and love, ever growing, ever changing and willing to experience life as never before.

On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

The Real Reasons My Car's Battery Died

If you ever wondered why it took God seven days to create the world when we all know he could have done it in one, I might have an answer. He had a dead battery.

Well, not a dead battery in the sense he left his parking lights on all night. First of all, it is doubtful God would forget to turn off his parking lights.

Second, why would he have a car in the first place if the world wasn't done yet and there weren't any roads? Although, given his connections, he probably could have had his choice of any off-road, four-wheel drive-hummer he wanted and wouldn't have needed any roads and could have parked it anywhere, like they do on the commercials where the vehicle ends up parked on some mountain.

Anyway, the dead battery analogy came to me, as you might guess, when I did, in fact, discover my own car battery had wasted all its juice playing a radio all night for no one.

I figure since we are created in the image and likeness of God, then perhaps he, too, might have started out to do one thing but then found out that he had to do something else first in order to do the first thing, but then the second thing needed something done, too, before it could be done so you could get back to the original project. And on it goes.

I know you are following this.

Theologians could call this the "It Always Takes Three Trips to the Hardware Store to Fix Anything Rule of the Universe."

Back to the battery theory. To charge my battery I had either to take the trickle charger to the battery or take the battery to the trickle charger. Since oldest son had borrowed my extension cord, I opted to take the battery to the trickle charger. This meant finding the correct wrenches. However, No. 2 son had those.

Luckily I found my crescent wrench, which was OK other than that the battery terminal nuts were soft and the crescent wrench rounded them. Thus I would either have to go to the hardware store and buy new nuts or put them back on with a vise grip, but that would just be putting off the inevitable replacement. Oh, duh, I had to have the car to go to the store. Vice grips it was.

The vise grips were rusted frozen. So I had to search the estate for my can of WD40 to loosen it up. To use the WD40 meant I needed a paper towel, but the towel rack was empty.

You get the picture. And this is not even mentioning the trickle charger repair, blowing a breaker, the Band-Aid fiasco or the split battery terminal.

So doesn't this make you wonder about things like how God made light on the first day but did not actually install the sun and the moon and the stars until the fourth day? You think maybe the sun and the moon were on back order? No, no, that doesn't make sense because he would have been making them himself.

Maybe he used up too much energy doing the sky and the sea and the vegetation, and he had to wait a couple days for his trickle charger to do its thing. Makes sense to me.

Light One Candle

Msgr. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Thank You For Asking

In the 20 years I've been a priest, I've spent a lot of time sitting and listening to people. In fact, listening is probably the activity ministers of all faiths do most. Now, some people would balk at the notion of listening as an activity. After all, it sounds pretty passive. You're not physically exerting yourself. It's not manual labor. But it is, nonetheless, a real activity. True listening involves an active disposition, it requires an lively intellect and must always be accompanied by the ability to hear beyond the "audio," taking in the fuller meaning of both the words spoken and the words that aren't.

One expert suggested that pastoral counseling (that's what they call what we do), involves listening with a combination of heart, mind and soul: the heart to have true compassion or empathy for the person sitting before you, the mind to know how to direct the person to a safer harbor, and the soul to acknowledge that God works through everyone, even those most resistant to His plan.

There are two types of approach counselors use. The image of the more passive counselor is the popular notion from television and the movies of someone taking notes either on paper or mentally, but saying very little. This is the quiet listener who hopes that just giving the person a chance to speak will lead to a solution. And, in fact, sometimes that does happen. People who are bottled up are often helped just by having the chance to articulate their struggles and choices. Others require more active or direct counseling. They need to be helped to focus and decide on a course of action or behavior. As a pastoral counselor, I probably fall into this category. I think that people are looking for us to tell them what we think. They may not agree with us. They may not think much of the advice, but many do want reaction. They want to know what we make of the story they've just shared.

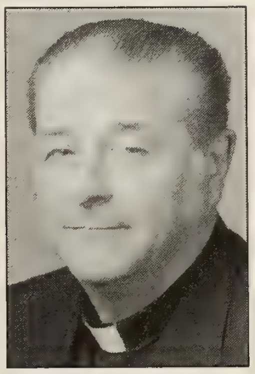
People who come to counseling are generally honing in on a problem they face. And that sometimes finds them pretty self-absorbed. Understandably, folks come because of personal pain, stress or confusion. Once in a while, though, something interesting happens — just as it did very recently, during the visit of a man I'll call Steven. Steven came to me with a host of family and personal problems. Frankly, they were heartbreaking to hear. It's going to take a lot of time for him to resolve his many crises. But then, in the midst of his sad story, Steven did something that others rarely do. He stopped talking about himself and his problems. He looked at me directly and asked: "Sorry for all this talk about me and my problems. I know you've had a rough year, what with the loss of your closest friend to cancer. Father Jim, how are you doing?"

I think I was more taken aback by the fact that he cared than by the particular question. I gave a fairly ordinary answer, then added with great sincerity, "but thank you, Steve, for bothering to ask."

Everyone wants to be heard. Listening is a gift we share with others. Listening well is a grace for people in pain. Knowing that someone cares can be communicated in many ways: through touch, through physical assistance and, importantly, by the quality of our ability to hear with compassion. Sometimes we take these goodhearted listeners for granted. Since they've always "lent us an ear" we presume they always will. And maybe that's so. But as a professional in the listening business I need to tell you — it's great to be heard too. It's wonderful to have someone who stops long enough to ask: "How are you doing?"

Take the time to speak honestly. But remember to take your turn and listen, too.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

When Child Leaves Catholic Church and Marries in Another

Q. My older daughter, baptized and raised Catholic, recently married a young man in the Christian church she now belongs to. I refused to give her away because I felt, as her father, I had to make clear I did not approve of her entering an adulterous and invalid relationship.

When my second daughter married, also out of the church, I was not invited because of the prior situation. She has cut me out of her life. I see the older daughter occasionally, but the meetings are awkward.

I am sorry about this, but what else could I have done and been true to my beliefs? (California)

A. Whatever healing may be possible will surely be accomplished only gradually. Recognizing two important facts may help toward that and maybe assist others who face the same decisions.

First, one must always return to the primary Christian rule of love of God and neighbor. This means asking, "In these circumstances, with these children and with this background, what is the best way I can show genuine love for God and my child, and preserve a spirit of faith, hope and love for everyone involved?"

One obligation in love is to make clear your own faith convictions, why you cannot approve or agree with another's actions. Apparently you have done that quite firmly. That done, however, the next obligation of love is not to enlarge the hurt any more than necessary.

My own experience convinces me that much more lasting good is accomplished when we preserve ties of love and family friendship as much as possible. You may strongly disagree with what they do, but you still love them I hope, and they need to know that by your actions as well as words.

There is no black and white, one-size-fits-all solution for these dilemmas. To insist only one way is possible to stand for the truth in such complicated circumstances reveals either a form of pride or a deep need for moral decisions which are absolutely certain, with no tinges of gray or risk. Such attitudes open the way to, among other things, rash judgments about a person's state of soul.

Second, and in some ways perhaps more important, if your letter describes the circumstances accurately, at least your elder daughter was not entering an "adulterous and invalid relationship" according to Catholic Church law.

Canon law (No. 1117) states that a person who leaves the Catholic Church "by a formal act" is no longer bound to the "form" of marriage, the obligation to be married before a priest for a valid marriage.

Exactly which behaviors might constitute such a formal act are not entirely clarified, but one such act would definitely be what your daughter did: to officially join another faith. In other words, her actions may have hurt and mystified you; but, assuming they are otherwise free to marry, she has entered a marriage the Catholic Church itself considers valid and (if both are baptized) sacramental.

The church's flexibility here is another evidence that we cannot be God's surrogate in judging the souls of others. Being faithful to what we believe is one thing. Making our personal peace and serenity depend on what someone else does is something else entirely.

As a famous retreat master remarked in one of his conferences, "The first step toward peace of heart is resigning as general manager of the universe." And we don't need to resign from our principles to do that.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Christopher Reeve — Truly a Super Man

Say the name Christopher Reeve, and most people immediately think "Superman," remembering the handsome, strong man who played the role of the invincible hero. Talk will then immediately turn to the tragic accident which left him with a paralyzing spinal cord injury. Surprisingly, this will not be a gloomy commentary. Quite the contrary. People think of him as yet an incredible "super man," commenting on all the ways he has inspired people by his grace, reverence for life and the work he is doing to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and his love of family.

I had the good fortune to see and hear the actor and his beautiful wife, Dana, this April. The Reeves were the invited speakers for the annual Distinguished Lecture Series presented by Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. At that time I participated in a private and small press conference. To be a few feet away from this inspiring couple, listening to their honest, unrehearsed answers to questions, was an unforgettable experience.

Recalling the accident that occurred during an equestrian competition in May 1995, Christopher Reeve surprised us when he said he and his family have been on "an extraordinary journey. We've learned a lot. It may seem hard to believe, but we're grateful in many ways for this experience."

Reeve spoke of being on "two tracks." One is "preparation for the future," in which he works hard for good scientific progress which will, with new technology, "make incredible things happen" for rehabilitating the disabled.

The other track is "to learn to live in the moment — to learn how to be when you can't do." And here he spoke of marriage and parenting.

When Reeve thought he could not go on after the accident, his wife told him, "You're still you, and I love you." She showed him that "vows are vows" and that nothing had changed the love. "This made me richer than anything that had ever happened before."

As for being a father of three, he learned that parenting isn't dragging kids out to ski, etc., but giving them the time and attention they want. "To learn what their dreams and difficulties are, to get to know them, has been an invaluable lesson. What they really wanted is what we have now," he acknowledged.

Later the Reeves addressed an overflow audience in the university's great theater. Many in the audience had disabilities, many were in wheelchairs. We had been told that 600 students with identifiable disabilities attend this university.

Christopher Reeve noted that 54 million Americans now have serious disabilities, and he emphasized the need for financial support from insurance companies, for example. This has to be the 21st century's "decade of inclusion. All we want is to be brought in from the margins of society and be included. We have to play fair in this society. The time is now."

His final words spoke of his belief that "there is a spirituality in all of us that we can tap into, that gives us strength." I predict that no one there will forget that night when we became soulfully richer, thanks to an unforgettable couple.

In brief . . .

El Salvador Interest Group shares insights from journey

CHARLOTTE — When El Salvador experienced two earthquakes in January and February this year, more than 800 were killed, millions were left homeless, and a land wrought with a history of violence, environmental destruction and broken spiritedness was left to mend once again.

A delegation of five who traveled to El Salvador in late March from St. Peter Catholic Church in Charlotte shared their experience with three audiences in the parish hall May 5-6.

The delegates told their stories and offered reflections of seeing the destruction firsthand. They shared how they felt called to El Salvador and spoke of the powerful signs of hope they saw amid the widespread destruction and loss of life.

Wes Callender, executive director of Voices on the Border, directed the group and was in Charlotte to discuss the impact of the financial aid sent to the ravaged country, current conditions there, and what the next steps of support will be.

St. Peter Church and the Latin American Coalition of Charlotte contributed more than $20,000 along with much needed clothing and emergency aid via Voices on the Border, an organization directly linked with the people of El Salvador through accompaniment and empowerment.

For more than 10 years, St. Peter Church in Charlotte has had a relationship with Segundo Montes, a community about 100 miles northeast of San Salvador.

With direction from Voices on the Border, the parish's El Salvador Interest Group, promotes and sends annual delegations to accompany and stay with the people of Segundo Montes.

For more information on the interest group, call Ted Frazer at (704) 563-9550.

Black Catholic women to gather in Charlotte in July

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The National Black Sisters' Conference will sponsor a national gathering for black Catholic women July 27-29 in Charlotte.

"There is a hunger on the part of black Catholic women to experience renewal in their own faith and a need to talk about issues specifically related to black women and to bond and celebrate who they are," said Sister Patricia Chappell, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who is president of the National Black Sisters' Conference.

The event, with the theme "Black Catholic Women: Untapped Treasures ... Magnify the Lord," is the culmination of regional forums held over the past eight years in select cities to identify major concerns of black Catholic women.

Charlotte to host National Right to Life convention

CHARLOTTE — The National Right to Life Committee will host its annual national convention in Charlotte June 28-30 at the Adams Mark Hotel in uptown Charlotte.

Speaking and educational presentations, family fellowship, exhibits and sessions for teens and college students will highlight the national pro-life convention.

An interfaith organization, NRLC, was ranked eighth among the most influential public policy groups in Washington, D.C., by Fortune magazine in December 1999. In April 2001, NRLC gave its annual Proudly Pro-Life Award to Father Frank A. Pavone, director of Priests for Life. The late Cardinal John O'Connor of New York was also honored with the award, in 1994.

Last year's national convention in Arlington, Va., drew about 1,200 participants, many of whom represented the organization's 3,000 local chapters.

For details on the conference, visit the registration web site at www.nrlc.org/convention.

COURTESY PHOTO

Bishop Curlin celebrates Mass in Lourdes Grotto

During the early May pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Knights of Malta, Bishop William G. Curlin celebrated Mass in the grotto where Mary appeared in 1858 to Bernadette Soubirous. More than 30,000 Knights of Malta from around the world brought sick to Lourdes for this annual pilgrimage. More than 5 million people worldwide — people of many faith traditions — visit Lourdes each year.

Classifieds

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Director of Liturgy: Opportunity to serve full-time in welcoming, prayerful community as developer and coordinator of parish liturgical life. Vatican II community, 2000 families in central North Carolina. Works with clergy, director of music ministries, staff. Requires master's degree or equivalent, knowledge of church rites and rituals; empowering, collaborative, pastoral; music skills welcome. Immediate opening, salary commensurate with education and experience. Benefits package included. Send resume to: Search Committee, c/o Jennifer Horton, St. Paul the Apostle Church, 2715 Horse Pen Creek Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410. Phone: (336)294-4696; Fax: (336)294-6149. e-mail: jhorton@stpaulcc.org

Director of Office of Youth Ministry: Full-time, Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Responsibilities include: actively coordinating diocesan-wide program; coordinate and serve as resource for parochial youth programs; promote youth ministry awareness among clergy, parents and youth. Qualifications are: Catholic in good standing; college degree with theological course work (master's degree in theology or related field preferred); experience in youth ministry as articulated in Renewing the Vision, USCC 1997 programs; working knowledge of Spanish; ability to work and communicate with adolescents and adults; enthusiasm for and loyalty to the Church. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits package. Send resume to: Fr. Michael Taylor, Diocese of Arlington, 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 519, Arlington, VA 22203. Please send resumes by July 1, 2001.

High School Youth Minister: Vibrant 4,500-family suburban Atlanta parish. Sunday evening mass and program (currently LifeTeen); also teen OCIA, retreats, adult leader formation, confirmation preparation, and cooperation with colleagues to oversee entire parish catechetical effort. Healthy Vatican II spirituality, collaborative skills, a must; degree in religious education or related field or comparable experience required; Spanish-language facility a plus. Full-time position available immediately. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Send resume and references to Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 535 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004. Fax 770-772-0355.

Parish Catechetical Leader: St. Joseph Parish, Kannapolis. Seeking a dedicated and spiritual leader for our faith education program. Must be certified catechist. Completion of Lay Ministry courses helpful but not necessary. Candidates shall have experience working with children, strong organizational skills, and leadership. Bilingual skills (Spanish) preferred but not necessary. Part-time (20-30 hours per week) with competitive salary. Send resume and salary requirements to: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Attn: PCL Position, PO Box 220, Kannapolis, NC 28082. Call (704)932-4607 for information or fax: (704)932-0566.

Principal: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School seeks a principal beginning the 2001-2001 academic year. The school is a well-established parochial school with 61 years of operation. Applicants must be practicing Catholic, hold a teacher certification and a principal's license (or in progress). Applicants must have administrative experience and be willing to relocate to the Rocky Mount area. Please send your resume, references and salary history to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 328 Hammond St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804 or fax your resume to 252-972-4780.

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Stewardship & Development Officer: Newman Catholic Student Center at Duke University. New position responsible for all aspects of the planning, implementation and management of an effective stewardship and development program to support Catholic Campus Ministry financially. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree; five years successful experience in higher education or non-profit development; excellent organizational, planning and communication skills. Must be practicing Catholic. EOE. Send resume to Newman Catholic Student Center, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974 or email joev@duke.edu

Teachers: Our Lady of Mercy High School is seeking full-time teachers in Chemistry/Biology and Studio Art. We are also seeking part-time teachers in Music and French. Interested parties should send a resume to: Our Lady of Mercy High School, John Cobis, Principal, 861 Highway 279, Fairburn, Georgia 30213.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706)722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop Middle/High School and Young Adult Ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

WANTED TO BUY

Old Catholic books published before 1963, hard back; prayer books, Bibles, school books, encyclopedias, etc. Call Terri DeLuca - (704) 888-6050.

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Home for Sale: NC mountain foothills. 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, den, rec room, 2-car garage, 3 utility rooms. New gas central AC/Htg. Excellent home for growing family. In city - Lenoir; best school area. (828)758-2274 after 7 pm.

Small-faith communities develop through diocesan young adult program

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — For one group in Charlotte, this year's Lenten season was marked with ashes, reverence, prayer and hors d'oeuvres. What do hors d'oeuvres have to do with Lent? Young adults from the city and surrounding areas gathered at a pub and restaurant to participate in a program that began in the diocese last fall.

Theology on Tap, a program that was started in the Archdiocese of Chicago as a way to reach young adult Catholics in their 20s and 30s and bring them back into the Church or to keep them from straying away, was introduced into the Diocese of Charlotte and has been the impetus for other events and gatherings among young adults. People had the opportunity to listen to speakers — laity, religious and clergy — while discussing religion, life or other topics in a social setting familiar to those of that age group. Speakers talked about a variety of topics including the Easter Triduum, sacrifice and other Lent-related topics.

"We had a really good group of people who met consistently, and at least half of those people had been in Charlotte a year or less. So, it was a way of welcoming them into the Diocese of Charlotte," said Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministry.

Some of the attendants decided that they wanted to extend the idea of fellowship beyond the weekly gatherings. A retreat, a day of reflection and a small-faith-sharing community also have been developed thanks to the program's influence.

"This is what I hoped would come out of Theology on Tap. Someone wanted to do a retreat at Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, and someone else was interested in a day of reflection at Belmont Abbey College," continued McDermott. "Then someone wanted to provide an opportunity for small groups to pray together."

Brian Bednar, one of the participants, had already been involved with a small-faith-sharing community at St. Peter Church in Charlotte. After a discussion with Jesuit Father Mickey Martinez, parochial vicar at St. Peter, and McDermott, Bednar decided to pursue his idea of facilitating small-faith-sharing communities with some of the people who had participated in Theology on Tap and others who were interested. Father Martinez and McDermott had both been previously involved with similar faith groups

"Many of us don't have a Catholic environment to talk about things, and I don't think there are many outlets for people to talk about issues. This can give people who have questions and insecurities about their faith an outlet where they can talk about things in a supportive environment"

— Brian Bednar

"With Theology on Tap, I liked the idea of meeting young people around my age who are interested in learning more about Catholic faith, and even with my own church, I hadn't found that outlet yet," said Bednar. "With my church group, it served as a way to make sure I focused on spirituality at least an hour or two a week, which is what this group does."

The small-faith community or "Christian life community" has met once a week for the past month thus far, and a core group of nearly 25 people has met to discuss designated topics and share faith stories. Christian life communities are based on Ignatian spirituality which involves a method of praying and improving one's spirituality, explained Bednar.

The topics for their six-week sessions include an introductory session and "what is my spirit," "who is God for me," "what is prayer for me," "where is God for me" and "do I want to continue in this group." With Clint Hunsche, faith formation director at St. Peter, as the spiritual guide, Bednar says that people have opened up and are willing to share what is in their hearts and on their minds.

"Many of us don't have a Catholic environment to talk about things, and I don't think there are many outlets for people to discuss issues," said Bednar. "This can give people who have questions and insecurities about their faith an outlet where they can talk about things in a supportive environment.

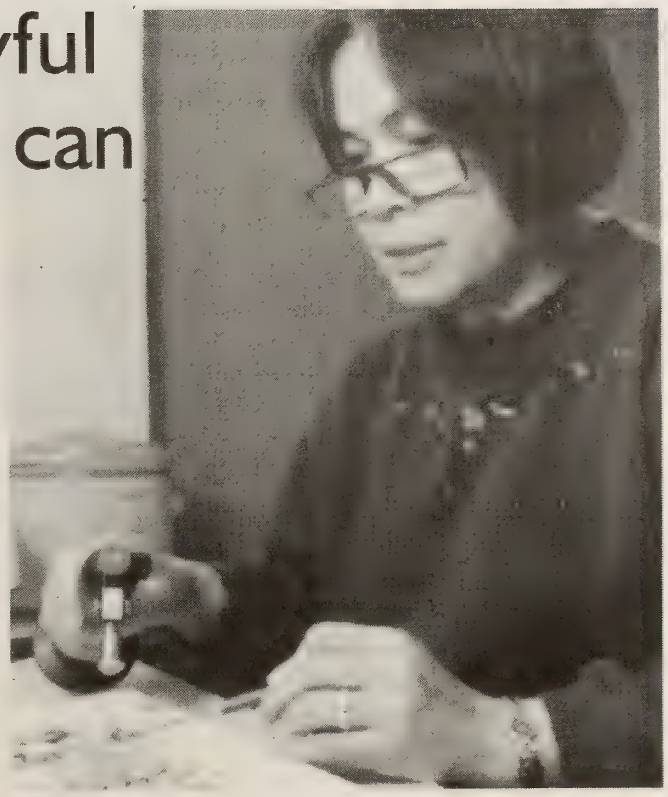
"For me, the whole idea of focus is important because we have the opportunity to talk about our faith, and it helps to have people comment and discuss."

Jennifer Rupp, diocesan program coordinator for youth and young adult ministry, agreed: "This has helped me to focus my prayer life and offered a source of commune and support, which is important because we realize shared experiences."

The group meets at the diocesan pastoral center on Tuesdays from 7-8:45 p.m., and all interested young adults are welcome to attend. For further information about Ignatian-based spirituality and Christian life communities, call Brian Bednar at (704) 523-5315 or e-mail bednarb@birdseyerealty.com.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

"Creating art is a spiritual, joyful and fulfilling journey; the same can be said for my life."



Soledad Aguilo is an artist; sometimes she works with Prismacolor pencils or sculpts clay; sometimes she melts, molds and manipulates metals. At other times, she helps mold students in the Art Department at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

No matter where she is, however, she knows the importance of her work. Even though the money she makes teaching or selling her prints and her jewelry doesn't benefit her, she doesn't mind it a bit.

Instead, her work affords homeless women and children a place to stay, medicine for a young man living with AIDS, or provides a group home situation and round-the-clock care for a severely mentally retarded 12-year-old who is medically fragile. She's working for them and she's never been happier with her career choice.

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Youth Ministry Office schedules events

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte's Office for Youth Ministry is taking registrations for two weeklong summer events.

SPLUNGE is an immersion service experience June 24-29 based at St. Luke Church in Charlotte. Spiritual reflection and learning opportunities will enhance the experience of service to the poor, hungry and those with special needs.

The experience offers participants the chance to meet the challenge of living a simple lifestyle; broaden understanding of poverty and its cycles; be exposed to different cultures and lifestyles; discuss, explore and live the challenge of the Gospels and reflect on the Christian response to people in need.

SPLUNGE is for youth 15 and older and for adults working with youth in justice and peace initiatives.

Faithful Servant: A Christ-Centered Leadership Experience will take place July 15-20 at the Short Journey Center in Smithfield. Youth from the Charlotte and Raleigh dioceses are invited to attend the event, which will focus on the leadership potential of participants while heightening their awareness of the dynamics and responsibilities of leadership roles in high school, parishes, youth ministry and beyond.

Participants will be challenged to create a vibrant Christian community which shares prayer, meals, lessons and life together while focusing on organizational skills, communication skills, leadership styles, group dynamics, planning skills, diversity training and consensus-seeking skills.

Faithful Servant is for youth 15 and older, young adults and adults interested or involved in parish, school or diocesan leadership roles in youth ministry.

For registration and details on these and other youth ministry programs, call (704) 370-3243 or (704) 370-3359.

Cursillo, education changes deacon's life, leads him to ministry

By **ALESHA M. PRICE**
Staff Writer

LENOIR — In the wee hours of the morning, Rev. Dr. Ron Caplette would sleepily but happily rise out of bed to accompany his grandfather to church during Holy Week. Holy Thursday was their special time together as family, and young Caplette would take part in the devotions to the Blessed Sacrament in the local Catholic church in the small town of Central Falls, R.I.

"As a 9- or 10-year-old kid, it was nice to get up in the middle of the night to do something different with my grandfather," said Rev. Dr. Caplette, now a permanent deacon at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lenoir. "He was the patriarch of the family, a very strong-willed and devout Catholic, who lived with us with my grandmother until they both passed away."

Those pre-dawn journeys to church with his grandfather lingered in Rev. Dr. Caplette's memories and formed his spiritual structure as his life unfolded in unplanned ways. With his mind heavy with both of his parents' affliction with cancer, Rev. Dr. Caplette decided to leave high school at age 17 and join the Marines during the Korean War.

"One of my favorite cousins had joined the Marines during World War II, and from the age of 5 or 6, seeing him in his uniform, I knew I would be a Marine," remembered Rev. Dr. Caplette. "I thought that going to the military would ease some of the burdens and provide a source of income. It was a very difficult time; I was very close to my parents, but I kind of shielded myself away from my emotions."

Korea, fresh from the remnants of a war that had just ended, was filled with friendly and welcoming people, said Rev. Dr. Caplette. The devastation was difficult for him to bear, but he truly enjoyed his time in the service and was able to obtain his GED. Back in the States on a furlough, he attended a dance that would change his life.

There he met his future wife Louise, and the two were married not long after that first dance. The young couple — she, 16, and he, 19 — was cautioned, but they agree that the strength of God carried them through those difficult first years of marriage. Mrs. Caplette, who grew up in a Catholic orphanage and suffered through an abusive life after finding a family, admits that she wanted try for a better life, and Rev. Dr. Caplette was her saving grace.

"He loved enough for the both of us. It was only after many years that I began to realize how my love for him had grown."

Rev. Dr. Ron Caplette

Rev. Dr. Caplette said that a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus along with their dedication to Catholicism were much-needed marital aids which sustained them through trying times. He was shipped to Japan and served with the military police, and their first son was born during that time.

"His birth made things difficult for us because I was so far away, and she made it clear that she didn't want me away from her anymore. I thought it would be best for me to leave the service."

He began working for a local textiles plant and moved his way up the ranks from quality control supervisor to project engineer and project manager to corporate management. He was one of the first to learn about a fiber-processing technique that would later be used to manufacture pantyhose, surgical garments and other materials.

"It was a very rewarding time for me. It presented me an opportunity to learn something that wasn't being taught in the textile schools, to develop my expertise and to grow in a field that was new." Because he had learned so much in the textile industry, his next stop was Charlotte.

In the 1960s, he joined another company and began working as a plant manager in a city famous for its textile mills and machine manufacturing companies.

"There was a lot of traveling involved to Japan, back to Korea and other places. Louise was very supportive of my work," said Rev. Dr. Caplette, who attended Our Lady of Assumption Church in Charlotte while living in North Carolina the first time and calls his wife the family's "spiritual director." Another job opportunity, this time in Virginia, presented itself and back to the colder climate they went.

While living in Virginia, the Caplettes were introduced to Cursillo, and for Rev. Dr. Caplette, he felt as if "the Lord was working in his life." However, he also felt a "void which he could not explain or seem to fill." Even after a move back to Hickory, N.C., to help with a friend's yarn-processing company in financial trouble and working on a bachelor of arts degree in business, he still felt as if something were missing.

Even after receiving a master's degree in business and being promoted to vice president of operations, he felt that he needed to be doing something else. That was when his second career developed. Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory had an opening for a temporary position for an instructor of business in 1985, and he jumped at the chance to teach. That led to a permanent position at Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton in 1986, a position from which he will be retiring in August of this year.

While his professional life was changing, his spiritual life also changed. Encouraged by his pastor at St. Joseph Church in Newton, he entered the diocesan permanent diaconate program, was ordained in 1988 and was permanent deacon at St. Joseph until 1997 when he was transferred to St. Francis. Not only was that void filled, but it was now overflowing.

"I was surprised but happy about his decision. We have all had little glimpses of God through his administering the sacraments," said Mrs. Caplette. "Every Sunday when I see him on the altar, I am in awe, and I thank God for the man he has become."

Rev. Dr. Caplette's main ministry is working with the terminally ill and patients in the oncology ward of local hospitals. He also obtained his doctorate in theology from Erskine Theological Seminary in 1997.

"The permanent diaconate changed my life completely and has been very beneficial and rewarding for me. God put me in the right place at the right time when I was able to direct young people to become good, ethical business people (by teaching college)," said Rev. Dr. Caplette, who is the father of five and grandfather of 17 and has been married for 46 years. "In working with the terminally ill, there is a bond that develops that makes it very special in helping people go through a process of fear and anxiety. I have changed into a person that is sensitive to the needs of people and their individual feelings — a complete transition for me."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

ORDINATION

The Most Reverend William G. Curlin cordially invites you to the Liturgy of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, the second of June, Two Thousand One at eleven o'clock at Saint Gabriel Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

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Inside

Pope, cardinals identify challenges and solutions ... PAGE 7

Youth explore definitions of violence ... PAGE 14

Local News

New BMHS nears completion, looks to future ... PAGE 5

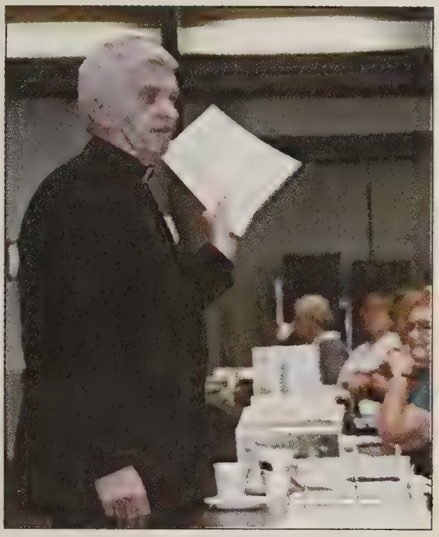
Charlotteans thank priests through endowments ... PAGE 9

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 12-13

> "Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim."
>
> — Acts 2: 3-4



PHOTOS BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Leaders in religious education in the Diocese of Charlotte gathered in Hickory May 17 to hear Father James Hawker, vicar for education (top left), Dr. Cris Villapando, director of faith formation programs (bottom left) and regional faith formation coordinators lead a workshop introducing the new Handbook for Parish Catechetical Leaders.

Religious educators embrace new resource at workshop

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

HICKORY — At the most significant gathering of diocesan religious educators in five years, the Diocese of Charlotte's vicar for education said the sharing of the faith is a holy calling.

"You are involved in something so sacred and so serious," Father James Hawker, education vicar, told catechists from across the diocese. "The sacredness of who you are and what you do, along with the seriousness of your mission, is phenomenal."

Father Hawker and the diocese's faith formation officials addressed parish catechetical leaders and other faith formation personnel at the Catholic Conference Center May 17 to introduce the new Handbook for Parish Catechetical Leaders, the single most comprehensive religious education resource available in this diocese to date.

The handbook is divided into eight sections, replete with appendices that contain diocesan forms needed to maintain records and other information. The sections cover the role, responsibilities and calling of the parish catechetical leader and other faith formation personnel; catechist formation; guidelines for the direction of life-long faith formation; textbook policies; catechesis for people with special needs; catechesis in multicultural communities; policies concerning preparation for and reception of sacraments; and important church documents relevant to the faith formation teacher.

Information includes religious educators' job descriptions, descriptions of catechesis aimed at different age groups, criteria for evaluating textbooks, sample budget forms, and maps showing the de-

SEE HANDBOOK, PAGE 8

Disaster relief explored locally

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

MORGANTON — In the eastern half of the state, generations of homes, businesses, land and people's spirits were devastated when Hurricanes Floyd and Irene washed out normal life for months. Residents of North Carolina are still cleaning up and rebuilding after the surging storms hit, while other states have succumbed to various natural disasters within the past year. Areas in Minnesota, Illinois and Mississippi have been flooded out, while wildfires have raged across parts of Florida. Both Louisiana and South Dakota have been on the list of federally declared disaster states because of winter storms.

There is never a lack of disasters like these that unfortunately create opportunities for people to help those in need. How-

SEE DISASTER RELIEF, PAGE 4

Bush urges more participation in fighting poverty

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — Quoting Lyndon Johnson, Knute Rockne and Dorothy Day, President Bush used his commencement address at the University of Notre Dame to encourage individual and corporate participation in battling poverty. "Welfare as we knew it has ended, but poverty has not," Bush said. "When over 12 million children live below the poverty line, we are not a post-poverty America." Speaking to 2,500 graduates, their families and faculty May 20, Bush urged the audience to consider a life of service. There's more to citizenship than voting and paying taxes, Bush said. "Citizenship is empty without concern for our fellow citizens, without the ties that bind us to one another and build a common good."

Immigrants comprise 28 percent of new U.S. priests

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A higher percentage of foreign-born priests will be among the more than 400 men being ordained this year in the United States. The percentage of ordinands born outside the United States rose to 28 percent from 24 percent, according to a survey conducted by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Vocations. The largest number came from Mexico and Vietnam, with each of those countries represented by 5 percent. Of the 343 diocesan and religious seminarians preparing for ordination in 2001 who responded to the survey, 13 percent are Hispanic, 7 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander and 1 percent are African-American. Results of the survey were released by the U.S. Catholic Conference May 21 in Washington.

Mothers pledge to fight efforts to target children in advertising

NEW YORK (CNS) — A coalition of mothers, community activists and national religious and other leaders has urged the U.S. business community to stop targeting children and teens in their advertising and marketing. "For you, our children are customers, and childhood is a 'market segment' to be exploited, a 'demographic' for which you are competing," more than 100 women and their male supporters said in a report called "Watch Out for Children: A Mothers' Statement to Advertisers." The report, released May 9 in New York, called for: an end to all advertising, marketing and market research in schools; no targeting of children under age 8; no product placement in movies or TV shows aimed at children or adolescents; and an end to ads that promote "an ethic of selfishness and ... instant gratification."

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HIL

Solo pilgrim rides bike in empty courtyard

Spanish Catholic pilgrim Fernando Videgain rides through the empty courtyard of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem May 14. The courtyard and Manger Square, usually teaming with tourists and pilgrims, have been deserted because of the fighting between Palestinians and Israeli forces

Refugee aid coalition urges reversal of declining U.S. help

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and other refugee service agencies called on the U.S. government May 17 to reverse the decline in U.S. admission of refugees and funding for refugee aid. "Eight years ago the United States authorized the admission of 142,000 refugees. This year about half that number will be admitted," said Mark Franken, executive director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Services. MRS is a member of the Refugee Council USA coalition, which held a press conference in Washington to mark the issuance of its 55-page report with detailed recommendations for improving U.S. refugee assistance in the 2002 fiscal year. The report urged the government to raise funding of the Migration and Refugee Assistance account to $800 million in 2002, an increase of $100 million over 2001, and to provide an additional $50 million for a separate emergency account for refugees.

Authors help children deal with anger in violent times

SALINA, Kan. (CNS) — A new book co-written by a member of St. Mary's Parish in Salina is designed to help adults teach children how to get along with others and deal with their anger and frustration. "The ABCs of Teaching Life Skills" was written by parishioner Diane Carrigan, psychosocial coordinator at the Central Kansas Mental Health Center, and Joyce Thomas, a former assistant family teacher at Boys Town, Neb., who now is family support coordinator for Salina schools. The book, which has implications for the tragedies happening today in U.S. schools, is divided into sections on anger management, respect, responsibility, communication, relationships and self-esteem.

Racism led to arrest of priest acquitted for robbery, says bishop

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — A South African priest found guilty of armed robbery three years ago was acquitted after a high court judge found the trial proceedings flawed and no cause for arrest. His bishop said the appeal court's findings in the case of Father Boniface Mashiane, formerly of Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Potgietersrus, raised questions of racism and collusion in the events that put the priest behind bars. "One gets the impression that, for whatever reason, Father Mashiane had to be arrested and punished," Bishop Mogale Paul Nkhumishe of Pietersburg said in a mid-May statement. The bishop said that while he was "enormously relieved" that Father Mashiane has been acquitted, "strange collusions and probably racism" played a part in the priest's case.

Pope says respect for other races, religions key to humanity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Promoting respect for other races and religions is the key to protecting legitimate cultural differences while forming a true human family, Pope John Paul II said. In separate messages to nine new ambassadors to the Vatican May 18, the pope's 81st birthday, he focused on dialogue as the way to build "a world in which all the members of the human race can occupy their rightful place and live in peace and harmony." The new ambassadors represent Nepal, Tunisia, Estonia, Zambia, Guinea, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, South Africa and Gambia. The pope said that the U.N.-sponsored World Conference on Racism, to be held in South Africa in August, is an opportunity for the whole world to reflect on the damage caused by ethnic hatred, prejudice and ignorance of one's neighbors.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

May 31 — 7:30 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School
Holy Family, Clemmons
June 1 — 7:30 a.m. Mass
Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte
June 2 — 11 a.m. Ordination
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
5:30 p.m. Confirmation
St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte
June 3 — 11 a.m. Pentecost Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte,
4 p.m.
10th Anniversary of Signing of Lutheran-Catholic Covenant
St. Pius X, Greensboro
June 6 — 7:30 p.m.
Baccalaureate Mass for Charlotte Catholic High School
St. Matthew, Charlotte
June 7 — 7 p.m. Confirmation
Holy Infant, Reidsville
June 10 — Noon
Mass and blessing of cornerstone
St. Joseph Vietnamese, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

June

3 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

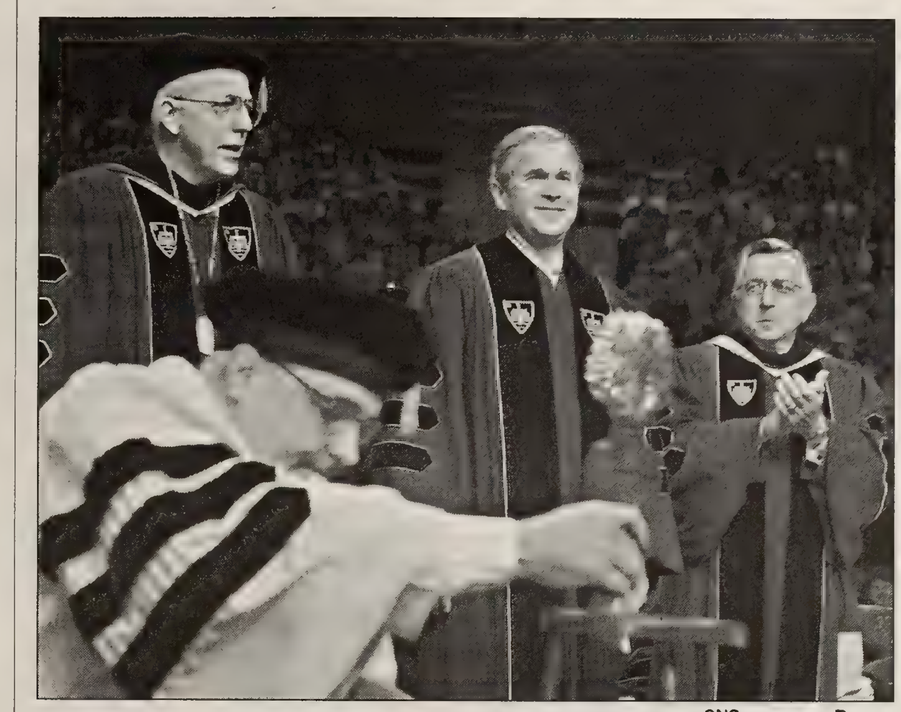
3 CHARLOTTE — Because of Pentecost, a charismatic Mass, celebrated by Father Dean Cesa, will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

3 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at the Showfety Activity Center at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

3 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic/healing Mass at 4 p.m. today followed by prayer teams and a potluck dinner. Father John Putnam will be the celebrant. For further details, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

4 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on June 5 at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Cordell at (704) 352-5047, Ext. 217.

4 CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew



CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

President attends Notre Dame commencement

President George W. Bush is flanked by Holy Cross Father Edward Malloy (left), president of the University of Notre Dame, and Patrick McCartan, right, during commencement services at the university May 20. In his address the president urged faith-based groups to take the lead in fighting poverty.

Jesuit says no culture ever fully 'culture of life' or 'of death'

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — Labeling an entire culture a "culture of death" is simplistic and unworthy of Christians, a Jesuit sociologist told a national meeting of catechetical leaders. "No culture is ever fully a culture of life or of death," said Jesuit Father John A. Coleman, professor of social values at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. "Those who are serious about discerning culture in the light of the Gospel should cease using these gross terms to characterize a whole culture." Father Coleman delivered one of the major addresses at the 65th annual meeting of the National Conference of Catechetical Leadership. The meeting, held in Buffalo April 29-May 3, drew about 900 religious education professionals from around the country.

Vietnam church 'limited' but not persecuted, says USCC official

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church's ability to operate freely in Vietnam is "severely limited," but the church is not persecuted, said a U.S. Catholic Conference official. Relations between the church and the Vietnamese government have improved during the past decade. However, certain issues, such as restrictions on the ordination, appointment and transfer of priests, need improvement, said Thomas E. Quigley, the U.S. bishops' policy adviser on Asian affairs. "There can be no denying that religious freedom is severely limited in today's Vietnam. But as with other communist states that have survived the Cold War, improvements have been noted," Quigley said during testimony at a meeting of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus in Washington May 16.

Pope says even in Italy, people live as if God does not exist

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even in Italy, where the vast majority of people are baptized Catholic, more and more people are living their lives "as if God does not exist," Pope John Paul II said. "This tendency is often emphasized and spread by the media with serious risks for the moral formation of individuals and of the collective," the pope told Italy's bishops. The pope addressed the country's bishops May 17 during their annual general meeting at the Vatican. He told the bishops, "It is part of the mission of pastors both to encourage, with clarity, correct doctrine in matters of faith and morals as well as to support and encourage all initiatives which can be valid alternatives" to living outside church teaching.

At U.N. conference, Vatican calls for shared duty to poor

BRUSSELS, Belgium (CNS) — At a U.N. conference highlighting an increase in extreme poverty in parts of the world, a Vatican diplomat called for a "worldwide movement" of shared responsibility for the poor. "Our task is to make solidarity a reality," Archbishop Diarmuid Martin, head of the Vatican delegation to the third U.N. conference on poverty, told participants May 16 during the weeklong meeting. "We must create a worldwide movement which understands solidarity as a natural duty of each person, each community and each nation," he said. The conference, which was expected to produce a program of action to combat poverty, brought together leaders of the world's poorest and richest countries, as well as U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, World Bank President James Wolfensohn and private business representatives.

Seventy percent of Latinos identify as Catholic, says survey

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new national survey reports that 70 percent of the Latino population identified themselves as Catholic. The survey also showed a drop-off in the percentage of Latino Catholics with each generation born in the United States and an increase in the Protestant population with each passing generation. The survey was done by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, a California-based think tank, as part of the Hispanic Church in American Public Life Project. The Hispanic project is a three-year ecumenical research program funded by a $1.3 million grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to examine the role of religion on the political and civic commitment of Latinos.

Survey on religion and stress needs online participants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Psychology researchers at The Catholic University of America are recruiting online participants for a 30-minute survey on how people turn to religion in times of stress. The Web-based survey at http://research.cua.edu/psy is open to anyone who wishes to respond. Catholic University graduate students Michele Schottenbauer and Benjamin Rodriguez and their professors hope to recruit a sample from a wide variety of religious denominations, as well as participants who may not be affiliated with any religious denomination. Data from the survey will be used to study the ways people turn to faith and religion to help cope with stress.

Theologians must reaffirm church laws on sexuality, says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In addressing moral problems facing modern men and women, Catholic theologians must recognize that certain concepts regarding the dignity of human life and sexuality are unchanging, the Vatican said. Moral theologians may be tempted to answer questions "with responses that are more conforming to the sensitivities and expectations of the world than to the thinking of Christ," said an article in the May 16 edition of the Vatican newspaper. The article in L'Osservatore Romano, signed with three asterisks to signify its publication was approved at the highest levels of the Vatican, was published alongside a notification criticizing some works by Redemptorist Father Marciano Vidal, a Spanish moral theologian. The notification from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith said the priest's work was erroneous or ambiguous on several moral questions, including contraception, homosexuality, masturbation and in vitro fertilization.

Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting takes place tonight and June 18 from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of the parish center's conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459

4 CHARLOTTE — The widowed support group for those grieving the loss of a spouse meets from 6-7 p.m. tonight and June 18 in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

4 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on July 2. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

7 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, will be meeting tonight and June 17 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

10 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., will be hosting its Christian Coffeehouse Youth and Young Adult Night tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish center. All are invited to participate in fellowship, Christian contemporary music provided by Kathy and David with Redeemed, refreshments and spiritual messages. For sponsorship opportunities and further details, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

11 CHARLOTTE — The 1st Annual Links for Life Golf Tournament will be held today at Firethorne Country Club. Included in the package will be lunch, beverages, dinner and a post-tournament awards reception. All proceeds will benefit Room at the Inn, a maternity home supporting single, homeless, pregnant women and their children. Call Charity Gray at (704) 521-2774 for a team registration form and other details.

11 CHARLOTTE — The support group for adult children grieving the loss of a parent will meet tonight and June 25 from 7-8 p.m. in the family room at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

13 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be having a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

14 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on June 24 with childcare and a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on June 24 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

Ongoing

CHARLOTTE — "Forever Young" is an exercise group for people 55 and older at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy. They meet every Monday and Friday from 11 a.m.-noon and are always seeking new members. Come and join these seniors for "just what the doctor ordered." Call Peg Hill at (704) 540-7255 for details.

CONCORD — St. James Church, 251 Union St. North, invites anyone needing a special favor, healing, petition or thanksgiving for the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena every Monday at 7 p.m. For further details, call the church office at (704) 720-0600.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Catholic, Lutheran bishops to lead covenant anniversary celebration

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Ten years after the Catholic and Lutheran communities in North Carolina signed a covenant bonding them in the spirit of ecumenism and cooperation, three bishops will preside at an anniversary celebration of that signing and the progress that continues to be made since then.

Bishop William G. Curlin of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, and Bishop Leonard Bolick of the N.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on June 3 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro will lead a Pentecost Sunday celebration at 4 p.m.

The covenant includes a series of commitments made by the faith communities on Pentecost Sunday in 1991. The commitments include statements about prayer, communication and action; shared celebrations, programs and educational opportunities; and deeper spiritual and social relationships between the faith communities.

The original signers were Catholic Bishop John F. Donoghue of Charlotte, Bishop Gossman of Raleigh and Lutheran Bishop Michael McDaniel.

The anniversary celebration will mark a decade of statewide cooperation. Covenants between local churches, shared observances of celebrations such as the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and efforts at better understanding one another's faith traditions and practices continue.

"Over the past ten years much has been accomplished in pursuit of these goals, and yet, there is so much more to do," said Bishop Curlin in a May 18 letter to parishioners of the Charlotte Diocese. "It is my prayer that this celebration of renewal will breathe new life into the Covenant, that people who were not a part of our Diocese or Synod ten years ago would be active in its ongoing implementation."

The June 3 liturgy will include a homily, statements of witness from youth, and remarks from the three bishops reaffirming the spirit and the outcomes of the covenant.

The bishops will re-sign the covenant near the close of the liturgy.

Efforts toward full unity between Catholics and Lutherans continue throughout the world. In October 1999, representatives of the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation signed a joint declaration on the doctrine of justification, which focuses on the agreement that justification and salvation come by faith alone. The agreement states that justification does come through faith alone, but that good works are an essential sign of faith.

The doctrine on justification was a central issue of the Protestant Reformation and had been a point of argument between Catholics and Lutherans since the 1700s.

In a Lenten letter published March 5, 1999, in The Catholic News & Herald, Bishops Curlin, Gossman and Bolick expressed their hope for the day when Catholics and Lutherans will be able to share in the celebration of the Eucharist.

"We celebrate the authentic unity to which our prayers, dialogues and common service have brought us and will continue to assist us in resolving traditional differences and overcoming historic obstacles," they said.

St. Pius X Church is located at 2210 N. Elm St. in Greensboro. From Highway 29 North, exit west onto Cone Street. Then take a left onto Elm Street. The June 3 celebration will begin at 4 p.m. The parish office number is (336) 272-4681.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Disaster Relief,
from page 1

ever, the question is what to do and how to go about doing it. Catholic Social Services (CSS) Special Ministries has begun the steps to provide some of the answers.

In order for parishes and individuals to better serve those who have been the victims of disasters, the diocesan office invited Rev. Mr. Jerry Collins, director of disaster responses for Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and a permanent deacon at Holy Family Church in Hillcrest Heights, Md., to speak to a group at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Morganton on May 19. He provided the attendants with a guideline or sample outline of procedures, steps and facts in order to implement them into their own workable and executable disaster relief plans.

"The purpose of the workshop was to acquaint parishioners with a model for providing efficient and effective responses to disasters," said Gerald Carter, diocesan director of CSS Special Ministries. "From this workshop, we see that there are still some areas on which we need to focus within our own diocesan plan, but this is only our first step."

The diocesan plan, "Disaster Preparedness and Response," is a recently adopted document based on information from Catholic Relief Services and CCUSA that addresses various topics such as the definition of disasters, the collection of goods and services, the elements of a disaster preparedness and response plan and other topics. The goal is for parishes to have a disaster relief plan that is directly linked to plans on diocesan, local, state and national levels.

"Many churches don't have a disaster preparedness plan because disasters, by definition, are sporadic and unplanned. Even though that sounds obvious, it is difficult to think in terms of the future," explained Carter. "In our limited experience with disaster response in this diocese, it has been difficult to coordinate the supplies, manpower and money volunteered by well-meaning people who do not have a plan of action."

Rev. Mr. Collins took the participants step by step through the provided materials of complied information from his work with CCUSA, the Red Cross and the board of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. "The bottom line is for them to take the information and build their own local collaborative plan which should take care of their needs and the needs of others."

Parishes should identify their resources, become better acquainted with those in need before the disaster strikes and have a working plan in place that has been analyzed and organized at various intervals, said Rev. Mr. Collins. He also stated that through the forming of committees at the local level to address those needs that may not have been met or other local needs that a reciprocal relationship can be established between the disaster victims and those who are trying to assist them.

"The individual church has a really unique role because we can do some things that are not being done. The church has always been involved in disaster response, and we have a history of that," he said.

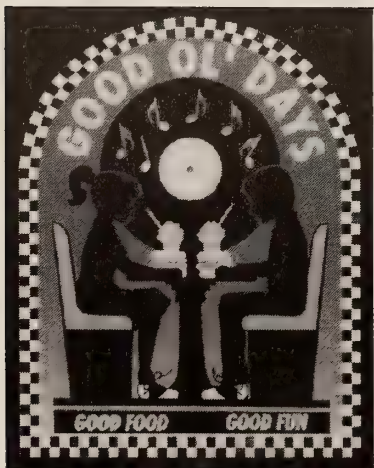
The key to responding effectively to disasters is the adherence to a plan, but it also involves making sure that all channels are properly contacted and involved in the efforts at all times. "When disasters occur, the first line of response typically comes from within the local region. Rescue and relief agencies already in place are in the best position to respond most immediately to the disaster," explained Carter. "It is only when circumstances are beyond what local, civil and church authorities can manage that Catholic dioceses in other parts of the country are called upon to provide needed resources."

Rev. Mr. Collins urged the attendants to share their information with their parish groups, to form committees that will identify the parish resources and community needs, and to continue to learn more about how they can be of further assistance through continuing education.

"You are in an area that is prone to disasters, and I am aware that most churches don't have a disaster plan. I would like for you to begin to think about what you can do if your church doesn't have a plan and how you can help to put one into place," said Rev. Mr. Collins. "Don't let this be your only encounter with disaster response training; utilize local programs at the Red Cross, Salvation Army, colleges and the state emergency management agency. Local preparedness is the backbone and the key to this effort. Resources will go further; the community will recover faster; and it will help to bridge those gaps."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice @charlottediocese.org.

For more information about the diocesan disaster preparedness plan or the role of CRS, CCUSA or other agencies in disaster relief, call Gerald Carter, diocesan director of CSS Special Ministries, at (704) 370-3250.



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Foundations for faith and learning

New Triad Catholic high school nears completion, looks to future

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

KERNERSVILLE — Highway 66 off I-40 in Forsyth County meanders into Guilford County and High Point. It's a pleasant easy-driving road, with a huge surprise where you least expect it. Round the bend, and a new high school rises into sight, a shining beacon for Catholic education in the Triad.

> "The design and always-visible tower and chapel speak to the center of life on campus."
>
> — Principal George Repass

There's an amazing transformation in the Triad, and it's all about Catholic education.

As this school year inches towards completion, one chapter in secondary Catholic education in the Triad draws to a close, *literally*. The Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School class of 2001 will be the last group of students to graduate off the campus on Link Road. Across town, the new Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School eases towards completion, and a new chapter readies itself. The metamorphosis of BMHS prepares to forever change Triad Catholic education.

On a recent perfect North Carolina spring afternoon, a handful of BMHS teachers got their first inside look at their new facility, punctuated by a room-by-room guided tour led by Principal George Repass. Between the '*ooohs* and *ahhs*,' the educators are torn between exhilaration and speechless awe.

The new BMHS is architecturally a "Tuscan-Romanesque", beauty with the charm reminiscent of a monastic cloister keeping faith always in sight. "It is designed to be a classic, transitional, so it doesn't look like just a box built to hold a program," says Repass. "The design and always-visible tower and chapel speak to the center of life on campus."

The building, however, is just the beginning of what's in store when BMHS students enter the hallowed halls this fall, their hunger for a faith-laced education ready to be satisfied.

From conception to reality, the facility is tangible proof of how Catholic education will move into the 21st century, ready to meet the needs of a savvy, technically aware population of tomorrow's leaders.

It's a solid two-hour tour to take in the full effects of the new school. Quite a change from the current school where you can go end to end in a matter of minutes, the teachers say.

What's not to love? The new school *is* state-of-the art in every way. Completely network wired, each classroom is outlet-ready for computer plug in. BMHS students and faculty have room to stretch, reach and test new limits. Expanded programs will encourage high school curiosity to flourish. Out back, athletic fields — prepped for soccer, track and field, football, baseball and softball — will place BMHS Villains on a whole new playing field. At the heart of the facility, a 225-seat chapel.

"The fact that it is state-of-the-art in every regard from its architecture to its technology has obviously had a big impact," says Repass. "The more people see it, the more enthusiastic they get."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Photos by Joann S. Keane

Pictures of the under construction Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School. Top, the exterior of the chapel is flanked at the left by one of the archways constructed within the new facility. Right, Principal George Repass along with teachers Connie Rafferty, Shirley Shaw and Susan Layman, inside the new gymnasium, and below, the outside courtyard.

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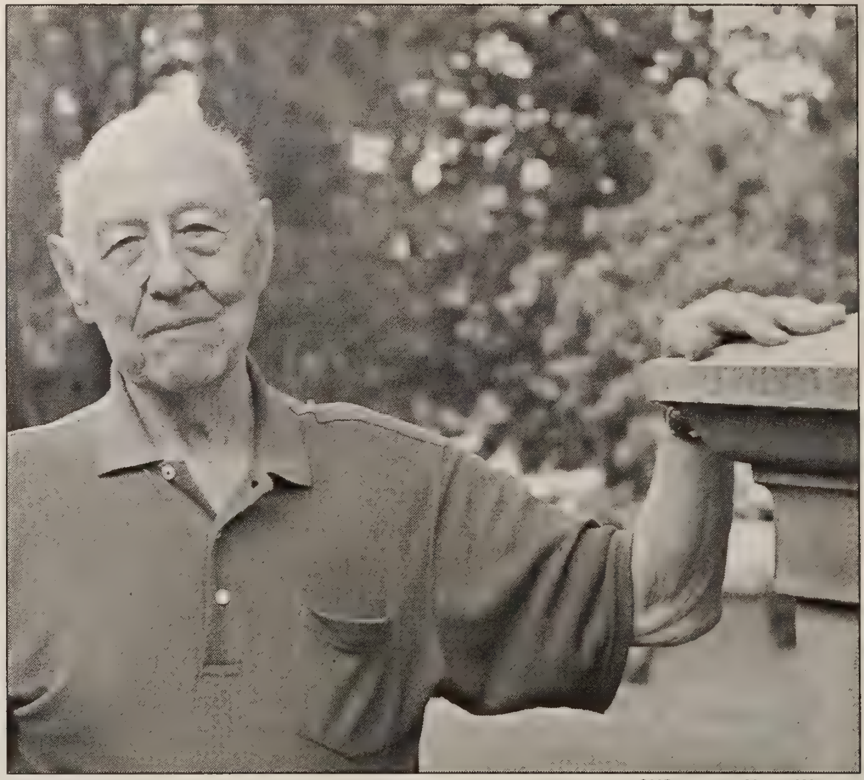

CNS PHOTO BY NANCY WIECHEC

Veteran survivor of Pearl Harbor

World War II veteran Francis E. Stueve, who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, stands near a memorial to fallen soldiers at the U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home in Washington. ``I've prayed to forget about that day," he said.

Astronomer urges informed dialogue between science, religion

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (CNS) — There can be no productive dialogue between science and religion if either side is dominated by ignorance, said the director of the Vatican Observatory. That revelation came to Jesuit Father George V. Coyne while studying the Galileo affair as part of a Vatican-appointed commission in 1988. "I think the church should learn, from the Galileo case and from other circumstances, that listening is as important as speaking. That is, hearing what scientists are really doing is as important as the church speaking out on many issues," he told The Valley Catholic, newspaper of the Diocese of San Jose. Father Coyne said the church's initial response to Galileo demonstrated that it was largely ignorant of Scripture and science.

Archbishop Sheen television, radio award announced

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Society for the Propagation of the Faith has established an award in honor of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen that will recognize excellence in promoting the worldwide mission of the church on radio or television. "Archbishop Sheen, a master communicator, did much to promote the church's teaching and worldwide mission on radio and television," said Father John E. Kozar, national director of the New York-based society. Deadline for the first award, which will be open to radio and television programs broadcast during 2000 and 2001, is Jan. 31, 2002. Archbishop Sheen, a well-known radio and television missionary, was national director of the society from 1950 to 1966.

Bishop sorry he didn't protest incidents that offended Jews

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (CNS) — At a Catholic-Jewish celebration May 6, Bishop Matthew H. Clark of Rochester apologized for not speaking out sooner about two recent incidents that offended Jewish people. One was the Easter Sunday publication of the cartoon "B.C." in newspapers. The cartoon, titled "The Seven Last 'Words' of Jesus," depicted the candles on a Jewish menorah extinguishing one by one. In the last two panels, the menorah becomes a cross. The second incident was the quoting of anti-Semitic remarks by New York Knicks basketball player Charlie Ward in an April 22 New York Times Magazine article. Among other things, Ward blamed Jews for killing Christ. Bishop Clark made his remarks at the Strong Museum to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Rochester Agreement between the Rochester Diocese and the Rochester Board of Rabbis and Jewish Community Federation.

Georgetown professor contributes to new African-American Bible

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Diana Hayes says a new African-American jubilee edition of the Good News Bible is cause for rejoicing, and not just because she contributed to it. "I've been rejoicing in it — not just the writing, but the artwork and everything else," she said in an interview with The Evangelist, newspaper of the Diocese of Albany. Hayes, an Albany native and associate theology professor at Georgetown University in Washington, is one of about 20 African-American Catholic scholars who wrote analytical articles for the Bible, published by the American Bible Society. She noted that today's black Catholics are "hungry" for evidence of their contributions to church history.

Florida Catholic state editor prays before game show appearance

ORLANDO, Fla. (CNS) — Jean Palombo-Gonzalez will tell you now that the Roman numeral D equals 500. But when she was asked that question on a recent taping of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" she froze. Palombo-Gonzalez flubbed the question, "Which of these Roman numerals is the greatest?" ending her quest to be the latest instant millionaire on the top-rated TV show. The show aired on Mother's Day, May 13. The correct answer was worth $4,000, meaning the 30-year-old state editor at The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper walked away with just $1,000 (before taxes), a free round-trip flight to New York and hotel accommodations for her and her husband, and $50-a-day meal money. Palombo-Gonzalez said that before the taping she went to an empty dressing room and prayed.

Making history? Cardinal wears Roman collar in Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick believes he may have made history in late March, during his visit to Saudi Arabia as a member of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. "I believe it was the first time any priest, as a priest, has gone into Saudi Arabia," he said in an interview with the Catholic Standard, his archdiocesan newspaper. "Priests have gone in (dressed) as tourists or businessmen, never identifiable as priests." Using his diplomatic passport, which clearly identified him as a priest, he wore his clerical black garb and Roman collar throughout his four-day visit. The four other commission members on the trip included Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. Summarizing religious freedom in that country, the cardinal said, "The situation there in Saudi Arabia is very tight."

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Pope, cardinals identify pastoral challenges, solutions

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Pope John Paul II opens the consistory in Synod Hall at the Vatican May 21. More than 150 of the world's 183 cardinals were meeting for three days of closed-door sessions.

By JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the largest meeting of its kind ever held at the Vatican, more than 150 cardinals sat down to identify pastoral challenges and possible solutions at the start of the third millennium.

Pope John Paul II opened the May 21-24 consistory with a prayer and a request for the cardinals' input, saying he wanted a free and fraternal exchange of opinions.

The meeting's first day provided short speeches on a wide range of topics: the role of the pope, the call to personal holiness, pastoral problems of the family, opportunities offered by modern media, and the need for justice and charity in globalization.

Two particular suggestions came from U.S. cardinals: preparation of a document that would clarify what the church means by "new evangelization" and an annual worldwide Synod of Bishops with an open agenda.

In his welcoming talk, the pope avoided specifics. He said the church needs to find the best ways to evangelize in modern societies, and that means prioritizing goals and evaluating every level of its pastoral operations.

He described the meeting as a follow-up to the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000 and to his recent document, "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), which outlined pastoral aims and obstacles for the coming years.

The cardinals, seated in the shell-shaped Vatican Synod Hall, applauded the 81-year-old pontiff, who was to preside over the three days of talks and celebrate a final Mass. It was the sixth time the pope has convened the cardinals for such a meeting and the first time since 1994.

All 183 cardinals were invited, but not all could make it; 155 were in attendance at the first session. The consistory was held behind closed doors, but without the extreme secrecy of a conclave.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls gave briefings on the content of the cardinals' discussions, and the Vatican released texts of some of the main talks.

At the opening session, the cardinals heard two reports on the jubilee year, which provided an orientation for the discussions to follow.

French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, who presided over jubilee planning, said the major ceremonies of the Holy Year were part of the jubilee's "massive success" and had brought a needed spotlight to the liturgical life of the church.

He also underlined the social aspect of the jubilee, saying the biblically rooted call to charity and poverty must permeate the entire church.

"Here, perhaps, we touch the most provocative question, and the most urgent question for evangelization in the new millennium. Only a church that is poor can become a missionary church, and only a missionary church can demand a church that is poor," he said.

Italian Cardinal Crescenzio Sepe, another architect of jubilee events, said the jubilee experience of prayer, penitence and pilgrimage had left the church revitalized. Now it is important not to lose the spiritual momentum, he said.

"All the strong and intense stimuli of the jubilee need to be further examined, deepened and above all put into practice by a pastoral plan," he said.

Then began the three days of open discussions. Fifteen cardinals spoke for six to nine minutes each in the opening session.

Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore, one of the first speakers, addressed the need for the church to take advantage of mass media, especially the Internet, which he said offers a direct channel of evangelization. He cited the pope's observation that the church should participate in the culture of the media, not just try to use it.

Cardinal Eugenio de Araujo Sales of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, speaking on the sensitive topic of papal ministry, said that fidelity to and unity with the pope was an "integral part" of the Christian faith.

According to sources, another cardinal said new structures were needed to promote more unity between local bishops and the pope. An annual Synod of Bishops that would meet at the Vatican with an open agenda might be such a tool, he said.

Several speakers talked about the need to renew the spiritual life of individual Christians. Portuguese Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, who heads the Vatican's sainthood congregation, proposed what he called the "globalization of holiness" for the whole church.

Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino also called for a bold, new pastoral plan of holiness for all Catholics.

Cardinal Francisco Alvarez Martinez of Toledo, Spain, said the problems of the family were the great challenge to the church's social teaching of today.

Cardinal Jozef Tomko, recently retired head of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, proposed a missionary mobilization of the church at every level. He said the church should not aim at "maintenance" but at mission.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles suggested preparation of a "Directory on the New Evangelization," saying the term "new evangelization" has been much-used and now needs to be better defined and applied in local churches.

Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, dean of the College of Cardinals, moderated the first session. Other moderators scheduled May 21-22 were Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state.

The schedule also called for small-group discussions the morning of May 23. Reports from each language group were to be read that evening to the full assembly, along with a final report written by Mexican Cardinal Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara.

In April, the cardinals received a letter from the Vatican Secretariat of State outlining possible themes for their discussion. They included evangelization and dialogue, personal holiness, religious sects, the relationship between Vatican offices and local churches, the role of the bishop, globalization and economic injustice, the response of the faithful to church teachings on sexuality and other moral issues, the church's use of mass media, ecology and New Age movements.

As several cardinals acknowledged before the meeting, the thematic agenda was wide and the time for discussion limited — about 15-20 hours during the meeting.

In addition to the official themes, the cardinals also were expected to spend much time getting to know each other. For more than half the cardinals, it was the first time they had met in such an assembly. The group included more than 40 new cardinals named by the pope in February.

The day before the consistory began, the pope asked for prayers by all Catholics for the meeting and said it would examine the life of the church and its mission at a crucial time in history.

"In every moment, but especially in decisive ones, the church listens to the Spirit. It was so at the Cenacle in Jerusalem, at the first 'council' that opened the doors to the pagans, and it will be so in this consistory, too," he said.

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Handbook, from page 1

mographics of the Diocese of Charlotte.

The handbook is the result of thousands of research hours spent compiling and updating resources for those involved in catechesis in this diocese. An 11-month process involved the gathering of diocesan, national and international guidelines and resources on religious education.

"This handbook is a landmark in terms of how serious we are about the Gospel in our task of being igniters of the faith," said Dr. Cris Villapando, diocesan director of faith formation programs, who oversaw the compilation of the handbook. "We are serious about the Gospel. This is our first and foremost calling."

"At the same time, we realize that we function in the real world," he said, "and in the real world, we need practical tools. For the parish catechetical leader, this handbook is that tool."

Working with Villapando and Father Hawker on the project were Marylin Kravatz, Southern Regional faith formation coordinator; Peg Ruble, Central Regional faith formation coordinator; and Franciscan Sister Bernadette Svatos, Northern Regional faith formation coordinator. A host of parish and diocesan personnel also contributed.

Villapando said the handbook is significant in its presentation of information. "First, this is a handbook of a prescriptive nature," he said. "For example, it covers the required qualifications one needs to be a director of faith formation. To be a catechist, one must undergo phases of formation, and this handbook explains those phases.

"But there is a kind, gentle and supportive nature to it as well. There is a resourcing nature to it. This is a library of resources, practical in nature and a very concrete instrument. We were able to combine a prescriptive document that is always supportive of the ministry."

Issued as a response to requests from religious educators across the diocese, the handbook is the first revised resource made available to catechists in this diocese in at least five years.

For Sheryl Peyton of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, who has served in catechesis in this diocese since the mid-'80s, the handbook is a welcome resource.

"It's really good to have a benchmark that says as of May 2001, this is where we are as a diocese, this is the training that we have, and so on," said Peyton, a member of the Asheville Vicariate Leadership Team for catechists in western North Carolina.

"Over time, things have morphed and things have changed," she added. "This is a great handbook because the diocese has come out and said these are the resources, the forms and the help you need today."

Villapando said the handbook is a "living document," adaptable to change in future needs and times of the church in terms of religious education.

"We are constantly receiving documents both from Rome and the United States Catholic bishops, and we need to incorporate those insights from the official teaching authority of the church," he said. "As policies are updated, it is important that this handbook was created as a living document."

Tracy Welliver of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro said the handbook brings a new uniformity to the resources available to catechetical leaders in the diocese.

"It's great to have this handbook because this is the first time that all of the different guidelines and information that we need to function efficiently as parish catechetical leaders are in one place," he said. "Much of the information we had was in desperate need of updating, so it's really great to have that updated material."

As a regional coordinator, Sister Bernadette said the handbook would be a "tremendous help" to all who are involved in catechetical ministry.

"So often I'll get calls or e-mails with questions regarding confirmation, or what records need to be kept, or how to go about making a budget, or how to have faith formation for parents whose son or daughter is autistic," said Sister Bernadette. "There are wonderful explanations and practical points in this handbook regarding those and so many other concerns."

Bishop William G. Curlin, the chief catechist in the Diocese of Charlotte, agreed with Father Hawker that the ministry of the religious educator is sacred.

"Your ministry of building up the Body of Christ through your expertise in your individual fields, your dedication to the church, and your love for the Lord are certainly essential in this diocese," the bishop said in welcoming comments.

Correction

Last week, the wrong photograph accompanied the obituary for Father Edmund Kirsch. This is the correct picture of the late Father Kirsch. We apologize to the family of Father Kirsch, and also to the priest whose photo inadvertently appeared.

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Charlotteans say thanks to priests through endowments

By **JIMMY ROSTAR**
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Along all the steps of his faith journey, Dick Cox of Charlotte has been accompanied by priests. They have baptized and confirmed his children, they celebrate the Masses he attends daily, they consecrate the Eucharist to which he is so devoted, and they gave last rites to his wife, Loraine.

In their lives together, the Coxes long appreciated the life commitment priests and men studying to be priests offer those whom they serve. Though they agreed that ministry is a gift that cannot be repaid, in the summer of 1998, the Coxes established two endowment funds through the Diocese of Charlotte's Foundation — one for seminarian education and one for priests' retirement needs.

Both endowments will also be beneficiaries of the Coxes' estate.

"In both endowments, we decided that we wanted to do something for the priests," said Mr. Cox, whose wife passed away in 1999. "Somewhere, every day, there is a priest praying for you. Our best friends have been priests over the years. We wanted to express our love and our thanksgiving to all the priests for what they have done for our family and for people in the diocese."

The endowments are permanent gifts to the Foundation. The principal generates income each year for seminarian education and priests' retirement, while the principal itself is never touched. The endowments will generate much more income over time than a one-time cash gift.

In addition, people can contribute to the A. Loraine Cox and C. Richard Cox Seminarian Education Endowment Fund and Priest Retirement Endowment Fund at any time, thus furthering the gifts into perpetuity.

"We wanted something that would go on and on," said Mr. Cox. "With endowments, you're building up something that will yield income every year; it's a lasting thing."

Stewardship of time, talent and treasure has always been important to Cox, who grew up on a Depression-era farm with his parents and sister in Wichita, Kan., served in the military as a fighter pilot, and later made a living as an accountant and CPA. He shared more than 50 years of marriage with Loraine. Together, they raised nine children.

Cox continues to spend his time in prayer, attending Mass and eucharistic adoration daily at his home parish, St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. He is an instrumental guitarist, playing a couple of hours every day — "I play songs from the '20s and '30s," he said with smile — and shares his talent at birthday parties in his parish ministry center and at a Catholic assisted - living home. And carrying on the financial plans he and his wife set up years ago, he shares his treasure, too.

"Mr. Cox is leaving a legacy to his values," said Jim Kelley, executive director of the Foundation and the Diocese of Charlotte's director of development. "He values the priesthood in his life, and he values priests, who made significant imprints on his Catholic faith. These endowments will make a difference in priests' lives forever."

"More and more people across the diocese are remembering the church in their wills and estate plans as a way of continuing their stewardship even after their death," Kelley said.

Because the Diocese of Charlotte pays for the education of its seminarians and offers financial resources to retired priests who have served here, the endowments set up permanent assets to assist the diocese in meeting those needs, Kelley said.

With gifts like these endowments, men studying for the priesthood know that educational expenses will not hinder their calling to serve, while retired priests who have served this diocese can have more comfortable retirements.

And while financial concerns are indeed important, Cox said, "the most important thing we can do for our priests is pray for them."

At the end of the fiscal year 1999-2000, the Diocese of Charlotte managed 67 endowments with assets totaling $7.1 million.

A variety of planned giving options are available to parishioners in the Diocese of Charlotte, including bequests in wills, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, life estate agreements, life insurance gifts, charitable lead trusts, real estate gifts, and gifts from retirement plans.

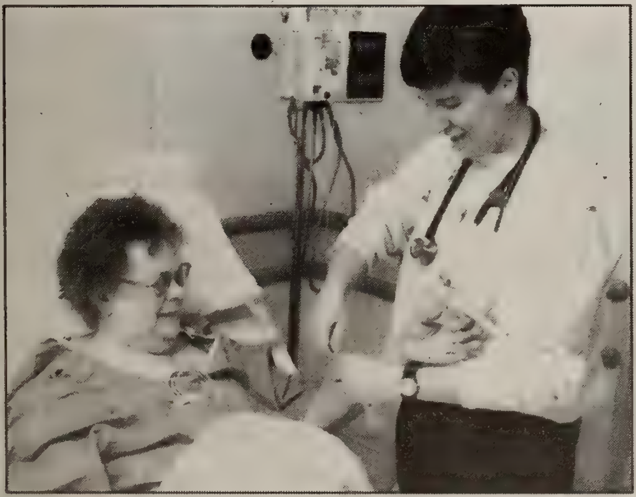
Cox said he and wife were impressed with the manner in which the diocese manages its finances and spends its resources.

"It's very important for people to understand that they can have complete confidence that what they give and what they do is private," Cox added. "If Loraine and I didn't feel comfortable with the administration of the financial affairs of the diocese, we wouldn't have established these endowments."

For information on planned giving, endowments or the Foundation, call Jim Kelley at (704) 370-3301 or Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving, at (704) 370-3320.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

"When you deal with death on a daily basis, you realize how important it is to live life fully."



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She knows the workings of the human body from her studies. From her work at Catherine's House and the House of Mercy, she saw the emotionally, physically and psychologically devastating effects of homelessness, AIDS and poverty.

Lisa admits to doubts along the path, recalling them as times when she hadn't spoken regularly with her best friend — God. In May 1998, she graduated from nursing school and in September Lisa took her final vows as a Sister of Mercy.

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Book Review

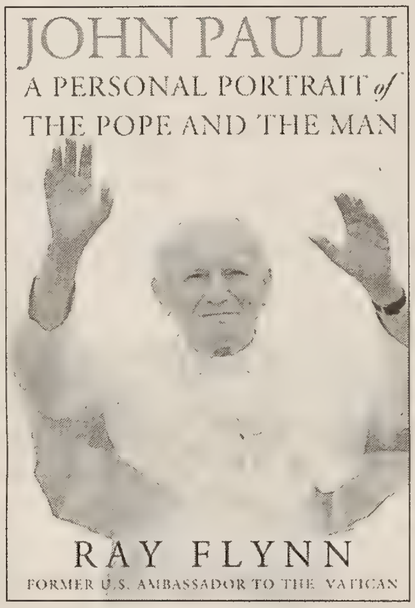
New book chronicles affection for pope

REVIEWED BY FATHER JOHN T. MYLER
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

JOHN PAUL II: A PERSONAL PORTRAIT OF THE POPE AND THE MAN, by Ray Flynn. St. Martin's Press (New York, 2001). 204 pp., $22.95.

"John Paul II: A Personal Portrait of the Pope and the Man," by Ray Flynn, is just that — personal and manly.

Flynn was ambassador to the Vatican from 1993 to 1997 and mayor of Boston from 1984 to 1993. But his book, written with Robin Moore and Jim Vrabel, recalls only a bit of the diplomatic protocol of his job. Rather, it is a chronicle of a deepening, ever affectionate admiration for the pope that grows through personal encounters at grand events like World Youth Day in Denver and intimate moments like those between the pope and the ambassador at the 1994 "Shoah" concert.


JOHN PAUL II
A PERSONAL PORTRAIT of THE POPE AND THE MAN
RAY FLYNN
FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN

For example, Flynn describes speaking with Pope John Paul II at the St. Louis airport in January 1999. In the receiving line, President Clinton said to the pope, "You remember Ambassador Flynn, Your Holiness." And the pope replied, "The ambassador is our very good friend and always will be."

They chatted and then, Flynn writes, "I knew that I didn't have much time, but there was something that I especially wanted the pope to hear. Lowering my voice a little, I said, 'I have heard you might preach against capital punishment, Holy Father. Someone must do it, and as usual it is you. I just want you to know it is a message we need to hear in this country.'"

"Thank you, Ambassador," Flynn says the pope replied. "America is beautiful. She must always choose life instead of death."

Flynn adds, "As I stepped away, I noticed U.S. Reps. Dick Gephardt and Patrick Kennedy in front of me in line. They had been talking with Mrs. Clinton, but had turned to eavesdrop on my conversation with the pope. Both of them had stunned looks on their faces, as if they didn't know that you could talk to — and with — a pope like that."

Flynn talked to and with Pope John Paul like that many times. The incidents are recounted in compelling vignettes, presented chronologically starting with Flynn's first meeting with Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Krakow during a 1969 reception for the Polish cardinal in a church hall in Boston.

"Little did I know back then what a special priest he was, and what a special pope and special friend he would become."

Flynn had met the pope several times before a March 1993 phone call from Clinton asked Flynn to serve as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. Flynn accepted, and he, his wife, Kathy, and most of their family lived in Rome for over four years.

Among the 30 chapters — each actually only five or six pages long — most moving are the recollections of Pope John Paul's personal interest in Flynn's family and friends — answering a dying boy's prayers, easing a mother's pain, reaching out to the Flynn family during a time of personal crisis.

One lengthy treatment is given to the pope's insistence on promoting the culture of life during the infamous Cairo conference of the mid-1990s. Flynn ended up meeting with Clinton face to face in the Oval Office, insisting that the president telephone the pope to hear firsthand the church's opposition to several U.S. proposals.

The great camaraderie between Flynn and Pope John Paul gives a personal glimpse of the pope not found in larger, more scholarly biographies. This "personal portrait" is warm-hearted, insightful and truly unique.

Word to Life

May 27, Ascension of the Lord
Cycle C Readings:
1) Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
2) Ephesians 1:17-23
3) Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

BY DAN LUBY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The image transfixed me, 8 years old, sitting on the floor in the den after supper on a summer night. For a timeless moment the rest of the world disappeared as I gazed intently at a tiny hole in the sock on my left foot. Seconds before, there had been a loud and wholly unexpected machine-gun sound. Wham! Wham! Wham! Now — time stopped — I watched that tiny hole in my sock, where a disconnected sort of pain was beginning.

All around me, my siblings gazed in shared puzzlement at a halo of dark red blooming around the hole in the sock. I had let my toe wander too close to a little floor fan next to the television. My siblings and I were frozen by the shock and confusion of all that bright red blood coming from my toe.

We might all be there still had not my father shouted for them to stand back. He scooped me into his arms and, while my mother staunched the bleeding, drove me to the emergency room. A few stitches later I was back watching television, this time on the couch, reveling in the attention my injury had drawn.

The last scene in the story of Jesus' ascension reminded me of that long-ago summer night. The disciples — frightened, awed, shocked — stood staring at the spot where the Lord had disappeared. Two strangers shook them from their paralysis: "Why are you standing there, looking at the sky?"

Discipleship is a call to action. Day by day we encounter wounds needing bandages, sorrow needing comfort, despair needing hope, injustice needing confrontation. The power of Easter is not only to demonstrate Christ's glory but to move us to imitation of him as well, to the daily task of proclaiming, in word and deed, God's love for all.

QUESTIONS:

What is one action to which you feel Easter calling you? Where in your corner of the world do you need to be busy about the work of healing?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of May 27 - June 2, 2001

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Acts 7:55-60, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20, John 17:20-26; **Monday,** Acts 19:1-8, John 16:29-33; **Tuesday,** Acts 20:17-27, John 17:1-11; **Wednesday,** Acts 20:28-38, John 17:11-19; **Thursday (The Visitation of Mary),** Romans 12:9-16, Luke 1:39-54; **Friday (St. Justin),** Acts 25:13-21, John 21:15-19; **Saturday (Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs),** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31, John 21:20-25

Readings for the week of June 3 - 9, 2001

Pentecost Sunday, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13, John 20:19-23; **Monday,** Tobit 1:1-2; 2:1-9, Mark 12:1-12; **Tuesday (St. Boniface),** Tobit 2:9-14, Mark 12:13-17; **Wednesday (St. Norbert),** Tobit 3:1-11,16, Mark 12:18-27; **Thursday,** Tobit 6:11; 7:1,9-14; 8:4-7, Mark 12:28-34; **Friday,** Tobit 11:5-15; Mark 12:35-37; **Saturday (St. Ephrem),** Tobit 12:1,5-15,20, Mark 12:38-44

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Rev. Guy E. Morse	*2000*

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NBC to air "Pearl Harbor: Legacy of Attack"

By ANNE NAVARRO
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — An absorbing National Geographic special presentation takes another look at the infamous events of Dec. 7, 1941, in "Pearl Harbor: Legacy of Attack," which airs on Sunday, May 27, 9-11 p.m. EDT on NBC.

The two-hour special has been seemingly timed to piggyback on the interest stirred by the big-budget summer movie "Pearl Harbor." But while the movie blends fact with fiction and romance, the National Geographic special is all the more affecting for its stark presentation of the facts and for its interviews with Pearl Harbor veterans. The program rightfully concludes that there is nothing romantic about the loss of 2,400 American lives.

Hosted and narrated by Tom Brokaw, the program also features National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Robert Ballard leading an expedition to find a missing Japanese midget submarine used in the attack and gives viewers a first-ever look inside the sunken battleship the USS Arizona, over which the Pearl Harbor Memorial was constructed. And historian Stephen Ambrose brings historical perspective to the retelling of the Sunday morning surprise attack.

As veterans share their painful and poignant stories, the viewer can't help but be moved. Photographs of them in uniform, looking so young and sprightly, are heartbreaking, especially considering that in the span of two hours these teen-agers (as most of them were) would see their shipmates perish and feel the ravages of war firsthand.

This special emphasizes that though it was a complete victory for Japan militarily, the Japanese miscalculated what it would do to the spirits of those in the armed forces. Instead of demoralizing the soldiers, it emboldened them. The attack on Pearl Harbor was not only a turning point in the war, but a turning point in American history. It brought Americans together, redefined America's role in the world and set it on a course that would make the country a superpower.

The superbly written and assembled program makes clear the significance of the event and the destruction it caused.

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Movie Capsules

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting:

"Angel Eyes" (Warner Bros.)

Tiresome drama in which a tough Chicago cop (Jennifer Lopez) dealing with an abusive childhood and a mysterious stranger (Jim Caviezel) recovering from a traumatic event fall in love, but must reconcile with their respective pasts to make things work. Director Luis Mandoki unsuccessfully blends thriller and romance genres, as perfunctory performances, artificial sentiments and a mechanical script culminate in a forced ending. A sexual encounter, sporadic sexual references, brief violence and intermittent rough language with fleeting profanity. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Fast Food Fast Women" (Lot 47)

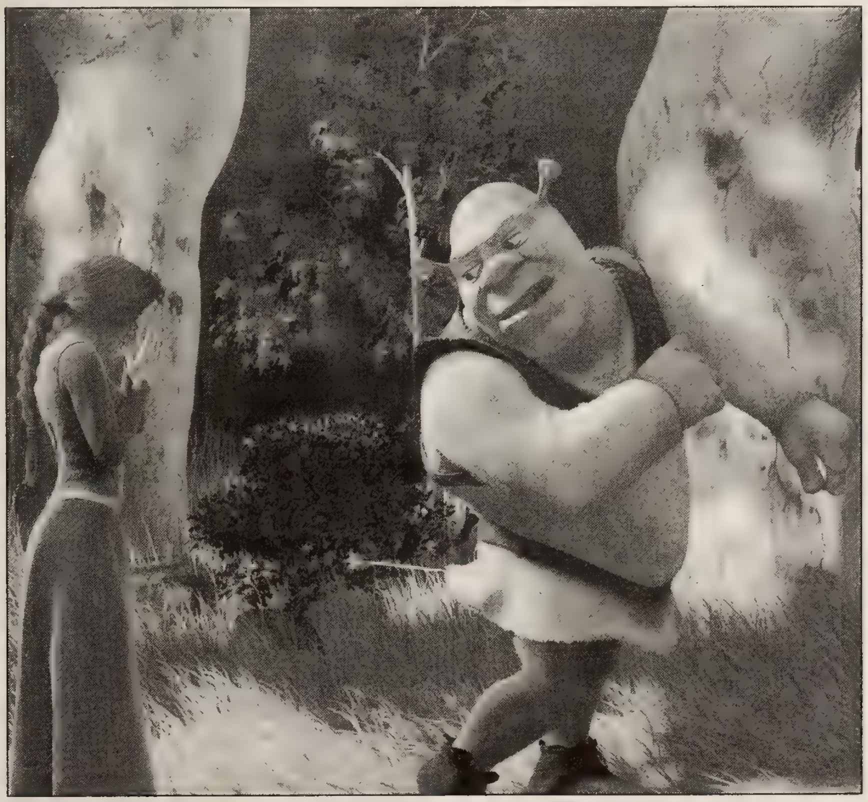
Pointless romantic comedy set in New York City which parallels the love stories of a single waitress (Anna Thomson) who falls for a novelist/taxi driver (Jamie Harris), and that of an aging, sexually insecure widower (Robert Modica) who begins to date again. As directed by Amos Kollek, the monotonous film is a compilation of contrived scenes that lurch between awkward and painfully predictable. A few sexual encounters, some nudity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Moulin Rouge" (20th Century Fox)

Frenetic musical romance set in circa 1900 Paris about a penniless poet (Ewan McGregor) in love with an enchanting courtesan (Nicole Kidman) who is pressured to accommodate a rich duke (Richard Roxburgh) capable of making her a star. Director Baz Luhrmann's wildly creative blend of diverse music and visual styles is a madly paced triumph of artifice over substance in its gushy valentine to romantic love. An implied affair with some sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Shrek" (DreamWorks)

Captivating animated film in which a cynical ogre (voiced by Mike Myers) and his smart-alecky donkey (voiced by Eddie Murphy) agree to save the princess bride (voiced by Cameron Diaz) of a nasty lord (voiced by John Lithgow) in exchange for the return of the ogre's swamp home. As directed by Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson, the sweet but conventional story of self-acceptance reaches new levels of excellence in its animation, and a fine cast of voices further bolsters the film's appeal. Mild crass language and some crude humor. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.



CNS photo from DreamWorks Pictures

Scene from animated film 'Shrek'

Princess Fiona is surprised to see where Shrek has been injured in the computer-animated comedy ``Shrek.'' The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Welcome from Orthodox, Muslim leaders was encouraging, says pope

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said he was encouraged and moved by the warm welcome of Orthodox and Muslim leaders and youths during his early May pilgrimage to Greece, Syria and Malta.

Speaking May 16 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, he said reconciliation with Orthodox Christians and dialogue with Muslims were among Catholic Church priorities for the new millennium.

During his May 4-9 visit to the three countries, the pope traced the footsteps of St. Paul, completing a cycle of long-desired biblical pilgrimages to mark the new millennium of Christianity.

In predominantly Orthodox Greece and in Syria, where the Orthodox form a significant part of the Christian minority, "I wanted to show the Orthodox churches the Catholic Church's affection and esteem, with the desire that the memory of past wrongs against communion would be fully purified and would open space for reconciliation and fraternity," he said.

During a May 4 meeting in Athens with Greek Orthodox leaders, the pope issued a dramatic apology for past treatment of the Orthodox and said it was time to "heal the wounds" that have divided Eastern and Western churches for nearly 1,000 years.

Several days later in Syria, the pope and local Orthodox patriarchs prayed together in a Greek Orthodox cathedral.

"Deeply moved, I saw in this the fulfillment of one of the principal aims of the jubilee pilgrimage, that of gathering together in places of our common origin to witness Christ, our unity," he told the audience.

In addition, the pope said the warm welcome from Syria's majority Muslims was "truly encouraging." During the visit, he became the first pontiff in history to enter a mosque.

"Interreligious dialogue with Islam is becoming increasingly important and necessary at the beginning of the third millennium," the pope said.

In Syria, at a contested border with Israel, the pope prayed for an end to bloodshed and violence in the Middle East. He told the May 16 audience that "in a certain sense, my spirit remains there."

"My prayer continues and will not cease until revenge gives way to reconciliation and the recognition of reciprocal rights," he said.

"I pray to the God of peace that young Christians, Muslims and Jews can grow up together as children of the same God," he said.

The pope's last stop on the pilgrimage was Malta, a heavily Catholic island, where he beatified two men and a woman.

"Once again, I wanted to indicate the path of holiness as the principal path for believers in the third millennium," he said.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Dragging Unwilling Teens to Mass

One recent Sunday morning we watched a little family drama one pew in front of us. This wordless battle of wills probably is played out in almost every parish, almost every Sunday.

They were a father and his teen-age daughter — I took her for about 14. From the moment we sat down behind them, everything about her said "I'm here against my will, and I resent it."

She didn't look at him even once. She read the bulletin and flipped through a little book she found near her seat. She stared out the open door. She braided and unbraided some pieces of string in her purse. She wasn't rude, and she didn't disturb anybody except perhaps her father.

He remained calm and did exactly what he had come to do. He knelt and prayed, and she gazed off into space. When he stood to sing, she stood, shifting from foot to foot in sullen silence.

While he received Communion, she sat in the pew, pushing her cuticles back with a pencil eraser.

As the final words of the Mass were spoken, she heaved a sigh of relief and headed quickly for the door, her father calmly following behind.

One might reasonably ask, "Shouldn't he just leave her at home? If teens want to sleep in on Sunday or hang out at home, does it make any sense for their parents to drag them into Mass?" Absolutely.

It is a Christian parent's responsibility to make sure that their kids participate in the church's life.

Does a parent have the right to make a teen-ager go to church? Absolutely. In fact, it's an obligation.

At baptism, parents make a solemn promise to raise their children in the faith. The baptismal service calls parents the first and best of teachers. You can't teach kids about the faith by leaving them at home on Sunday.

People fear that dragging unwilling teens to Mass will turn them against religion, causing them to stop going as soon as they can. Their argument supposes that somehow, if you let kids drop out when they're 13, some magical force will draw them back when they're 25.

Teens who drop out early mostly don't come back.

There are three stages in your life as church members.

—In Stage 1, kids go because their parents go. The kids don't even think about it.

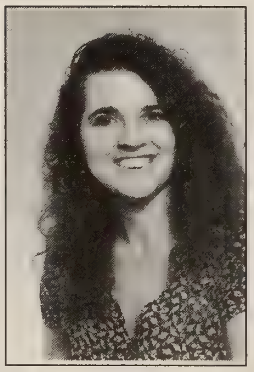
—During their early teens, most pass through Stage 2, a period of questioning during which they challenge their parents' thinking on all manner of subjects, including religion. An important part of growing up Christian is working through that period of rebellion and then discovering the value of the church in a brand new way.

—The third stage comes when the maturing young person finds that matters of faith and a spiritual life really are important. It emerges through a realization that some of the mind's questions must have religious answers, and some of the heart's empty places can only be filled through a relationship with God.

However, you can't get to the third stage if you drop out in the middle of Stage 2. If you haven't stayed around long enough to get a sense of what adult life in the church may be about, you can't possibly know what you're leaving if you decide to bail.

That's why it's the parent's responsibility to keep you going until you're ready to tackle the really big issues on you own.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.



Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Talking With Teens About Pentecost

Do you ever wonder if there's more to this Christianity business than you're led to believe?

The way people talk about it — even religion teachers sometimes — you'd think that being Christian is about nothing more than being kind to other people.

But that surely can't be all there is to it, you suspect. Jesus surely couldn't have been executed just for preaching kindness.

Now it's Pentecost, and that story gives you even more to think about. The apostles are gathered in a locked room, and they're terrified. That's why the door is locked, of course.

Why are they so scared? If Christianity were just about kindness, surely the apostles could get out there on the streets of Jerusalem and tell people about that without fearing for their lives, right?

But there they are, praying and waiting. They've been told by Jesus to go out and spread the good news, and baptize all nations, but they just can't seem to get around to it. They're almost paralyzed there in that room.

For fear of telling people to be nice? I don't think so.

You know the rest of the story, of course. The apostles' fear ends when, in a rush of wind and tongues of flame, the Holy Spirit comes in their midst, setting them on fire and giving them the courage to get out of that room and proclaim the good news. As Peter said that day, "God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

That's the heart of it. That's the core of Christianity — not just simple humanitarianism, but living rooted in the conviction that Jesus is Lord.

So what? What difference does that make?

A big difference.

If Jesus is Lord, that means that everything he said is true. Everything he said about material things being totally unimportant. Every word he said about living by the spirit of the law, not just the letter. Every hint he dropped about sacrifice.

And, very important, everything Jesus said about God's passionate love for you is absolutely true.

Imagine living that way. Imagine walking around in this culture of ours, in which human beings are nothing more than bodies to be exploited and wallets to be emptied, living as if Jesus is Lord.

Now you can see why the apostles were a little hesitant. You might even share that hesitation.

No, you won't be under the threat of arrest and imprisonment if you accept the good news the apostles preached. But you'll probably confront your own set of difficulties from your peers and maybe even from your family.

So maybe now you can see the point of those gifts of the Spirit, poured out on the apostles on Pentecost and shared with you at confirmation. If you're going to embrace Jesus as Lord of your life, you're going to need wisdom, understanding, counsel and knowledge to help you figure out how to live this way.

You're going to need fortitude to help you be strong. You're going to need piety and fear of the Lord for those quiet times when it all gets to be too much, and you'll need to be re-fed and nourished for the next step.

So there you go, young apostle of the 21st century. Jesus is Lord. The Spirit's in your heart.

Isn't it time to unlock the door and go outside?

Light One Candle

Msgr. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

The Unknown Priest

Hosting a weekly television program gives you the opportunity to meet some fascinating people. Sometimes, based on biographical research, you get high expectations. You come to believe that a guest will be something amazing. Too often, you find their pre-publicity doesn't match the reality. In the case of one recent guest, just the opposite happened. My expectations were far exceeded by the person before me.

Her name is Barbara Taylor Bradford and she's a monumentally successful author. With seventeen novels in print, she has sold more than sixty-two million books. They're printed in thirty-nine languages in eighty-nine countries. Her first novel was called A Woman of Substance. Published in 1979, it remained on The New York Times bestseller lists for over fifteen months. Her latest, The Triumph of Katie Byrne, will no doubt continue this winning streak. The London Daily Mail indicates that for three years running, the author ranked in first place on the list of highest-earning British women.

Barbara writes with a unique and insightful style, celebrating the growth and evolution of women faced with seemingly overwhelming odds. Her heroines grow before our eyes, becoming persons of impressive conviction and substance. Personally, the author lives a life filled with some glamour, but with far more stability and normalcy than you'd imagine. Great popular and financial success has not turned her head or led her down foolish paths. This woman knows who she is and what truly matters. So love, fidelity and common sense are her true touchstones. On a blind date in 1961, she met Robert Bradford. She claims it was love at first sight and they married in 1963. The writer and her producer husband seem genuinely to have found a constant in this chaotic world. And it almost didn't happen at all.

Robert Bradford lived as a child in Nazi-occupied territory. His life was at risk. That is, until a Catholic priest helped Robert cross into a safe neighboring country. At the border, now securely on the other side, young Robert turned to wave goodbye to his companion. His eyes beheld a horrible sight. The Gestapo had been trailing this refugee band and arrived too late to stop Robert, but just in time to apprehend and shoot the Catholic priest.

His sacrifice made all the difference to one young life - and perhaps many more. Today, Robert Bradford, a successful film producer, is an avid supporter of children's charities, including the Police Athletic League. It seems he learned early, and from a memorable teacher, the responsibility an adult has to a youngster in need of a friend.

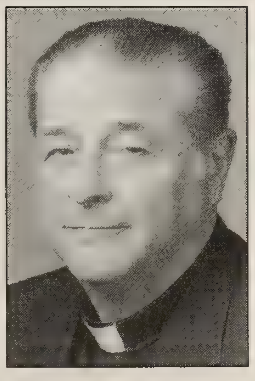
Much is written about all the people in World War II who could have done more, or should have done more, to save human life. But some folks did care. Some folks did get involved. Some folks took the enormous risk. And some died in the trying.

Barbara Taylor Bradford is a great writer and a wonderful person to interview. Unpretentious and joyful, she lights up a room. You sense, as she talks, that the pilot light behind this positive and talented person is her beloved husband. Neither Barbara nor Robert is Catholic. But that doesn't matter. Caring and loving, getting involved and taking a stand are part of the universal call to holiness.

I'm glad Barbara Taylor met and fell in love with Robert Bradford. And I'm delighted that an unknown priest made a decision to make a difference for the good.

Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

May Cremated Remains Be Present During a Funeral?

Q. My retired husband and I have talked with our parish priest about funeral arrangements, including cremation. We realize cremation is permitted by the church now, but what happens at the funeral Mass? Is the urn with the ashes allowed in the church? We seem to be getting mixed answers, even from priests. (Florida)

A. Answers to your question have developed very slowly over the past 20 years or so, as cremation has become more common in the United States. One estimate is that more than 20 percent of funerals in our country now involve cremation. In some states the figure is much higher. Percentages for Catholics appear to be not much different.

As I have explained several times in this column, cremation formerly was forbidden by the Catholic Church (and some other Christian denominations) because anti-Christian groups, especially in Europe, promoted it as a symbolic rejection of Christian belief in the immortality of the soul and the resurrection.

That argument is no longer raised seriously. For decades now, the church has no longer prohibited the practice, provided it is not chosen in disrespect for Christian faith or beliefs.

Because of the large volume of inquiries they were receiving, in 1996 the American bishops requested Vatican permission for the bishop of a diocese to allow the presence of the cremated remains at funeral liturgies in the United States. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments granted this request the following year.

Since then, new readings and adaptations of the rites have been prepared and approved for liturgies with the cremated remains of the body present in church.

A number of bishops and archbishops have delegated their parish priests to make the pastoral decision for a funeral to be celebrated in the presence of the ashes.

Thus, while the Catholic Church continues its preference for traditional entombment, it recognizes that a variety of circumstances — geographic, economic, family considerations and so on — can make cremation an understandable choice.

It still urges, however, that even when cremation will follow, having the body of the deceased present for the funeral Mass better expresses our belief in the dignity and sacredness of the human body, as it is honored in the funeral liturgy.

Nevertheless, cremation beforehand, with the ashes in church for the funeral Mass, is still possible.

Q. A recent movie dealing with exorcisms and devil worship spoke, as I understood it, of "diabolical obsession." Is that the same as possession? (Oklahoma)

A. No. Very briefly, possession usually refers to control, or near control, of a person's body, as it were, from the inside, by an evil spirit.

Obsession is the term used for an experience of many people through the centuries in which an individual is molested physically in circumstances that seem to point to an evil spirit as the cause.

It is, therefore, more of an external than internal influence, but is more than a "temptation" in the ordinary sense of that word.

A free brochure outlining basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts, is available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Guest Column

By ANDREW & TERRI LYKE

Typically, we endure the mad rush at an area restaurant on Mothers Day. This past Mothers Day was very different. Andrew's siblings, their spouses, children and grandchildren forewent the usual and gathered with Mom at the 8:30 Mass at St. Sabina's and spent the rest of the day at Mom's. There was nothing very unusual about the day, from outward appearances. However, something very rich was evident in our gathering that day.

It was our first visit to St. Sabina's, where we were members for many years, since we joined our current parish in 1988. It was like coming home. Being there with so many family members to honor Mom seemed so appropriate and a perfect way to begin what would be a magical day.

Gathering at Mom's after mass began in a typical fashion. Some hung-out in the kitchen, while others watched the NBA playoffs on TV. With children running underfoot, a few of us even took quick naps.

In the late-afternoon we gathered around the TV to watch old family videos. However, before the tape began Andrew's nephew Craig made the announcement that he was entering the police academy after much discernment. He asked for the family's support; we lifted him in prayer.

The first video was from Christmastime 1991-a time of innocence before the deaths of brother Aaron, uncle Jimmie and Dad. In mid-May, there we were singing Christmas carols along with the video. The older children were embarrassed by their childhood naiveté, while the younger kids marveled at the youthfulness of the "old folks."

The second video was of sister Lila's 40th birthday party in July of the same year. In typical fashion there was dancing, "doowop" singing and plenty of embarrassing moments to laugh at. Evident in both videos was our love for and pride in one another, and the magic we bring to our family gatherings.

Looking around the crowded livingroom and reflecting on so much that has transpired since the time of the videos, we appreciated the love and pride that is still strong, perhaps stronger, yet seasoned by time, tragedy and tears.

The next day Mom called to say how it was a very special Mothers Day for her. It was so for us all. The magic is still there.

Sometimes when we gather as a family, the pain of losing family members is most pronounced. We can actually feel their absence. Despite all that, gathering as family is like going to the well and sipping the waters of life. John 4:14 says, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

It is in such gatherings that we discover who we really are. Within the family gathered the waters of life gush up and overflow in abundance. It is there we gather the people, prepare the food, give thanks to God, break the bread, tell the stories of our life and faith, and dance in the radiant, magical light of God's love.

Questions for Reflections:

- *When have you felt the absence of a deceased loved-one most?*
- *How have family gatherings revealed God's love for you?*
- *When was the last time you gathered with your family and watched videos or perused the family photo album?*
- *How has time, tragedy and tears seasoned the love in your family?*

Youth explore definitions of violence

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

BRYSON CITY — The setting was peaceful, but the subject was violence — and how to deal with it. Youth from four parishes in the Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates learned how to deal with violence and prevent potential violence. During a middle school retreat held May 12 at Camp Living Waters, they learned that they have a part in making a new and better world.

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan director of the Office of Youth Ministry, who led the retreat, took his theme, "I Make All Things New," from Revelation 21:5, found in that weekend's readings for the fifth Sunday of Easter. The retreat concluded with some of the families joining the group for Mass celebrated by Father Ray Williams, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Bryson City.

Those participating in the retreat were: from St. Joseph, Chris Norcross, Tiffany Carlson, Stephen Sauer, Brittney Helton, and Mary Herr, regional faith formation consultant for the Smoky Mountain Vicariate; from St. William, Murphy, Stephanie Martin; from St. Mary, Sylva, Erin Hayes, J.R. Collins, and Kyle McCay; and from St. Barnabas, Arden, Aubrey Foss, Jennifer Foss (Aubrey's mother), Lia Beard, and Benjamin Torres.

Kotlowski began the retreat with an exercise designed to show how easy it is to exclude people. He then went among the group, placing a colored dot on each one's forehead. When they opened their eyes, they had to form groups of people with the same colored dots — without talking. The point of the exercise was not lost on anyone. As Erin said, "We couldn't judge people right away and say, 'You're a green,' you're a loser,' because we might be green."

J.R. was the loner, the only person with a dot of a different color. Erin said she felt guilty for leaving him out of her group. J.R. made the point that "sometimes we leave people out, not because of skin color, but if they're different" in some other way.

Others also knew about exclusion.

Lia said that at her school, if a student talked to someone who wasn't accepted, no one would accept the student who initiated the conversation. She added that "people are scared of what they don't understand," and said that she and a girl who attends a Lutheran church became friends after they discussed what each believes and finding how similar many of their beliefs were.

Aubrey said she had attended a service with a friend from another denomination and the pastor and others were surprised that a Catholic would attend their church.

"In finding similarities," Kotlowski said, "we'll be building the kingdom. Jesus came that we would be one, but we've really messed that up over the years. Build the kingdom by concentrating on the similarities rather than the differences. We want to find something similar and concentrate on that rather than on the differences."

"We need to recognize that God is the author of diversity and differences," he added. "Just look at the awesome diversity in creation. Ultimately, diversity is of God; therefore, it should be something celebrated, not feared."

Then it was time to focus on violence and the escalators that cause violence, what often happens when people emphasize differences at school and elsewhere. What is violence? The retreatants broke into groups to come up with a definition.

When the group discussions ended, Kotlowski wrote on a flip chart as the participants called out parts of the definition. Violence, they said, is sin, physical or emotional abuse, emotional stress, people bringing guns to school, displaying anger or hatred toward others resulting in emotional or physical harm, people being mean because of different opinions, hatred stored up inside a person and released as rage, expressions of misunderstanding between two or more people and resulting in harm, someone needing to get the upper hand, sadness, jealousy, regret, anxiety, hurting another person emotionally or physically because you don't understand them or they are different, anger taken out in a brutal way.

And there was also violence to the environment as seen in littering, polluting, improper disposal of chemicals, use of pesticides, erosion, sport hunting, and overdevelopment of land.

"Do I want to be a life-giver with constructive attitudes or someone who's negative?" Kotlowski asked. "God made us to love and to be loved and to belong. When we're loved, we're given attention; we need to belong. If I don't get attention in positive ways, I'm going to demand attention in negative ways."

J.R. said that even though we're the "image of God, we do violence to ourselves with drugs, alcohol, and sex."

"Every human being is sacred and precious and a miracle, and J.R. brings up an excellent point that we do violence to ourselves because we don't believe that," Kotlowski said.

The next step was to decide what was the opposite of violence. As Erin scribed on the flip chart, parts of the definition came in. Nonviolence, the group members said, is respecting self and others, love, being nice to everybody, honoring people's differences and solving differences by compromise, caring for the earth, mediation, respecting others' religions, peace, freedom from stress or having nonnegative stress, doing unto others, not judging others, courtesy, Jesus and what he taught, caring for others, sharing, sacrifice, openness, helpfulness, listening, understanding, healing, trusting, leadership, patience, God, fairness, equality, justice, repentance.

In a discussion of conflict resolution, Paul pointed out that "every warning sign is an opportunity to back out or to introduce peace."

"So what does all this have to do with God making all things new?" he asked.

"If you ask God for forgiveness, he'll absolve you and make you new," Aubrey said.

"As builders of the kingdom, we need to recognize the steps leading to violence," Paul said. "Hopefully, because of our commitment to God and his values, we build the mechanisms in ourselves that will get us off the escalator, will get our friends off the escalator."

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Director of Office of Youth Ministry: Full-time, Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Responsibilities include: actively coordinating diocesan-wide program; coordinate and serve as resource for parochial youth programs; promote youth ministry awareness among clergy, parents and youth. Qualifications are: Catholic in good standing; college degree with theological course work (master's degree in theology or related field preferred); experience in youth ministry as articulated in Renewing the Vision, USCC 1997 programs; working knowledge of Spanish; ability to work and communicate with adolescents and adults; enthusiasm for and loyalty to the Church. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits package. Send resume to: Fr. Michael Taylor, Diocese of Arlington, 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 519, Arlington, VA 22203. Please send resumes by July 1, 2001.

Director of Religious Education: DRE/Coordinator of Youth Ministry for suburban Charlotte parish of 1400 families. Major responsibilities include: oversight of entire Faith Formation program and coordination, grades six through 12 catechetical and youth program with emphasis on high school youth. Applicant must be practicing Catholic and have certificate in Religious Education or Youth Ministry with at least one year experience. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Contact Rev. William Kelley, SJ., St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117; (704) 664-3992: or email: w-kelley@msn.com

High School Youth Minister: Vibrant 4,500-family suburban Atlanta parish. Sunday evening mass and program (currently LifeTeen); also teen OCIA, retreats, adult leader formation, confirmation preparation, and cooperation with colleagues to oversee entire parish catechetical effort. Healthy Vatican II spirituality, collaborative skills, a must; degree in religious education or related field or comparable experience required; Spanish-language facility a plus. Full-time position available immediately. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Send resume and references to Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 535 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004. Fax 770-772-0355.

Parish Catechetical Leader: St. Joseph Parish, Kannapolis. Seeking a dedicated and spiritual leader for our faith education program. Must be certified catechist. Completion of Lay Ministry courses helpful but not necessary. Candidates shall have experience working with children, strong organizational skills, and leadership. Bilingual skills (Spanish) preferred but not necessary. Part-time (20-30 hours per week) with competitive salary. Send resume and salary requirements to: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Attn: PCL Position, PO Box 220, Kannapolis, NC 28082. Call (704)932-4607 for information or fax: (704)932-0566.

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Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706)722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop Middle/High School and Young Adult Ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

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Obstacles strengthen deacon's faith, provide spiritual nourishment

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MORGANTON — Rev. Mr. Jim Johnson held his breath as the water rushed all round him, enclosing him on all sides. The members turned out for his baptism into the Methodist faith and gathered around the pond used for church baptisms. It was at that time that teen-aged Johnson first thought that someone had something in store for him.

Rev. Mr. Jim Johnson

"All community baptisms took place in that pond, and at that time, I felt that God had something special for me to do," said Rev. Mr. Johnson, who taught Bible study and worked with the small youth group.

That 'something special' came later as he was ordained to the permanent diaconate of the Catholic Church and began his ministry. His faith journey took him from the flatlands of Texas to the mountains of Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

Rev. Mr. Johnson's grew up in a small farming community in Nacogdoches, Texas, and remembers a time filled with food and discussions that revolved around the important presence of immediate and extended family and faith. A desire to discover more about himself and the world outside of his childhood home sent him to Stephen F. Austin Teacher's College to become an agriculture teacher; however, a need for money and a job carried him to Beaumont, where his uncle owned a hamburger stand.

It could be the smell of the burgers or the sight of Rev. Mr. Johnson cooking them that drew Judith, his future wife, to the establishment. In any case, it was love at first sight for the both of them, and they were married.

He had first-hand experience with Catholicism through his wife, a devout, cradle Catholic. Because of his hectic work schedule, he began attending the Mass and became acquainted with a religion with which he had little exposure in his predominantly Protestant hometown.

"I had thought the only people who were Catholic were Hispanic. I didn't understand a word of the Mass because it was all in Latin at that time, but the mystery of church made me feel as if it touched my soul. Even today, so much of it is still a mystery to me, but back then, I felt as if I had really been to church after attending a Catholic Mass."

The couple moved to Houston, and he had just begun working at a meatpacking plant when the Army called him to duty in 1960 because of the Berlin Crisis. His wife went with him to Tennessee, where she found a teaching job in a nearby Catholic school, and they lived in a housing community with other drafted soldiers and their families.

"I had the best job — a battalion mail clerk," he said. "Everyone liked the mail clerk. I took special care of the cooks, and they would take care of me. When we had extra food, I was able to feed everyone in the trailer park where we lived. (It was an example of) God's love shining forth because we shared what we had with others."

In 1961, Rev. Mr. Johnson began studying his wife's religion, and through her support and guidance, he converted. "I felt it was a blessing in my life, and it was something I had wanted to do. My wife never pressured me at all and would take time to answer all my questions. She was and still is my rock."

After a little over two years of duty, the Johnsons returned to Texas, but after the plant closed down, they needed to figure out what was next. A close friend of his from Tennessee told him that the state was booming, so he went to scout around for himself. After obtaining a job at a research plant, he called his wife to tell her to sell their house and their dog and join him in Elizabethton, Tenn., where he later finished his college degree in science.

"It was quite a culture shock. It was very country and clannish, whereas outsiders and Catholics weren't thought of very kindly."

Their less than friendly reception caused them to embrace their faith even more and to become very active in the local church in prayer groups and faith formation. They were also a part of the first RCIA team in Eastern Tennessee. "It was so great to see that, and I learned so much more about the Catholic Church by helping to prepare other people. During the Easter vigil, I could feel the spirit alive in the church."

When his parish priest asked him to consider the permanent diaconate, he protested saying that he was a convert, was not financially stable and did not have adequate transportation to the classes in Nashville. But, Rev. Mr. Johnson said that God had other plans.

"Every time I made an excuse, God would take it away. Out of the blue, I got a raise, and I got a great deal on a car. You can't argue with God and win. I started with the classes and enjoyed them."

Everything was on track until life threw Rev. Mr. Johnson a curve ball. He had his choice of being transferred to Texas, his home, Indonesia or Morganton, N.C. The Appalachian Mountains called the family to Morganton where they settled. He continued attending classes in Nashville while advancing in his job and began to explore the Diocese of Charlotte and his new parish home, St. Charles Borromeo. However, he received some devastating news.

"I had finished the three years of class but couldn't be ordained in Tennessee. It was very hurtful, but I figured that God would not have taken us this far and that he had a plan."

He received word from the Diocese of Charlotte that he had permission to be ordained in 1987. Since that day when the deacons from his class in Tennessee traveled to see him ordained, he has become involved with prison ministry, marriage encounter and has been the Boy and Girl Scouts' diocesan chaplain since 1985, also serving as Assistant Scout Master and Scout Master and Cub Master.

"Scouting has helped me do a lot of good for boys from broken homes, those with problems, and God has been able to use me as a minister to these young men," said Rev. Mr. Johnson, father of four. "I encourage them to earn religious awards in their various faiths and to share their faiths with each other. You can go down the list of Scouting laws, and it applies to all of us. I try to get them to take an active role in their spiritual lives and with prayer, and Scouting helps with that."

Rev. Mr. Johnson cites his wife and family as his main source of inspiration for his diaconate work. His wife is his homily consultant and critic, and he says that e-mail is a good friend of his because he receives ideas and stories from people for his homilies. "My wife has always been there for me, and I don't see how I could have made it this far without the support of my wife and family."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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For information on specific programs, please call your local office.

Diocese to welcome four at ordination

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Spring and early summer are times of milestones and beginnings for the diocese — graduations, confirmations, first Communions and ordinations. Four men will be taking their final steps toward a lifelong dedication and commitment to God through ordained ministry and will begin their lives anew. This year's class of candidates includes two brothers from Vietnam and two widowers with families.

Bishop William G. Curlin will ordain Rev. Messrs. Kurt Fohn, Duc Duong, Tien Duong and Robert Ferris to the holy priesthood at a Mass held at St. Gabriel Church on June 2.

"This year's class has a rich diversity in the gifts these good men bring to priestly ministry. Two are widowers who applied for the seminary upon the deaths of their wives, and both men are fathers of children, some of whom now have children of their own," said Bishop Curlin. "Two are also brothers who escaped Vietnam in order to find freedom in the United States."

According to May statistics from a survey conducted by the U.S. bishops' Committee on Vocations, of the nearly 400 men being ordained this year, 13 percent are Hispanic, 7 percent are of Asian descent and 1 percent are African-American. The percentage of those born in countries other than the United States was also higher — from 24 to 28 percent. This is reflected in the class of 2001of the Diocese of Charlotte with Rev. Messrs. Tien and Duc Duong from Vietnam and Rev. Mr. Fohn, who was born and raised in Germany.

Rev. Mr. Fohn and Rev. Mr. Ferris both attended Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Western Massachusetts. Rev. Mr. Fohn was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1989 prior to entering the seminary. Rev. Mr. Duc Dong attended the Theological College of the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. while his brother Rev. Mr. Tien Duong completed his studies at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa. Though educated at different seminaries in the country, all four men will contribute their experiences and knowledge as priests of the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Each of the men who are being ordained had followed a wonderful journey to the priesthood. Each one of them is uniquely gifted for work that will be entrusted to them as priests. All of them in their own way have borne extraordinary witness to their faith in their individual lives," said Father John Allen, assistant director of vocations for the diocese.

The bishop said that daily prayer is a key element in maintaining their ministry as priests.

"As bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte, I thank the good Lord for sending us these fine men who devote their lives to help build up the Body of Christ in Western North Carolina. I pray also he bless them, their loved ones, friends and members of their seminary faculty who helped bring them to this special day of consecration."

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

June 8, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 36

Inside

Catholics and Lutherans celebrate covenant anniversary ... PAGE 5

Exchange program bridges cultures in student body ... PAGE 12

Local News

Boone parishioner honored with Mother Teresa Memorial Award ... PAGE 7

"Families First" forum hosted in Hayesville ... PAGE 19

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 14-15

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 16-17

Front-page art:
Four men were ordained into the holy order of priesthood June 2. Bishop William G. Curlin ordained Rev. Messrs. Robert Ferris, Duc Duong, Tien Duong and Kurt Fohn during the liturgy, where the bishop urged the newly ordained to be men of faith, service and the sacraments. See story and photo essay, pages 9-11.

"The church needs disciples on fire with love for Jesus Christ."
— Bishop William G. Curlin to the ordination class of 2001

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

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Canonization cause opened for 'rosary priest' Father Peyton

FALL RIVER, Mass. (CNS) — The Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes has formally opened the cause for the possible canonization of the late Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton, the world famous "rosary priest" and pioneer radio and TV producer. Bishop Sean P. O'Malley of Fall River, who made the announcement June 1, sought the formal approval of the Vatican congregation because Father Peyton is buried in Easton, which is within the Diocese of Fall River. Calling the Vatican approval "wonderful news," Bishop O'Malley said that as a priest for 51 years, Father Peyton "encouraged millions of families around the world to pray daily, especially the rosary, to strengthen families and to achieve world peace. He knew that with prayer all things became possible."

Synod document stresses bishop's spirituality, role as teacher

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A document intended to focus discussion at this fall's Synod of Bishops emphasizes the spirituality of individual bishops and their primary roles as teachers and unifiers. The document, known as an "instrumentum laboris," also identifies a host of practical issues that might receive treatment, ranging from re-integrating retired bishops into dioceses to declaring church law above civil legislation in priestly misconduct cases. The working document is based on responses to an 86-page outline and series of questions sent to bishops' conferences around the world in June 1998. The 124-page text of the working document was released at the Vatican June 1.

Border deaths prompt bishop's call for change in U.S. policies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the bodies of 12 of the 14 Mexicans who died in the Arizona desert a week earlier were returned to their home state, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration reiterated a call to change U.S. border policies May 30. "Our elected officials must steer away from a one-dimensional approach toward our borders and examine all aspects of national immigration policy," said Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Camden, N.J., who heads the committee. In a statement released by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, Bishop DiMarzio said that examination should include the legal immigration system, laws addressing asylum and due process protection, and the current treatment of undocumented immigrants who enter the United States.

CNS PHOTO BY MICHAEL MARKWICK, BRITISH COLUMBIA CATHOLIC

Children carry Youth Day service cross

Children from the Archdiocese of Vancouver carry the Youth Day Cross with help from Corpus Christi College students in Vancouver. The cross is making its way across Canada for World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002

Genetic transfer for fertility raises questions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Jesuit genetics expert said a new assisted human reproduction technique involving genetic transfer poses some ethical issues in itself. But more significantly, he said, the use of the procedure highlights major questions about the reproductive technology industry. "There is probably a broad agreement — certainly among medical ethicists — that the reproductive technology industry is one of the least regulated, and probably most in need of regulation, within the whole health care arena," said Jesuit Father Kevin T. FitzGerald, a specialist in genetics and bioethics. The priest, an assistant professor of medicine at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, was interviewed by telephone following recent reports about a new fertility technique at the St. Barnabas Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Science in Livingston, N.J., that produces babies who bear genes from three people — a mother, a father and a cytoplasmic donor.

U.S. ecumenical service marks Armenian Church's 17th centenary

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. church leaders joined Catholicos Karekin II of Etchmiadzin, Armenia, head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, in an ecumenical prayer service May 30 celebrating 1,700 years since all Armenia became Christian. Two Catholic cardinals and the Rev. Robert W. Edgar, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, flanked the catholicos as he presided over the two-hour evening service at the Catholic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. In his address Catholicos Karekin thanked God for the restoration of Armenian independence and religious freedom after 70 years of communism, "in the face of the evil and apostasy forced upon us" by Soviet religious persecution.

Vatican says pope to visit Armenia, Kazakstan in September

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will travel to Armenia and Kazakstan in September, his first trip to either Asian country, the Vatican said. The pope also plans to visit Bulgaria in the spring of 2002, a year in which he already has scheduled a visit to Toronto for World Youth Day festivities, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Vatican spokesman, said May 31. The visit to Armenia has been long-expected and will feature the pope's presence at events marking the 1,700th anniversary of Christianity in the country. Kazakstan, a former Soviet republic that extends from the Caspian Sea to western China, established diplomatic ties with the Vatican in 1992. The pope is expected to spend about two days in both countries.

Irish bishop calls for referendum on permanent abortion ban

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — The Irish people deserve a referendum that would guarantee the absolute right to life of the unborn child, said an Irish bishop. In a pastoral letter released May 27, Bishop Thomas A. Finnegan of Killala said the Irish Constitution did not provide a permanent ban on abortion, and that, in some cases, the right to abort a child could be upheld. He referred to a 1983 amendment to the Irish Constitution that promises to "defend and vindicate" the right to life "as far as practicable." But, the bishop said, the protection against abortion is rendered moot in certain circumstances due to two earlier court rulings that involved minors.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

June 12 — 7 p.m. Confirmation
St. Joseph, Asheboro
June 16 — 11 a.m.
Sisters of Mercy Jubilee Celebration
St. Gabriel, Charlotte
June 17 — 10:30 a.m. Confirmation
St. John Lee Korean, Charlotte
3 p.m.
Feast of Corpus Christi Celebration
Maryfield Nursing Home, High Point
June 18 — 7 p.m.
Addressing clergy of Archdiocese
of Newark for Vocations Day
Newark, New Jersey
June 22 — 5 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Mass for
Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Peter, Charlotte
June 23 — 10 a.m. Diaconate Ordination
St. Gabriel, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

June

11 CHARLOTTE — The 1st Annual Links for Life Golf Tournament will be held today at Firethorne Country Club. Included in the package will be lunch, beverages, dinner and a post-tournament awards reception. All proceeds will benefit Room at the Inn, a maternity home supporting single, homeless, pregnant women and their children. Call Charity Gray at (704) 521-2774 for a team registration form and other details.

12 CHARLOTTE — There will be an Alzheimer's Information Session held at Sardis Presbyterian Church, 6100 Sardis Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. Suzanne Bach, director of Shining Stars Adult Day Respite, will speak about support groups and memory loss, and other speakers include Dr. Stephen Powell, Carol Douglas and Rev. Jane Foley from the host church. Various topics include how to care for and support the person with Alzheimer's and how the caretaker must care for him or herself. For details, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

14 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area are hosting ultreyas followed by a school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1-2:30 p.m. on June 24 with childcare, a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on June 24 with childcare and a family potluck and no school of leaders. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

14 HIGH POINT — Beginning at 7 p.m. tonight and continuing June 15 and 16, in preparation for the Feast of Corpus Christi, a triduum of Masses including blessing of the sick, benediction and a reception will be celebrated by Father Tony Larry of St. Paul the Apostle Church in

Immigrants' deaths shocking but predictable, bishops say

PHOENIX (CNS) — The death of 14 illegal immigrants in the Arizona desert "is both shocking and, tragically, predictable," the three Catholic bishops who serve Arizona said in a joint statement. "Migrants from Mexico and Central America have been dying in our deserts for years, dying despite the efforts of church and human rights groups to assist immigrants at risk," said the May 25 statement signed by Bishops Manuel D. Moreno of Tucson, Thomas J. O'Brien of Phoenix and Donald E. Pelotte of Gallup, N.M. The Gallup Diocese includes Apache and Navajo counties and parts of the Navajo and Hopi reservations in Coconino County, all in Arizona.

Ending hunger is 'obligation of all,' says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ahead of a world leaders' summit on eradicating hunger, a Vatican official called on governments and international organizations to respect the "fundamental obligation of all to guarantee, concretely, food security for all." Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, the Vatican's permanent observer to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, said poor follow-through from a similar meeting in 1996 was "profoundly disappointing" and without justification. The diplomat made his remarks at the opening session of a May 28-June 1 meeting in Rome of the Committee on World Food Security, which was planning a November gathering called "World Food Summit — Five Years Later."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Kenyan children scavange for food

Children fight over a garbage bin to look for food in the streets of Nairobi, Kenya, May 30. A recession in Kenya has sent thousands of citizens into the streets as beggars.

Pope sends two Vatican diplomats to Jerusalem to encourage peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent two Vatican diplomats to Jerusalem to encourage Israeli and Palestinian leaders to call a cease-fire and return to negotiations, the Vatican said. According to a May 30 statement, the envoys will deliver a personal letter from the pope to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. The two envoys, who left Rome May 30, were Cardinal Pio Laghi, a 79-year-old former Vatican diplomat in Jerusalem, Argentina and the United States, and Msgr. Giovanni d'Aniello, a Vatican expert on Middle East affairs.

Catholic press urged to help form community united in Christ

DALLAS (CNS) — Catholic journalists have a duty to change society from a culture of rugged individualism into a community united in Christ, Dallas Coadjutor Bishop Joseph A. Galante said in a May 25 address at the Catholic Press Association's annual convention. "In doing that, we need to understand more profoundly what baptism does for us," he told 400 journalists gathered in Dallas for the convention. "Baptism profoundly changes our life. It brings us into relationship with the Trinity and the community," he said. "Catholic publications reach more people than the priest in the pulpit. Keep in mind your audience and don't assume they know everything going on. Present the church's position and in a language that's understandable and truthful," he added.

Friars, park service sign agreement on disputed trail land

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and the National Park Service signed an agreement May 25 ending a dispute over a section of the Appalachian Trail crossing property of the friars, the order announced. Terms of the agreement, which provide a "right of way" easement for 63 out of 400 acres in the order's property, had been worked out earlier. That represented an increase of about eight acres over an easement the park service secured in 1984. The friars, who received $116,500 for the original easement, will be paid $25,680 for giving up any right to develop the added acreage.

German Protestants stir debate with invitation to 'communion'

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) — Protestants in Germany stirred controversy over the nature of Communion when they invited Catholics to a nontraditional eucharistic service. Organizers of a liturgy during the June 13-17 Protestant Church Assembly, or Kirchentag, in Frankfurt, will offer fruit, cheese, bread and grape juice in what is being described as a "celebratory communion with the character of a satisfying meal." The service will be held in Lutheran parishes throughout the city at the half-way point of the assembly. A guide for local organizers suggests Lutherans join with neighboring non-Lutheran parishes to prepare the service. Bishop Franz Kamphaus of Limburg, a strong supporter of ecumenical initiatives whose diocese includes Frankfurt, rejected the invitation, saying that Catholics from his diocese who participate can expect disciplinary action.

Bishops plan to explain Christ's real presence in Eucharist

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops plan to vote this June on a statement explaining church teachings on the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Besides addressing the core teaching, the statement touches on topics such as eucharistic devotion, receiving Communion under both kinds and what happens when someone without faith or in a state of sin receives the Eucharist. The bishops are to discuss and vote on the proposed 19-page statement, written in question-answer format, during their June 14-16 national meeting in Atlanta. A number of bishops signed a request to develop such a statement in November 1999.

Greensboro at Maryfield Nursing Home, 1315 Greensboro Rd. On June 17, a Feast of Corpus Christi Mass will be held at 3 p.m., also at Maryfield. For further information, call Theresa Hansen at (336) 273-1507.

17 FOREST CITY — Immaculate Conception Church, 1024 W. Main St., is hosting an American Red Cross-directed blood drive from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call Claire Feldmeth at (828) 245-6053 for registration and further information.

18 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. There will be no meetings in July and August, but the group will begin meeting again in Sept. Anyone interested in their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

18 MAGGIE VALLEY — Living Waters, Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, will be sponsoring a retreat entitled "Augustine and Our Faith Journey" beginning today through June 22. The retreat, which applies to the thought of St. Augustine to contemporary struggles and issues including memory, teaching and work, will be facilitated by Dr. Joseph T. Kelley, vice-president for Mission Effectiveness and director of the Center for Augustinian Study. For more information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

20 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be having a meeting this morning instead of the regularly scheduled date of June 13 at 11 a.m. for the installation of officers and a catered lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-8357 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

21 BOONE — Father John Putnam will be presenting a Day of Reflection, sponsored by Catholic Social Services Elder Ministry, at St. Elizabeth Church, 259 Pilgrims Way, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at 12:15 p.m., and lunch will be served. Scholarships are available for those in need. For further information about mail-in registration to Sandra Breakfield, 1123 South Church St., Charlotte, N.C., 28203; or for other details, call Meg Smith at (828) 438-0774.

24 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The June hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call Nina D'Arcy at (828) 299-7618 or e-mail ninadarcy@juno.com.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Oratory Religion Camp will hold two separate one-week sessions at Camp York in Kings Mountain State Park during the weeks of July 8-14 and July 15-21. Boys and girls under 12, entering grades 2-6 in Sept., can apply for consideration. Those 16 and older wishing to volunteer as counselors can write for a staff application. Application deadline is June 11. For further information and application, write to: Oratorian Father William F. Pentis, camp coordinator; the Oratory Religion Camp, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C., 29731-1586; or call (803) 327-2097.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Mercy Sisters honored for years of service to school

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

SALISBURY — Mercy Sister Mary John Madden walked the halls of the school where she once served as principal and marveled at how some things had changed yet had remained the same. The now-retired sister was principal of Sacred Heart School in Salisbury in the 1970s and 1990s and walked into a classroom of first-graders on computers while touring the school, a concept unheard of in the '70s when she first served as academic leader of the school.

Sister Mary John and other Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina who have contributed to Catholic education in the Salisbury area were recognized at a ceremony at the school on May 30. Eyes squinting from the sun and smiles in the shade were on the faces of the young and old at the outdoor service of blessing in honor of the Sisters of Mercy at Sacred Heart School.

"The school has become better through renovations, building updates and competent, dedicated teachers," said Sister Mary John. "Even though we have a shortage of sisters now, we have very dedicated laypeople who have followed in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy and are trying to keep alive what we stand for and believe in."

Mercy Sister Rosalind Picot, president of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of North Carolina; Father John Putnam, pastor of Sacred Heart Church; Kathleen Miller, principal of Sacred Heart School; the student body and parents were present to witness the official recognition of years of teaching, administrative work and dedication to the Salisbury school.

"Everyone in this community has a particular gift, and I hope that you will take these gifts — God's mercy and love — we have brought to you, present in the administration and faculty, with you throughout your lives," said Sister Rosalind to the student audience, some of whom have not had the opportunity to have a woman religious as a teacher or principal.

A bronze plaque thanking the sisters for their efforts and a permanent record of all of the sisters who have been a part of the scholastic family will adorn the main hall as a reminder to all present and future students and faculty of the mark the Sisters of Mercy left on the school.

Rachel and Jim Dunn, along with their sons, Sacred Heart graduates, banded together to make the plaque presentation possible. Rachel Dunn, a first-grade teacher who retired on June 1 of this year after 22 years at Sacred Heart, was the impetus for the plaque presentation and ceremony. She said that she did not want to leave the school without there being tangible and visible evidence of the sisters at the school.

"I wanted some kind of permanent remembrance because they won't be back, but their presence and influence will always be in the school. They are in our history, and they have brought their love and dedication. We always looked up to them, and they always had our complete respect," said Mrs. Dunn.

Eighty-seven sisters were honored for 87 years of service to a school in existence since 1882. Even though other needs have drawn the sisters away from the school to other areas of ministry, their legacy is definitely felt.

"When I came here, the school had an excellent reputation all founded by the Sisters of Mercy. I miss not having the sisters here because to have that religious presence makes an impression in a Catholic school," said Miller, principal for four years and a third- and fifth-grade religion teacher. "Laypeople can still promote the faith to the students, but the sisters made a statement."

Father Putnam remarked, "We pride ourselves on Sacred Heart School being a place where children can come not only to grow academically, but spiritually. When we look at the spiritual benefits of the school, it is clear the Sisters of Mercy built the foundation on which we are working today. We all desired to come together today and really honor them and show our appreciation for all that they have done, the legacy they have left us that will continue for years to come."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

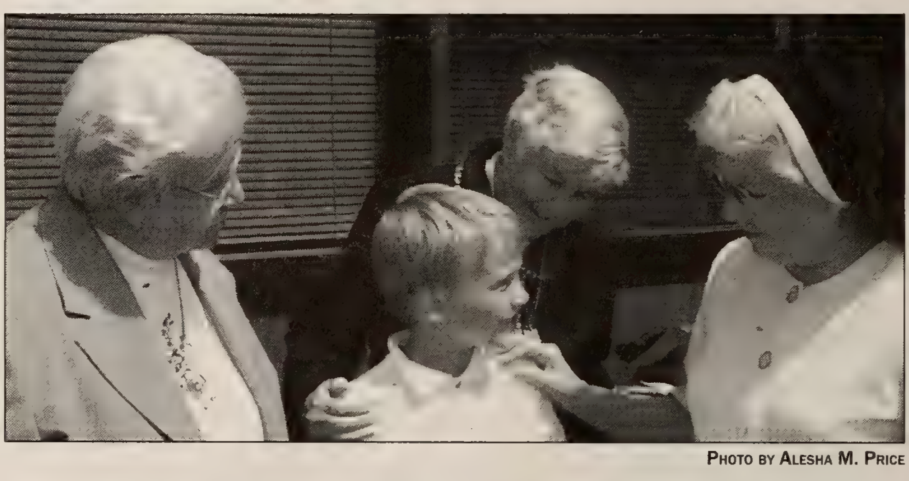

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Rising second-grader Michael Mazer is surrounded by his godmothers, from left to right, Mercy Sisters Josephine Maria Thomas, Mary John Madden and Mary Robert Williams. All of the sisters were honored at a May 30 plaque presentation and blessing ceremony at Sacred Heart School in Salisbury. Sisters Josephine Maria and Mary John, former teacher and principal of the school, now work with pastoral ministry at Queen of the Apostles Church in Belmont, and Sister Mary Robert, a former teacher, is currently the pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury.

New directory shows most U.S. Catholic numbers rising

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — There are now nearly 63.7 million U.S. Catholics, according to the 2001 Official Catholic Directory.

The directory reported that as 2001 began there were fewer priests, nuns and brothers than a year earlier, but more baptisms, confirmations and first Communions — and, for the first time since 1990, more marriages.

The 2,400-page book, widely known in church circles as the "Kenedy directory" after its publisher's imprint, reports information received from all U.S. dioceses at the beginning of the year.

In 2001 it reported 63,683,030 Catholics in the United States and its possessions, up almost 1.3 million from last year's total.

It reported that there are 30,655 diocesan priests, down 285 from last year, and 15,386 priests in religious orders, a drop of 79. The total number of priests, diocesan and religious, is 7,000 fewer than 10 years ago.

The number of permanent deacons rose from 12,862 to 13,348.

The number of religious brothers dropped from 5,736 to 5,565. The number of sisters went from 81,161 to 79,462.

There are 19,544 parishes, 83 fewer than last year, but there are 3,075 missions, up 110 from last year.

Diocesan and religious seminaries reported 4,917 students at the start of the year, up 392 from the year before.

The country's 235 Catholic colleges and universities enrolled a record 705,059 students, almost 4,000 more than the previous year and 55,000 more than a decade ago.

The Official Catholic Directory gives full name, address and phone listings of all Catholic dioceses, parishes, schools, hospitals, religious orders and other church institutions and agencies in the United States and its territories, along with alphabetical indexes of all priests and bishops.

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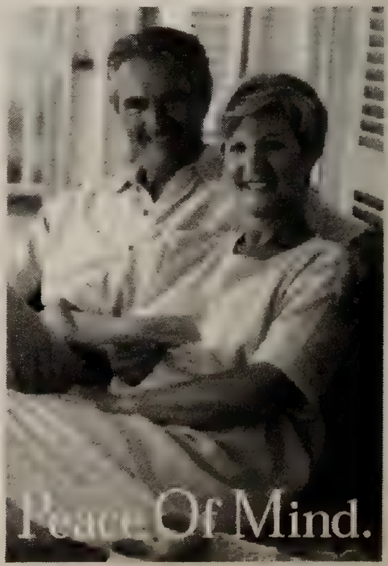
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Covenant recommitted during 10th anniversary celebration

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

GREENSBORO — Ten years ago, three bishops representing Catholics and Lutherans in North Carolina signed a covenant of cooperation on Pentecost Sunday. It was validated at First Lutheran Church in Greensboro, May 19, 1991.

This Pentecost Sunday, three bishops representing Catholics and Lutherans in North Carolina - Bishop of the Diocese of Charlotte William G. Curlin, Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh F. Joseph Gossman and Bishop Leonard Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church - gathered at St. Pius X Catholic Church to commemorate and rededicate the pledge set in motion a decade ago.

Bishop Gossman was among the original signatories of the covenant. The others were Archbishop John Donoghue, now of Atlanta, who was then bishop of Charlotte, and Bishop Michael C. D. McDaniel, who later retired as head of the Lutheran synod.

"Today we renew a covenant promising to be God's faithful people," said Rev. Thomas Ridenhour, dean of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminar in Columbia, S.C. "It is a holy thing that we do here today."

"Anniversaries can be dangerous celebrations," said Rev. Ridenhour, homilist for the recommitment celebration. "We have a tendency to reflect on the past ... we tend to walk into the future backwards." Anniversary celebrations by God's people, he said, should thank God for grace and life in the past, while seeing the past as being left behind and focusing on new beginnings and the future that lies ahead.

Pentecost is a moment of new life, he said. "It is a moving forward in a new dimension," said Rev. Ridenhour. Pentecost was the unquestionable time to renew the spirit of a document signed in faith a decade ago. And this celebration, like life anew, was rekindled in the very spirit of its inception.

That ecumenical spirit was punctuated as Rev. Ridenhour noted that June 2 was the birthday of Pope John XXIII. "I surmise that the event we are celebrating would not have occurred without John XXIII and his following Vatican council ... in terms of the Spirit leading the church towards more openness and more reflection."

While noting that Roman Catholics and Lutherans cannot yet join together in the Eucharist, Rev. Ridenhour said there are ways the two are already one. He said, "We must be engaged together in ministry for those who have no voice."

Bishop Curlin said such cooperation for those who suffer was evident in the concentration camps of Europe during World War II. He said those who were held as prisoners were not identified by denomination, just by the fact they were Christians. He said they did not wear the Jewish Star, but rather a gold cross.

He retold the story of an old German priest who had suffered in prison and how the man recounted the love that the ministers shared despite the suffering. Bishop Curlin said that the same love must be found and shared every day, or no covenant will succeed.

"If we look at one another with the eyes of God's love ...we recognize Christ in one another," said Bishop Curlin. "Once you have that vision, there are no walls ... nothing is impossible to achieve once we see with the eyes of love."

"We're here to celebrate relationships," said Bishop Bolick, "relationships we feel through God's Spirit and relationships that we feel toward each other. It clearly is an opportunity for us to say that we believe that Christ is the Son of God and that we walk together with Christians across the land."

The covenant signed in 1991 laid out 16 objectives to link Lutherans and Catholics together in dialogue, cooperative ecumenical efforts and ministries.

Attesting to one of the successful tenents of the covenant, Peter Shaw, a high school student and member of St. Pius X parish described how a collaborative Catholic - Lutheran youth initiative set a successful Lenten program into motion. Participating in a joint Catholic-Lutheran retreat, Shaw found both faith groups "united by the same eternal Father."

Equally, teenager Eric Wallace from Christ Lutheran in Winston-Salem discovered "more similarities than differences," as he too worked on the Lenten project. "Through the years, we have spoken with many different voices, but we've spoken the same basic message," said Wallace.

"It's our challenge to use this covenant as a foundation to unite and do God's work to the best of our ability," said Wallace. "Two millenniums ago, there was one man with one body; Jesus Christ, who was crucified for the faith of mankind. Today, it is our challenge to find ways to be one body in Christ, not just through a covenant of words but with a commitment of our hearts."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Matt Doyle, assistant editor of the NC Catholic, contributed to this story.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Bishops celebrate following the re-signing of the Catholic-Lutheran Covenant. From left, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman, Diocese of Raleigh, Bishop Leonard Bolick of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Bishop William G. Curlin, Diocese of Charlotte.

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Tough-guy roles belie family-man character of Hollywood heavy

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — Actor Robert Davi has been typecast as the heavy in Hollywood for the last 20 years, but in reality he's really a loving family man attempting to reconnect with his Catholic roots. He has appeared in such blockbuster films as "The Goonies," "Die Hard," and "License to Kill," and recently capped a successful four-year run on the NBC series "Profiler." Davi discussed his career and his Catholic roots, which stretch back to Long Island, N.Y., where he attended SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Deer Park. He gave an interview after he taped an appearance for a Catholic-funded show called "Personally Speaking."

Indianapolis man volunteers at shelter that helped him as teen

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — The first time Gabe Soukup walked through the doors of Holy Family Shelter, he was an 11-year-old homeless kid looking for a place to stay. The next time he walked through the shelter's doors he was a college graduate returning to volunteer. "No one wants to revisit their hard times. But they played a part in helping me. They reminded me there were good people," Soukup told The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Soukup was recognized recently for his volunteer work at the shelter during a fund-raiser for Catholic Social Services, which sponsors the shelter and is a member agency of the archdiocesan Catholic Charities.

USCC official calls visa extension called too restrictive

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A limited extension of a visa program passed by the House May 21 is too restrictive and flirts with religious discrimination, according to the U.S. Catholic Conference director of migration policy. Kevin Appleby, of the bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, said the four-month extension of the visa provision known as Section 245(i) is too short. "Especially when you consider the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) takes four months to get a regulation out," he said. If approved by the Senate, the extension would allow some illegal immigrants four extra months to begin the paperwork necessary to seek legal permanent residency without first having to return to their home countries.

CNS photo from Reuters

Pope blesses casket of John XXIII

Pope John Paul II blesses the glass casket containing the body of Pope John XXIII in St. Peter's Square June 3. The casket later was moved to its new permanent resting place at the altar of St. Jerome on the main level of St. Peter's Basilica.

Some cardinals say church needs more flexible forum for debate

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As more than 150 cardinals met at the Vatican to brainstorm over pastoral challenges, several participants suggested that the church needs a more flexible — perhaps annual — forum to grapple with such problems in the future. In particular, some cardinals wanted changes in the Synod of Bishops to make it a more responsive and effective instrument of cooperation among the pope, the Vatican and local churches. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said he thought the church could use a synod that is more "supple" and less tied to the standard format of speech-giving. "The framework (of synods) now is quite conciliar. Therefore, it's not a forum for give and take, except in the small groups," Cardinal George said in an interview May 23.

Hospital mergers may face challenges on abortion, speaker warns

NEW YORK (CNS) — Catholic hospitals seeking to work out mergers or joint ventures with secular hospitals should be prepared to face strong opposition from Planned Parenthood and related groups, participants in the Catholic Healthcare Administrative Personnel program were told. Msgr. Alan J. Placa, bishop's secretary for health affairs in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, said these groups sought to block such arrangements because of Catholic insistence that any programs involving Catholic institutions follow the U.S. bishops' "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services." Although these directives deal with many issues such as employee relations, the critics focus on three provisions forbidding abortion, sterilization and contraception, and fail to see "the richness of the Catholic tradition," he said in a talk May 21 in New York.

Papal biographer, noted journalist Tad Szulc dies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Tad Szulc, who wrote a biography of Pope John Paul II in 1995 and last year published a novel called "To Kill the Pope," died May 21 of cancer at his home in Washington. He was 74. Szulc worked from 1953 to 1973 for The New York Times, reporting from Latin America, Spain, Portugal, Eastern Europe and Washington. While at the Times, he wrote the first published accounts of CIA involvement in the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961. In addition to his biography of the pope, Szulc also wrote biographies of Cuban leader Fidel Castro, composer Frederic Chopin, and Watergate spy E. Howard Hunt. He also wrote 14 books on current affairs and history, and an earlier novel, "Diplomatic Immunity."

New priest passes away after ordination

HARRISBURG, Pa. - Father Robert Burns Jr., a newly ordained priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., died within hours of his ordination. Father Burns was ordained on June 2 and passed away in his sleep that evening. He was born in 1944 in Philadelphia. He received a Purple Heart during his service in the Vietnam War. Father Burns received a master's degree in divinity from St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., last May. The Charlotte Diocesan seminarians who attend St. Vincent's Seminary expressed their great sorrow at his sudden death. They said that he will always be remembered as "a very kind man with a very giving heart."

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Boone parishioner honored for 'great love'

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BOONE — Angie Greene had to rest a spell earlier this week. A tireless volunteer and generous caregiver, she had pushed herself a bit too much the day before.

So how did this parishioner of St. Elizabeth Church in Boone spend her "day off"? She wrapped boxes of gifts for needy children helped by Samaritan's Purse, one of the many charitable causes to which she is so dedicated.

Impressed by her zeal to do *all* things with great love, the North Carolina Knights of Columbus honored Greene with the third annual Mother Teresa Memorial Award.

Greene, a Boone resident and a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Church since 1961, is a native of Bermuda. She settled with her family into a region where poverty was commonplace — as was the struggle to survive. In doing so, she and her ministry of serving those in need became staples in the Boone area.

"Jesus said, 'Become like little children, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.' Angie models this kind of child-like faith," said Carol Brown, the parish's director of faith formation, who nominated Greene for the award. "She prays and she trusts. The Lord takes care of her; she takes care of the rest of us."

The Mother Teresa Memorial Award was established in 1998 by the N.C. Knights of Columbus. Sister Nirmala Joshi, Mother Teresa's successor as superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, approved the establishment of the award.

The award, given annually to one recipient in each North Carolina Catholic diocese, recognizes recipients for service to the church, the community and the family. Parish priests must approve the nominations.

Greene received a plaque in May at St. Elizabeth Church announcing her as this year's recipient in the Diocese of Charlotte. Additionally, the Knights donated $500 to three charities Greene supports: the Boone Crisis Pregnancy Center, the Hunger Coalition and Habitat for Humanity.

"It was an honor, and I don't really think I deserved it because I don't really do that much," said Greene. "I just do what I do because I enjoy helping people. If someone needs me, I'll go. If someone needs something, I'll get it if I can."

For Greene, "not really doing that much" has consisted of nearly 40 years taking care of residents in the Boone area. A devoted homemaker, wife and mother of five, Greene found time on weekends and whenever else she could to devote to a bigger family — the entire community.

For 35 years, she was a mainstay in the local parish's "rummage room" located in the church basement. There, she and a group of women from the parish operated a warehouse of clothes, household items and other necessities for anyone in need. Distressed at the thought of people going without the basics, Greene and her cohorts made sure people paid for items based only on what they could afford, if at all.

"I even knew a man who would come up to me and say, 'I don't have any money, but I do have a jar of molasses," she recalled with a chuckle. "So he'd give me the jar and I would give him clothes. Another time, he brought me a bag of apples."

Courtesy photo

Angie Greene is congratulated by Father John Schneider, her pastor, and Knights of Columbus State Deputy Bob Singer at St. Elizabeth Church.

The parish's rummage room eventually turned into office space, but Greene continues to volunteer for a host of other causes. Stop by St. Elizabeth Church on any given day, and you'll likely run into Greene, answering phones or putting out new missals, washing windows or coordinating the parish's Christmas basket project. She has taught in the preschool children's ministry at the parish as well.

In her letter of nomination, Brown called her fellow parishioner a model of the true spirit of Christianity.

"She is a one-woman 'evangelization committee,' while ministering to others; she converts our own parishioners, involving them in living out their baptismal call to discipleship," she said.

In addition to her work at the parish and for Samaritan's Purse, Greene also spends a great deal of time visiting local nursing homes and working for Meals on Wheels.

That kind of dedication is at the heart of the Mother Teresa Memorial Award, said John Harrison, chairman of the award program and former N.C. Knights of Columbus state deputy, in a statement announcing the recipient. "When Mother Teresa passed away in 1997, we lost a great woman — a saint," he said. "Mother Teresa provided the ultimate example of our calling to serve the needs of others and to give glory to God."

For Angie Greene, that service is simply an important part of what she calls a good life.

"I just enjoy helping people, I enjoy knowing that I'm needed, and I enjoy knowing that I can do things that others don't like to do or can't do," she said. "This is truly a blessing, and it makes me happy feeling like I can do something that makes a difference."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Western Region CSS serves with compassion

By WENDY E. MURRAY
Correspondent

ASHEVILLE — The famed scientist Albert Schweitzer said, "The purpose of human life is to serve and show compassion and the will to help others."

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte is living and working by that famous quote.

In Asheville, even an attack of ankle-biting fleas couldn't stop tireless staff members of the Western Region CSS office from doing their job. "I couldn't get them to go home," said Trinitarian Sister Marie Frechette, director of the Western Region office, of the staff. "They wouldn't stop working. I had to push them out the door."

Just days after the flea problem, even the threat of thunderstorms couldn't dampen their spirit to serve at the office's first Afternoon Tea Party. In an attempt to raise additional funding for CSS programs, a festive spread of raspberry tea, cucumber sandwiches and lemon petit fours greeted guests as they waited their turn to be served tea by Sister Marie and staff. It turned out to be a spring fling in the merry month of May, complete with silver tea sets, flowery bonnets and lunch on the veranda.

"It's one thing to provide services, and it's another to have a heart," said Sister Marie. "What we do in the name of Jesus, we do in the name of all the people who help in our diocese."

In the early months of 2001, Catholic Social Services was stampeded with requests from undocumented Latino clients, eager to file paperwork, enabling them to apply for immigration papers. When President Clinton signed an immigration extension before leaving office, it provided a window of time to the Latino population.

Jerry Tudela, supervisor of the CSS Immigration and Case Management Programs, worked tirelessly, according to Sister Marie. "Jerry will help anyone until it's taken care of," she said. Seeing 200 people a day, Jerry worked evenings and weekends. The phone rang constantly for weeks.

"When the printer broke, and the parking lot was filled by eight in the morning, Jerry was undaunted. He told me he wouldn't stop until everyone was helped."

"Our diocese has the fastest growing rate of Hispanics in the country," said Tudela. "In big cities like Los Angeles, people don't pay attention to the Latino people. There's lots of discrimination in other places, but here they can find work. I want to help as many people as I can in the Hispanic community."

A bigger office, additional bilingual staff and more satellite offices are part of Tudela's vision. Currently, all services are provided in Asheville with limited programs in Hendersonville and Morganton. "The needs out there are tremendous," he said.

In addition to the hard-working staff, the community has answered the call for more volunteers. Lola Frybarjer, a former chef and volunteer at CSS, initiated and designed the benefit tea. Bobbie Tinsley received the prestigious Spirit Award this year for her dependability and dedication to Catholic Social Services.

Elizabeth Tudela, age 12, follows her father's lead in answering the office phone. Her goal is to be a pediatrician. Students from UNC-Asheville who are bilingual helped process immigration applications.

"We've been blessed with an outpouring from the community," said Sister Marie.

But the wish list goes on. The Orphanage Aid Fund needs money for food, clothing and medicine. In the Family Assistance Fund, all donations assist families with their expenses in the adoption process. A Vietnamese baby found a new home in March, thanks to Elizabeth Turbee, CSS executive director and the driving force behind opening doors to Vietnam, the poorest country in Asia.

On July 28, CSS will raffle off 27 deluxe prizes at their Pancake Breakfast. For information about how you may help or make a donation, please call Catholic Social Services at (828) 255-0146.

CCHS student honored for public service project

CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte Catholic School rising junior was honored for her part in "The Common Good: Exploring the Role of Public Service in America," a public-service education initiative, sponsored by Time Warner Cable and C-SPAN.

Laura Steele is one of 14 students chosen from across the nation who will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C., this summer for a weeklong study visit conducted by the Close Up Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan civic education organization. In addition to a "behind-the-scenes" day at C-SPAN, participants will join in daily education seminars, Capitol Hill visits, sightseeing, a night at the theater and excursions to area historic sights.

On May 31, Steele and her social studies teacher, Tony DiDonato, were presented with a TV and VCR for the school and $500 in videos from the C-SPAN archives. Steele also received a certificate of recognition. Don Jensen, general manager and vice-president of Time Warner Cable, presented the gifts. Steele and fellow participants explored the role of public service in the United States and considered questions such as "What draws people to public service?" and "How can a public servant contribute to the common good?"

C LE
Laura Steele

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Pictured from left to right are Tony DiDonato, CCHS social studies teacher; Laura Steele, the award recipient; her parents Lauren and Fran Steele, and Augustinian Father James Cassidy, CCHS principal. Steele won a trip to Washington, D.C. for her participation in a national essay contest sponsored by Time Warner Cable and C-SPAN.

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Newly ordained priests urged to be men of faith, reconciliation, Eucharist

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — On the weekend observing the celebration of Pentecost, Bishop William G. Curlin ordained four men to serve as priests of the Diocese of Charlotte. His instruction to them: Be men of faith, service and the sacraments.

The two-and-a-half-hour ordination liturgy at St. Gabriel Church June 2 brought a community of faith together, crossing cultural and geographical backgrounds to welcome Rev. Messrs. Duc Duong, Tien Duong, Robert Ferris and Kurt Fohn as the diocese's four newest priests.

In his homily, Bishop Curlin spoke of the divine calling each of the men answered while discerning his vocation.

"You've been inspired by wonderful priests, like our brothers here and in other parts of the world," the bishop said. "You've been inspired by your parents, loved ones and friends. But God chose you — you did not choose him — and in the wonderful generosity of your hearts you said, 'I come. I am willing to follow you.'"

That discernment was influenced ultimately by a profound sense of faith, while life experiences also helped determine the men's paths to priestly service. While those experiences are as unique as the men and women who serve the church in ministry, all share in the common calling to serve, the bishop said.

To the brothers Duong, natives of Vietnam who came to the United States in search of freedom and hope, the bishop spoke of the faith-filled strength gained in enduring strife.

"My dear brothers, I know the story of how you had to flee your beloved native land, how you risked your life," he said. "Your lives' struggles and sacrifices are wonderful treasures you will bring to your priestly ministry."

Rev. Messrs. Ferris and Fohn add to the diversity of the ordination class of 2001 as well. Both are widowers with children and grandchildren. Rev. Mr. Fohn is a native of Germany and has served as a permanent deacon in the Catholic Church since 1989.

Bishop Curlin noted that the two each "had the beautiful gift of a holy marriage" and now embark on another divine vocation.

"You have raised such wonderful children and are blessed with their love," the bishop told them. And while they had to endure the painful loss of their wives, the bishop added, "I'm sure they're watching you, are blessing you and are rejoicing that our God has called you to this vocation of priesthood."

Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Curlin were Abbot Placid Solari of Belmont Abbey; Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte; Father John Allen, the diocese's assistant director of vocations; and a host of diocesan, religious and visiting priests.

The liturgy reflected the multiculturalism and diversity of this year's ordination class: Scripture was read in English and Vietnamese. Children and grandchildren sat behind two of the candidates. A congregation of various ethnicities applauded and prayed.

Assisting in the liturgy were three men whose own paths to the priesthood are nearly completed. Rev. Messrs. Christopher Roux, Johnathan Hanic and Larry LoMonaco were ordained to the transitional diaconate earlier this year. With God's providence, they will be among the next group of seminarians in the United States to join the holy order of priesthood.

Seminarians of the diocese also served at the Mass.

Among the congregation were members of the Knights of Columbus, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Holy Sepulcher — fraternal and chivalric organizations well known for acts of charity and faith — who joined in the procession.

Special guests also included the Friends of Seminarians, a group financially supportive of vocations in the diocese.

For Bishop Curlin, who has ordained nearly two-dozen men during his tenure as bishop of the Charlotte Diocese since 1994, the ordination liturgy was an opportunity to reflect on how to succeed in this sacred ministry.

"Each man must bring his heart to the priesthood," said the bishop. It is that spirit, the bishop said, which reflects Christ's healing power in the sacrament of penance, which reflects Christ's voice in the preaching of the Gospels, which reflects Christ's unconditional love in service to the poor and the brokenhearted.

In daily prayer, recommitment and celebration of the Eucharist, priests find the strength they need to be the presence of Christ in a world filled with poverty, violence and lack of respect for life, the bishop said. The calling priests answer is a sacred and serious one, he added.

"My brothers, I ask you to be saints," Bishop Curlin said. "I am not (ordaining) you just because we need priests. Yes, we are blessed that you will be priests in our parishes, and I rejoice in your coming. But the church doesn't need bodies in the priesthood. The church needs disciples on fire with love for Jesus Christ."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Photo by Joann S. Keane

During the Litany of the Saints, the bishop, concelebrating priests and the entire congregation join in prayer for the church, the world, one another and the candidates for ordination. The candidates prostrate themselves before the altar in an expression of their unworthiness and dependence on God. The Litany of the Saints is an ancient prayer of the church, calling on the prayers of saints throughout the church's history.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

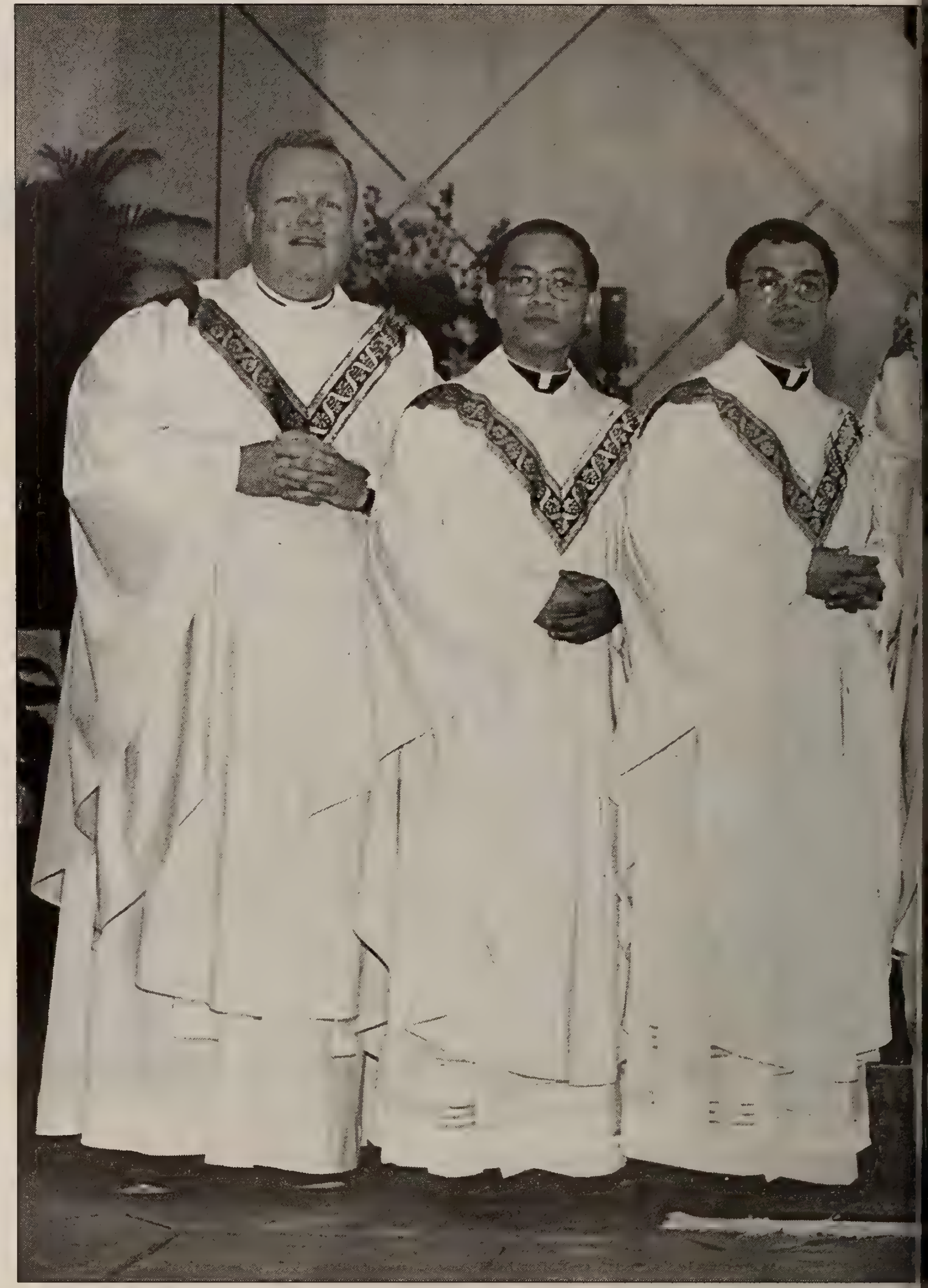
Photo by Joann S. Keane

During the ordination liturgy, each newly ordained priest is vested with the stole and chasuble, vestments of their priestly office. The vesting, pictured above, takes place following the laying on of hands and the prayer of consecration, the points at which the men are actually ordained.

Pictured below, Father Kurt Fohn blesses family members following the ordination Mass. Fathers Fohn and Ferris are widowers with children and grandchildren. A host of family members were seated directly behind the candidates to witness their loved ones ordained into the holy order of priesthood.

Seminarians in formation for the priesthood in the Diocese of Charlotte, pictured below right, assisted at the liturgy ordination at St. Gabriel Church.

Photo by Joann S. Keane



Pictured above is the ordination class of 2001 for the Diocese of Charlotte. F
Father Duc Duong, Bishop William G. Curlin, Father Kurt Fohn and Father Ro

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Photo by Joann S. Keane

ft are Father John Allen, assistant director of vocations, Father Tien Duong, erris.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Diversity was evident in all aspects of the ordination liturgy. Three of the four newly ordained were born outside the United States. Father Kurt Fohn is a native of Germany, and Fathers Duc and Tien Duong are from Vietnam. The liturgy included music and Scripture conveyed in Vietnamese.

Pictured below, diocesan, religious and visiting priests lay hands on the heads of the candidates during the most solemn moment of the ordination rite. During the laying on of hands, each candidate approaches the bishop and kneels before him. The bishop then lays hands, praying for the gift of the Holy Spirit upon the candidate. All priests are then invited to lay hands as well.

At bottom left, Rev. Mr. Larry LoMonaco reads the Gospel during the Mass. Rev. Mr. LoMonaco is one of three transitional deacons of the Charlotte Diocese who assisted at the Mass.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Bridging culture brings diversity to student body

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

WINSTON-SALEM — It's safe to say that global diversity is a way of life on the campus of Bishop McGuinness High School.

With a contingency of foreign exchange students from Japan to Holland, campus life is enhanced on worldwide levels. This year, nine students blended into the BMHS population, and both Triad students and the foreign exchange students were beneficiaries of cultures worlds away from their own.

Anne Katherin Mense, a junior from Germany, discovered faith beyond the school walls. Although Catholic, Anne Katherin found "there are actually teen-agers who like going church." In Germany, she says, few teen-agers attend Mass. Here she says, "I am involved, I go to the youth group at St. Leo, and it's always a lot of fun."

Dominic Bakker, a senior from Amsterdam in the Netherlands, found a second family, relaxed right into an American culture, and made All-Conference as an all-around soccer player on the BHMS team.

Senior Karan Kijwijan found himself half a world away from his Thailand home, yet keeps in daily contact with friends via e-mail. A talented musician with a penchant for guitar, Karan found solace and a familiar comfort in his music.

No Lo Cheng, a junior from Hong Kong, made such an impact upon her new classmates, she was voted prom queen.

BMHS runs its foreign exchange program with quiet efficiency. Behind the scenes, a team of dedicated educators coordinates everything from student placement to enculturation and family placement. "Success at BMHS depends upon a staff and faculty who are patient, loving and open," says Michael Streich, who teaches History and helps coordinate BMHS's foreign exchange program. "It depends upon a student body willing to reach out, to accept as equal, to include and be interested in that student from another culture."

"The culture is different," says No Lo. "I like Americans because they are open-minded and easygoing." With her host family in Winston-Salem, she encounters wide open spaces. "Here you have your own personal space," she says. At home in Hong Kong, No Lo lives on the 31st floor of a high rise.

We can teach World History and global culture awareness and it's easy to tell our students that a major key to world peace, social justice, and equitable prosperity is a greater awareness of foreign cultures, says Streich, "But, to sit next to a young man from inland Thailand or a young lady from Hong Kong, lends a whole new personal perspective." With all factors in place, Streich finds he can teach World History in a more open, inclusive way.

"These students have surely enriched the life of the school community," says Principal George Repass. So much so, that when BMHS moves to its new campus in the fall, foreign influence will continue to thrive. "We're going to establish an international organization as part of our club profile."

Foreign exchange programs are a part of bridging cultures, opening doors, breaking barriers, says Streich. "They remind us that God is Father to all people, that He is not the sole exclusive property of Western Christendom."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Photo by Joann S. Keane

From left, Karan Kijwijan, Anne Katherin Mense, Dominic Bakker and No Lo Cheng peruse the Bishop McGuinness High School yearbook.

Oratory's "Horizons" conference scheduled

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Horizons of the Spirit conference at the Oratory in Rock Hill will take place July 9-13. The conference is offered to anyone who seeks encouragement and enrichment in their prayer and spiritual life. Participants have come from many spiritual traditions and denominations.

The guest faculty for the workshop includes Father Kevin Culligan from the Carmelite Forum, liturgical dancer and teacher Carla DeSola, and Dr. Wendy Wright from Creighton University.

Father Culligan will focus on the journey into transformation in God through faith and love as seen through Carmelite spirituality. He will also address special challenges that contemplatives meet along their journey and issues in spiritual guidance from the participants.

He has blended spirituality, psychology and counseling in his studies and ministries. He currently lives in Chicago with the Formation Community of the Discalced Carmelite Friars. He entered that community in 1955 and has served as parish priest, campus minister, and in formation and seminary teaching. He is a founding member of the Institute of Carmelite Studies.

Carla DeSola lives and teaches in Berkeley, Calif., at Graduate Theological Union and directs her Omega West Dance Company at Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. Her sessions on movement and prayer are called "The Spirit Moves: An Introduction to Dance and Prayer." Through movement exercises and improvisational studies, participants will explore the richness of Scripture with their whole being, body and soul.

Dr. Wendy Wright will lead evening sessions on the theme "Befriending Each Other in God." She is a professor of theology at Creighton University and leading teacher and writer in the Salesian tradition of spirituality. "The tradition of the soul-friend, the amnchara, the spiritual companion, is an ancient one in the tradition," she said of workshop. "The celebration of a new millennium invites us to live into new ways of being with one another. We will explore this ancient tradition of spiritual friendship anew and how such loving relationships can help us grow in wisdom and a deeper love of God."

For details on registration, room and board, and other information on the Oratory, call (803) 327-2097, or write to The Oratory - Center for Spirituality, P.O. Box 11586, Rock Hill, S.C. 29731.

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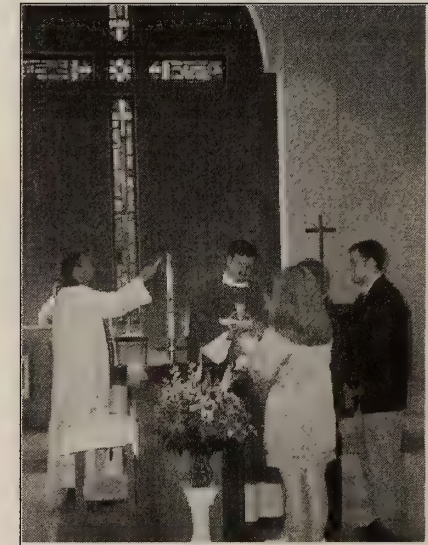

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Asheville Vicariate catechists honored at Mass, dinner

Special to THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

ARDEN — The Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team hosted a Catechist Recognition Evening on, May 25, held at St. Barnabas Church in Arden. Nearly 100 catechists from the Asheville Vicariate were present.

The evening began with a bilingual Mass concelebrated by Father James Hawker, education vicar for the Diocese of Charlotte; Father Wilbur Thomas, rector of the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville; and Father Andy Latsko, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa.

Father Hawker reminded the catechists that they are a gift to the church. As they heard in the Gospel, the disciples were commissioned to spread the Word to the ends of the earth, and the catechists are instruments that do this.

Father Hawker offered his gratitude and that of all members of the diocese for the sacrifices the catechists and their spouses make for this ministry.

After the Mass, the catechists were treated to a buffet dinner followed by dancing. Dancing instructors from Blue Ridge Ballroom gave some pointers on dancing steps, and then the catechists were free to enjoy themselves for the remainder of the evening.

The event was the first of many future gatherings to honor the dedication of the area's volunteer catechists, who give their time and talents to spread the Gospel message to others.

COURTESY PHOTO

Asheville Vicariate Leadership Team members Thomas Mahan, Sheryl Peyton and Elizabeth Girton are pictured above. Father James Hawker, the Diocese of Charlotte's vicar for education, presided at a Mass for catechists during an event sponsored by the Asheville Vicariate Faith Formation Leadership Team.

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Book Review

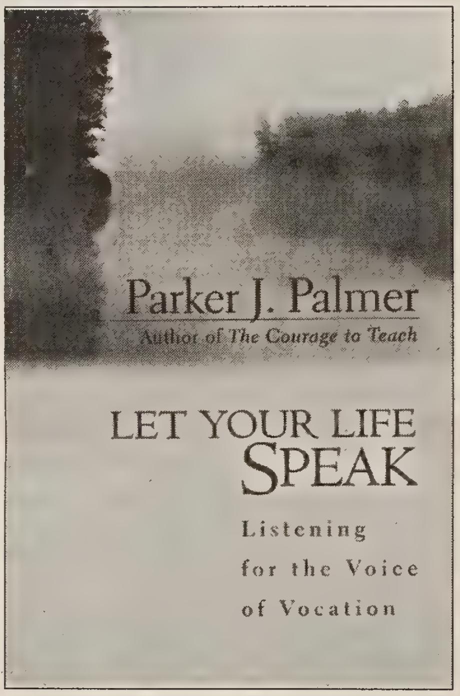
Book details spirituality of vocations

Reviewed by JAN KILBY
Catholic News Service

Do vocational decisions have a spiritual basis? Author Parker J. Palmer says the best ones do and tells why in "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation."

This book is a collection of six essays describing Palmer's journey from career despair to career satisfaction. He hopes his honesty in sharing his story will benefit readers.

Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation, **by Parker J. Palmer. Jossey-Bass, Inc. (San Francisco, 2000). 117 pp., $18.00.**


Parker J. Palmer
Author of The Courage to Teach
LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK
Listening for the Voice of Vocation

The author is a Madison, Wis.-based consultant specializing in individual and organizational renewal and a senior associate with the American Association for Higher Education. He is also the author of "The Courage to Teach" and six other spiritual books.

The author shares several causes of his early career problems: trying to attain goals to please others, thinking he was unlimited in what he could achieve, and doing work he disliked. Then he discusses what he learned about the spirituality of vocations.

After college, Palmer found he wasn't suited for seminary study to become a Quaker minister. He then lost an assistantship while studying for his sociology doctorate at Berkeley. Upon completing his degree, he no longer wanted to be a professor.

He became a community organizer and part-time professor in Washington until suffering burnout. After that, he left to work at Pendle Hill, a Quaker educational community near Philadelphia. There he experienced depression. Through prayer, reflection, solitude and the support of loved ones, he found the courage to face his fears and find his true calling.

Palmer discovered that a "vocation is not a 'goal to be achieved' but 'a gift to be received.'" As he says, "Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you."

He also learned that "God asks us only to honor our created nature, which means our limits as well as our potentials." He found that his limits were his lack of interest in being a research-oriented professor and an inability to tolerate the political culture of academia. His gifts were his independent spirit and desire for freedom to use his originality and creativity in writing and consulting.

In the fifth essay, Palmer acquaints readers with workplace problems that result from leaders who fear spirituality. These include feeling so insecure about their identity that they deprive others of theirs, viewing the universe as a competitive battleground instead of a community, and needing to overcontrol because of a fear of chaos and a lack of understanding that "chaos is a precondition to creativity."

In the final essay, he uses the metaphor of seasons to discuss other spiritual lessons.

Those wanting to make better career decisions or to help others with theirs will value "Let Your Life Speak." The book will educate and inspire readers.

Word to Life

June 10, Feast of the Most Holy Trinity
Cycle C Readings:
1) Proverbs 8:22-31
Psalm 8:4-9
2) Romans 5:1-5
3) Gospel: John 16:12-15

By BOZENA CLOUTIER
Catholic News Service

The invitation was a surprise. My friend Gabriella was hosting a small lunch for a former professor of ours, Father Enrique, and his guest, Father Pablo, who was visiting briefly from Argentina. It would be a small gathering so that we could relax and talk. I knew the company and conversation would be stimulating and was looking forward to the occasion. I was not disappointed.

Our conversation was lively from the start, but quieted when we said the blessing, and then it resumed. We thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality, the food and the wine, but it was our conversation, sharing and laughter that nourished us most. Only one among us at the table was American-born, the rest came from different parts of the world.

Because Father Pablo's English was limited and our backgrounds diverse, our conversation sometimes switched to Spanish or German. We moved from discussing church affairs to theology, from ecumenical relations to personal experiences, from books to movies. Our talk ranged from serious to lighthearted, from painful to funny.

Driving home I was aware how happy I felt and what a wonderful time this had been. Since then I often have recalled that gathering and realized, without really knowing why, that those were some of the richest hours I had spent in the last few months. The question of why stayed unanswered until I reflected on the Scriptures and the meaning of this weekend's Feast of the Holy Trinity.

The Trinity cannot be understood. It baffles us. Scholarly explanations often result in even greater confusion.

What are we to do? The answer, I believe, can perhaps be found in a wonderful phrase I read in another context: The Trinity is not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to be experienced.

At the table in Gabriella's house all distinctions and barriers fell away. We were not clergy or laity, men or women, teachers or students, not imprisoned by constraints of language or culture. We were wondrously and mysteriously united by affection, respect and openness.

Our faith teaches that the Trinity is a community of love. Occasionally we experience it in our ordinary lives and relationships, albeit briefly, and those moments glow in our memory and set our hearts aflame.

QUESTIONS:

How have you experienced the triune God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit? What experiences of community have deepened your understanding of the Trinity?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of June 10-16, 2001

Trinity Sunday, Proverbs 8:22-31, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15; **Monday (St. Barnabas),** Acts 11:21-26, Matthew 10:7-13; **Tuesday,** 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Matthew 5:13-16; **Wednesday (St. Anthony),** 2 Corinthians 3:4-11, Matthew 5:17-19; **Thursday,** 2 Corinthians 3:15 - 4:1, 3-6, Matthew 5:20-26; **Friday,** 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 5:27-32; **Saturday,** 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, Matthew 5:33-37

Readings for the week of June 17-23

Corpus Christi, Genesis 14:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, Luke 9:11-17; **Monday,** 2 Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 5:38-42; **Tuesday (St. Romuald),** 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, Matthew 5: 43-48; **Wednesday,** 2 Corinthians 9:6-11, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18; **Thursday (St. Aloysius Gonzaga),** 2 Corinthians 11:1-11, Matthew 6:7-15; **Friday (Sacred Heart of Jesus),** Ezekiel 34:11-16, Romans 5:5-11, Luke 15:3-7; **Saturday (Immaculate Heart of Mary),** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Luke 2:41-51

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Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — *Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.*

"Our Song" (IFC)

Credible coming-of-age film that follows three teen-age girls (Kerry Washington, Anna Simpson and Melissa Martinez) in Brooklyn who watch their friendship change while spending a hot summer practicing with their high school marching band. Beautifully capturing the local color as well as a crucial juncture in female adolescence, director Jim McKay brings out restrained, affecting performances while refusing to sentimentalize the issues. A teen pregnancy, brief drug use, off-screen suicide and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Pearl Harbor" (Touchstone)

Hollow drama set against the 1941 Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in which two pilots (Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett) fall in love with the same woman (Kate Beckinsale). Flashy pyrotechnics are the centerpiece of director Michael Bay's prolonged action extravaganza whose cardboard characters, corny dialogue and contrived narrative only superficially capture the human tragedy of warfare. An intense, sustained war sequence, an implied sexual encounter, occasional profanity and intermittent crass language. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"A Question of Faith" (First Look)

Pointless, fantasy drama set in a California monastery in which the belief traditions of the monks are challenged when one of them experiences a supposed miracle that transforms him into a pregnant woman. With a flat-footed narrative and stereotypical characters, director Tim Disney's superficial analysis of a faith crisis is a strained mishmash of monks, motherhood and make-believe miracles. Theme of a virginal birth, brief nudity and some crass words. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Road Home" (Sony Classics)

A modern-day businessman (Sun Honglei) returns to his remote North China village for his father's funeral and recalls the heartwarming story of his parents' courtship. Director Zhang Yimou's alternately touching and cloying drama juxtaposes brilliant hues representing the freshness of youth and love from the past with black and white for the monochromatic, sorrowful present. Subtitles. Themes of love, marriage and death. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences.

CNS PHOTO

'Pearl Harbor' star Cuba Gooding Jr.

Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is pictured in a scene from "Pearl Harbor," which depicts the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base in Hawaii. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults, and the Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Morning prayer protection against often hostile world, says pope

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Morning prayer gives believers "an interior charge" that enables them to face an often-hostile world, Pope John Paul II said.

Despite the dangers and disappointments that each day brings, those who faithfully turn to God experience a "wave of serenity and joy" knowing that he is at their side, the pope said May 30 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"God is always ready to help us avoid the pitfalls of life," he said.

The pope, at times looking fatigued and speaking in a slurred voice, skipped several sections of his prepared text, the latest in a series of talks about the Psalms used in the Liturgy of the Hours.

He said Psalm 5 was the morning prayer of a believer who felt "tension and anxiety" looking ahead to the day's encounters with enemies and evildoers.

"A certainty emerges before the nightmares of a tiring and possibly dangerous day. The Lord is a coherent God, rigorous in the face of injustice, alien from every compromise with evil," the pope said.

With this trust in God, the believer does not feel alone or abandoned even when surrounded by injustice and "the tangle of daily events," he said.

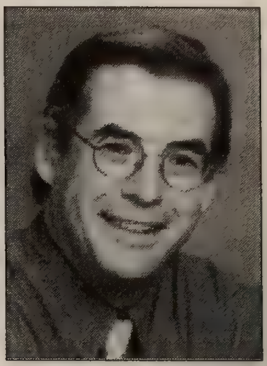
God takes those who trust in him "by the hand" and "makes straight the way" before them, "as the psalmist says with a simple but suggestive image," the pope said.

The text used in the Christian liturgy omits the Hebrew psalmist's petition that God "punish" those who do wrong, he noted. This conforms the prayer to the distinctly Christian revelation of merciful love, "which offers even the evildoer the possibility of conversion," he said.

Pope says church challenged, but knows God is at its side

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said the church was facing "enormous challenges" at the dawn of the new millennium but could joyfully trust that God would remain at its side. At a May 24 Ascension Thursday Mass in St. Peter's Basilica formally closing an extraordinary consistory, the pope thanked more than 150 cardinals for their "precious contributions" during the four-day meeting. "From them I intend to draw opportune (and) effective indications" as to how the church can best carry out its mission amid today's challenges, he said.

Coming of Age



CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

How Teen Drinking Parties Get Started

Last week a police officer told me about finding a brand new Mustang convertible one Saturday night while on patrol. Leaving the road at 60 miles an hour, it rolled over three times before stopping in a ditch. Both occupants were dead.

Some teens in another car pulled over. They recognized the car, having seen it drive away from a party minutes earlier. They gave the officer the address.

A few minutes later he knocked on the door. Dozens of teens filled the suburban house, and most were drinking. The officer located the host, a young man of 20. Did he know anything about a Mustang convertible that drove away half an hour ago?

It was the host's younger brother in the car, and the convertible was his 18th birthday gift. "Officer," the host asked, "is he all right?"

This seasoned officer was himself near tears as he spoke of telling the young host that his brother was dead.

That scene is repeated far too many times. The massive teen-age drinking party has become an almost routine social event.

How can 60 or 100 teens gather in somebody's nice home and drink themselves into such danger? Where are their parents?

Usually the parents are out of town. These disasters often begin with the following conversation.

"Jake, your dad has a conference this weekend at a resort by the lake, and since you're getting older now we're wondering if you think you'd be OK if we left you alone a couple of nights."

The whole house to himself? Of course he'll be OK!

His parents recite the rules. Nobody comes, and of course, absolutely no parties.

Jake agrees, but plans change.

Massive drinking parties get launched in two ways. Probably the most common is semiaccidental. Jake tells two friends his parents are out of town and invites them over. "We'll watch a couple of movies and maybe drink a few coolers."

By the end of fifth period, everybody in school knows about the party. A hundred kids show up, some with cases of beer. Once they arrive, Jake doesn't know how to make them go away.

The other type is a planned party. Jake calls a buddy who is old enough to buy beer. Then Jake prints up a flyer on his computer, "Party at Jake's house, $5." He passes 100 copies around school.

Saturday afternoon his buddy purchases five kegs of beer. That night each kid pays $5, the price for all the beer they can drink till the kegs run dry. Usually it's enough for many of the kids to get dangerously smashed — in time to drive home drunk.

If you're old enough to drive, you're perfectly capable of finding these parties. If you're of a mind, you can lie to your parents and convince them that you're going to a friend's place to study.

Teens, alcohol and cars are a deadly combination. Driving drunk will kill more teen-agers this year than cancer, AIDS, drug overdoses and suicide combined.

If you find yourself at a party where teens are drinking, don't kid yourself that you can stay there, not drink and have a good time. It's almost impossible.

If you show up at the party and kids are drinking — whether there are adults in the building or not — it's time to leave.

No party on earth is worth ending up dead in a ditch. Get out and go someplace else. Quite literally, your life depends on it.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Remembering a Martyred Friend

The box was marked "Writing History," long lost in the corner of my attic. It triggered a memory of years past when I had packed away copies of Catholic magazines that had carried my articles in the decades of the '50s and the '60s.

I opened the box and began an excursion back in time, opening magazines, some with names no longer familiar: The Lamp; Sacred Heart Messenger, Information, The Apostle, Sign and many more. Reading some of the articles, one stood out. I wrote it for the June 1965 issue of The Apostle, a magazine published then by the Mariannhill Missionaries.

The article was about a nun who had become my friend. She was Sister Mary Antoinette, a Daughter of Wisdom, who had been a teacher at Our Lady of Wisdom Academy in Ozone Park, N.Y., much loved by her students.

When I met her in July 1963, she had been teaching for three years at the Isangi Mission in the African Congo, 120 miles from Stanleyville. I was someone who shared her name, Antoinette, a mother of seven and at that time a writer for The Long Island Catholic, the publication of the Diocese of Rockville Center, N.Y.

It was a former student of hers who had put me in touch with Sister Mary Antoinette, precisely because we had the same name. She told me about the terrible conditions her beloved nun and the 800 children in the mission were facing in Africa. Sister had come back to try to raise supplies and some money for their financially destitute mission. Could I write a story, bringing some attention to this need?

I made an appointment to meet Sister Antoinette. She told of the conditions of women trying to provide for their children in mud huts, with no water and no sanitation. "The slums in New York would be a sign of wealth to these women," she told me.

Nearly 200 of their students were orphans, living in a building with no electricity, no running water and little food. One nun ran the hospital, with no doctor available and terrible conditions.

"In one month she delivered 80 babies," she murmured. Then she spoke of the open hostility white people were facing with the newly gained independence of African governments, admitting these were troubled times for American missionaries. Even teenagers taunted her, yelling "Don't come back" as she left to come to America.

I wrote about her, and we got a good response, with goods and money. But as she planned to leave, the news about chaos in Africa had gotten worse. I asked her to please not go. But nothing could keep her from her children there. "I don't know the ending — but what we do is a beginning," she said.

Her words were strangely reminiscent of those spoken by John F. Kennedy: "Our work will not be finished in the first 100 days. Nor will it be finished in the first 1,000 days nor even in our lifetime on this planet — but let us begin."

Seventeen months later, because she was "the American nun," Sister Antoinette was singled out by the Congo rebels — becoming the victim of multiple rapes and brutal beatings before her lifeless body was then thrown into the river.

I cried then, and did again now, remembering this incredible woman whose apostolate was stopped short by murder after a service of 1,000 days.

Light One Candle

Msgr. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

What Lola Wants

Interviewing Lola Falana was not the experience I expected. This woman, after all, enjoyed the nickname "First Lady of Las Vegas" because she was a performer par excellence. As a co-star to Sammy Davis, Jr. on Broadway, a guest star on TV shows ranging from "Hullabaloo" to "Mad About You" and a regular on Ben Vereen's series, this was a woman who had it all. Blessed with stunning looks, a great ability to dance and sing and a winning personality, the standout actress had created in me a very specific set of expectations. None matched the woman I recently met through a different kind of television experience.

It seems that through all those years, Lola Falana knew something was missing. She defined herself as "an empty person with a strong sense that this is not what it's all about." So she did what we're all supposed to do when we feel lost: she prayed — prayed that God would show her a new direction, a path that might lead to wholeness and personal peace because all the money and fame weren't doing the job.

God responded, she says, in a curious and wonderful way. She came down with multiple sclerosis. And more strangely, perhaps, she ended up thanking God for this gift. Because for this "can do" person, MS changed everything. It freed her from the constraints of long-term contracts and obligations. It took her from the stage and left her with time for prayer, reflection and a search for meaning. Now, Lola feels she's found it.

The woman who once reveled in sequins and jewelry now looks very different. Her only jewelry now is a plain cross worn around her neck as a simple reminder of the faith which anchors her. Financially, things have also changed. Lola Falana once commanded up to $90,000 a week as an entertainer.

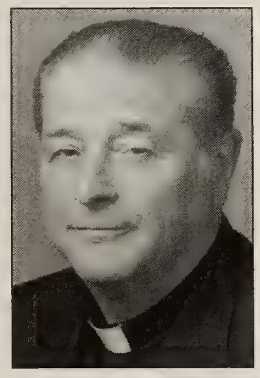
Now, she draws no salary. Instead, she spends her days on the road, visiting churches throughout the country as a lay evangelist. She tells people her story of conversion, of finding the true meaning in life. And what is that truth? In our interview, Lola Falana shared some of the insights she's discovered over the past few years.

Lola admitted that she now sees the harm in senseless vanity and the zillions of dollars we spent to make something more of ourselves than we're meant to. God made us beautiful, she says, as we are. All the jewelry, makeup, plastic surgery and fancy clothing can't improve on the essential beauty of our souls. In her quest for more and more financial success, Lola discovered another truth: all the money you make in no way guarantees happiness or peace. After a while, it's just money for money's sake.

And the blessings that came from her MS? Lola says she came to recognize that we are meant to be dependent on God, our Creator. In our human arrogance, we often presume to act as if we invented or created ourselves. Illness, she says, reminds us that we come from God and return to God. He is our starting point and our final destination. And illness can also make us more prayerful, compassionate, sensitive and more aware of our real purpose in our human journey. That purpose, Lola suggests, is to give and give and then give again. It is, simply put, to make the world a better place because we lived here.

Interviewing Lola Falana is jarring. You expect a dazzling stage beauty, but you find beauty of another kind: a very attractive woman whose allure is not superficial. Rather, you are drawn to her generous heart, her peaceful smile, her ease of manner and her courageous convictions about our reliance on the wonder of God's goodness. Some might look at her and say she's given it all up. I'd say Lola's finally found it all.

Question Corner



Father JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Parents' Best Efforts Are Not Lost

Q. One of our daughters married a non-Catholic. They attended all the marriage-preparation programs, but after a child was born her husband decided he would not be baptized Catholic nor would he be raised Catholic. He wants the child raised in a church of neither faith.

Our daughter has never told us what she wants, but we feel they are not in full agreement. They now attend another church.

We want to keep peace in the family, but we cannot accept their plan. What can or should we do? (Iowa)

A. No matter how much you feel you "cannot accept their plan," I'm not at all sure there is anything at all you can do beyond prayer and committing yourselves to long-term prayer, loving presence and good example.

We tend always to feel, especially as parents or priests, that there should be something we can do to fix any problem and make everything well. We need to admit, rather, that there comes a point when children become responsible for their own lives.

There's a time at which parents, after having done their reasonable best for their sons and daughters, allow the responsibility to shift to their children's shoulders.

You don't need to agree with all their decisions, but a great load is lifted once we accept the fact that they are now adult persons in their own right, able and willing to be accountable for their decisions.

I realize this is difficult. We tend to feel that, when our children act against what we thought we had taught them and wanted to teach them, we did something wrong somewhere. That's not true.

Parents (and for that matter anyone who has responsibility for others) should find consolation in knowing that nothing done out of love for another is ever lost. From our human experience of life, even more from the example of Christ before us, we trust in the transforming power of love.

Just as with your daughter, the effects of our devoted efforts may not always appear in the way or at the time we would wish. They are there, nevertheless, and will show themselves in times and places we never expect and perhaps never will know about.

Sociologists and psychiatrists agree that children possess an uncanny instinct for absorbing and retaining the values they perceive in their parents. Again, however, these effects may not reveal themselves in manners that will lessen the disappointment and sense of failure on the part of parents.

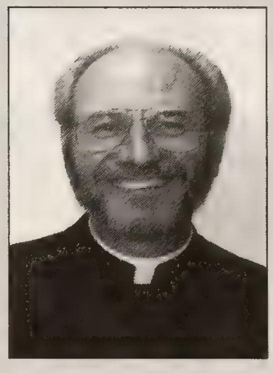
In other words, when our work of parenting and nurturing does not produce the visible results we would wish, by no means does it follow that this work was a failure.

We need not, and should not, feel responsible for providing solutions for everything, even for our families. We continue to put our best efforts into God's hands, relax, and allow his grace and love to go to work in the people we care for.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions for this column may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail jjdietzen@aol.com.

Economy of Faith



Father JOHN S. RAUSCH
Guest Columnist

Landmines Cost an Arm and a Leg

To clear a minefield the size of two football fields in Maputo, Mozambique, will take 59 weeks of work, the use of trained mine-sniffing dogs and $28,251. Along the border between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, 1 million acres of arable land seeded with mines remain uncultivated because of the threat to farmers.

The United Nations estimates that between 60 and 70 million mines lie buried in the fields and jungles of more than 70 countries. Each year over 26,000 civilians, including 8,000 to 10,000 children, are killed or maimed. In Croatia and Bosnia alone the U.N. projects that 1,000 workers would need over 30 years to discover the 6 million mines scattered there.

Warring factions seldom clean up after themselves. A landmine, armed for $3 to $30, may cost between $300 and $1,000 to defuse. Frequently a farmer's hoe detonates one, or a child's curiosity explores an unfamiliar lethal toy. Landmines represent an indiscriminate weapon that fails to distinguish between the footstep of a soldier and that of a child. Mines recognize no cease-fire. Long after the fighting has ended, they continue to kill and maim.

The Mine Ban Treaty concluded in Ottawa in 1997 banned the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and took effect on March 1, 1999. Curiously, besides the outcry from human rights groups and the general public, military authorities began recognizing the deaths and injuries caused by landmines to soldiers — and more often than not, to soldiers of the country using the mines. Fully one-third of U.S. casualties in the Vietnam and Persian Gulf wars came from both enemy and U.S. landmines.

Still, the U.S. did not join the 139 countries that signed the Mine Ban Treaty. It and Turkey remain the only two of NATO's 19 partners that have not banned anti-personnel mines. The U.S. is one of only 16 landmine-producing countries in the world and possesses the third largest stockpile with over 12 million mines.

The moral questions surrounding landmines span from the indiscriminate killing of non-combatants to the responsibility for the lingering effects that mines pose. Once a country is mined, local medical facilities and clinics become overloaded with victims, trade and commerce decrease because of uncertain roads, and the electoral process sputters from diminished campaigning and fearful voters staying home. In addition, when agriculture suffers, food shortages appear. Mines create a negative impact on the economic and social development of the neediest people of the world — the rural poor in developing countries.

A strong moral responsibility to help clear these lethal weapons rests with the parties that fought the wars and the countries that produced and sold the landmines. The United Nations Association of the USA in partnership with the United Nations, the Better World Fund and the U.S. Department of State has initiated a program called "Adopt-A-Minefield" (www.landmine.org) Individuals and organizations can contribute funds to "clear a path to a safer world" like the two football-field area in Mozambique. Yet, the enormous challenge of clearing landmines begs the greater resources of countries and corporations responsible for the problem.

With the stroke of a pen the U.S. could join the family of nations denouncing the inhumanity of landmines. With a greater financial commitment to clearing mines it could prepare the ground for social and economic development and sow seeds for peace.

Calcutta archbishop confident pope to beatify Mother Teresa soon

By John Norton
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Archbishop Henry D'Souza of Calcutta, India, said he was confident Pope John Paul II would beatify Mother Teresa soon, possibly by the end of the year.

The Calcutta Archdiocese planned to formally close the cause's initial information-gathering stage Aug. 15, when the process will move to the Vatican's Congregation for Sainthood Causes, he told Fides, the Vatican's missionary news service.

"I hope the congregation will find everything in order. Who knows, the beatification may even take place before the end of the year. I would not be surprised. It all depends on the work schedule of the congregation and the Holy Father's decision," he said.

In addition to transcripts of hundreds of interviews with people who knew Mother Teresa, as well as a "massive" amount of documentation relating to her life, he said the archdiocesan commission would be submitting case files for "a number of miracles" attributed to Mother Teresa's intercession since her death in 1997.

"I cannot say much more. The case of a woman in Raiganj (India) cured of cancer is one of the miracles presented," Archbishop D'Souza told Fides.

In Rome, a sainthood official familiar with Mother Teresa's cause said it would be virtually impossible for her to be beatified within the year unless the pope waived some procedural requirements.

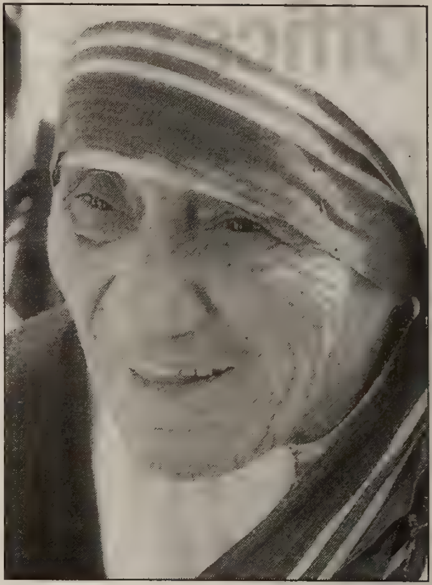
Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, who served as a consultant to the archdiocesan commission, said the Vatican's examination and approval of beatification causes normally lasted many months and even years.

Under the procedural rules, he said, the Vatican would appoint an official to guide the process after the arrival of all the paperwork, which in Mother Teresa's case is thought to run at least 40 volumes. That official would oversee the drafting of a summary, though still hundreds of pages, which would be submitted to the examination of a panel of theologians.

The theologians normally are given two months to read through the document and express an opinion. If positive, the material would be presented to the bishop and cardinal members of the congregation for study, and if approved, to the pope.

Evidence of miracles would also have to be examined separately by a panel of doctors and scientists, he said.

Pope John Paul has already shown himself willing to bend the rules in Mother Teresa's case. In 1999, less than two years after her death, he waived a five-year waiting period before the opening of sainthood causes.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Director of Office of Youth Ministry: Full-time, Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Responsibilities include: actively coordinating diocesan-wide program; coordinate and serve as resource for parochial youth programs; promote youth ministry awareness among clergy, parents and youth. Qualifications are: Catholic in good standing; college degree with theological course work (master's degree in theology or related field preferred); experience in youth ministry as articulated in Renewing the Vision, USCC 1997 programs; working knowledge of Spanish; ability to work and communicate with adolescents and adults; enthusiasm for and loyalty to the Church. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits package. Send resume to: Fr. Michael Taylor, Diocese of Arlington, 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 519, Arlington, VA 22203, Please send resumes by July 1, 2001.

Director of Religious Education: DRE/Coordinator of Youth Ministry for suburban Charlotte parish of 1400 families. Major responsibilities include: oversight of entire Faith Formation program and coordination, grades six through 12 catechetical and youth program with emphasis on high school youth. Applicant must be practicing Catholic and have certificate in Religious Education or Youth Ministry with at least one year experience. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Contact Rev. William Kelley, SJ., St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117; (704) 664-3992: or email: w_kelley@msn.com

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Teacher: Elementary school position (grade 3) opening effective for 2001-02 school year. Strengths in math, reading and educational technology desirable. Send letter of application, resume and professional credentials to: William Meehan, Principal, Immaculata Catholic School, 711 Buncombe St., Hendersonville, NC 28791.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706)722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop Middle/High School and Young Adult Ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

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Office of Economic Opportunity co-sponsors "Families First" forum

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HAYESVILLE — Once upon a time, if you worked hard, you could support your family and lead a reasonably comfortable life. For at least one-third of all North Carolina families, that fairy-tale life doesn't exist any more. They do not earn enough to make ends meet, no matter how hard they work.

Cherokee and Clay County churches are getting together to help those who need help to survive. And they're going to do it with community action, not money.

About 25 representatives from churches and various community organizations met June 2 at the Hinton Rural Life Center to learn about Far-West Families First. The Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in Murphy coordinated the day's program. OEO is an office of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Churches represented at the forum were Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, First United Methodist Church of Murphy, Hayesville First Methodist Church, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Murphy Church of Christ, St. Joseph Catholic Church, and St. William Catholic Church.

The Far-West Families First program is funded by Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte and the Duke Endowment.

They heard presentations from such organizations as JUBILEE, an independent statewide organization under the auspices of the North Carolina Council of Churches; the Department of Social Services of Cherokee and Clay counties; and Faith Link, an Interfaith Assistance Ministry program in Henderson County.

The facts presented give one pause. In 1999 in Cherokee and Clay counties, a family of one parent with an infant and preschooler needed $26,508 (the North Carolina Living Income Standard) annually to be self-sufficient, yet the income (known as the poverty level) for such a family in these counties was $13,880, about half of what the family needed to survive. According to 2001 federal poverty guidelines, the annual income for a family of three is $14,630, still not enough to survive.

Just one statistic gives an indication of why this is so: "It costs more for parents to send a child to day care than to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: child care, $4,416 per year; UNC-CH, $2,314 per year" [Sorien K. Schmidt and Dan Gerlach, "Working Hard is Not Enough," North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center and NC Equity, January 2001].

Yes, some jobs are available; as people will tell you when they mention that the newspapers are full of classified ads. If people wanted to work, they say, they could get jobs. Yet, often the income from these jobs is insufficient to allow a family to make ends meet.

According to Schmidt and Gerlach, "Low-wage work is becoming a larger part of the work available in North Carolina. Of the 20 occupations projected to have the most job openings:

— Nine have entry-level wages of less than $6.15 an hour and average wages of less than $8.25 an hour.

— Fifteen of the 20 have entry-level wages of less than $8.25 an hour.

— Three of the five with entry-level wages over $8.25 an hour require a postsecondary education degree."

And these, say Schmidt and Gerlach, are the incomes for one- and two-parent families: "They are not teenagers or older adults earning extra money. These are persons in their prime earning years."

Even when people get training, they may not be any better off than before they had the schooling. For instance, a person trained as a certified nursing assistant can find work, but shifts are often at night or on weekends when childcare is not available, and many employers "do not work around your lifestyle," said Cathy Mills of Faith Link.

Far-West Families First, an OEO initiative, is out to help. It's a way for congregations to help Work First families (families on welfare receiving cash assistance) move to employment, maintain a job, and increase family stability.

Cathy Mills is the Faith Link coordinator in Henderson County. She is paid by Work First and is assigned to the Interfaith Assistance Ministry, a private, nonprofit organization. She described her own experience. When she and her husband split up, she availed herself of the JOBS program, which offered her the opportunity to complete her education. With JOBS, she said, "You were allowed to pursue your education. I was in an abusive relationship, with two children, and I knew that [JOBS] was there for me as an escape hatch."

She started at Blue Ridge Community College, then transferred to UNC-Asheville to get her sociology degree. But halfway through her education, the Welfare Reform Act went into effect. JOBS was out, and Work First was in. But Mills was determined to finish her schooling in spite of this setback.

"Nobody was going to tell me I couldn't get my education," she said, "but it was so hard to work part time, and go to school full time, and take care of my children."

Mills was on welfare during her four years in school. "A mother can provide hope for her children only if she has it for herself. What saved me was a connection with a church family — my future husband's family," she said, adding that while financial assistance from service agencies helps, "You need that emotional support. That's what church families can do."

That's the idea of Faith Link — groups from churches helping those who need help to help themselves.

"The real job," said Eben Franz of Faith Link, "is to help them find ways to solve their own problems. The key word is partnering with these families rather than teaching."

The community forum attendees then heard how Faith Link works in Henderson County. Several churches, including Immaculate Conception, participate in the program. A team forms at a church to help one or more families.

"We help with everything they need, including transportation and childcare," Franz said. "This is a team that works with families to meet their needs. One person cannot do everything."

DSS refers the families, who may or may not be on Work First; helping does not include giving money. Rather, it provides services like one-on-one mentoring; tutoring of adults and children; help with unusual or unmet needs such as paper products, diapers, or transportation; and supplemental childcare.

Involvement of each team member could be no more than 20 hours per year. All of the team members must feel comfortable working with a particular family.

"You cannot work with these people without realizing that some things just don't make sense," Mills said; for instance, the idea that people are expected to work instead of being on welfare but are not provided the means to get the long-term training that may be necessary before they can earn an adequate living.

The next steps, after the June 2 community forum, said Barbara Zelter Earls of JUBILEE, is to form a steering committee and to hire a faith coordinator. Normally the coordinator works with just one county. The Cherokee/Clay initiative is unique in that the faith coordinator will work with both counties. The funding will need to be worked out, but the Departments of Social Services in the two counties are interested in participating depending on their budgets, and the Glenmary Home Missioners plans to provide at least one-third of the money.

A general orientation for "Building Toward Families First" is planned for September. Hopes are to eventually expand the program to Swain and Graham counties.

Is it worth it? Eben Franz thinks so, after working with a young woman who left an abusive marriage to raise her children alone.

"I've gotten the opportunity to become a grandfather," Franz said. "What a wonderful thing. But even more, I've been able to understand that these people are just what Jesus said they are — our equals. The only difference is the environment they grew up in. You really feel compassion for people at a different level."

Courtesy photo

Bishop Emeritus celebrates ordination anniversary

Bishop Michael J. Begley, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Charlotte, celebrated his 67th anniversary of priestly ordination at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point May 26. A native of Massachusetts, Bishop Begley has served as a priest in North Carolina since May 1934. He was chosen to lead the newly created Diocese of Charlotte in 1972, and he served as bishop until 1984. Bishop Begley celebrated his 92nd birthday March 12 at Maryfield, where he has resided since 1997. He is pictured here with Father Joseph Kelleher.

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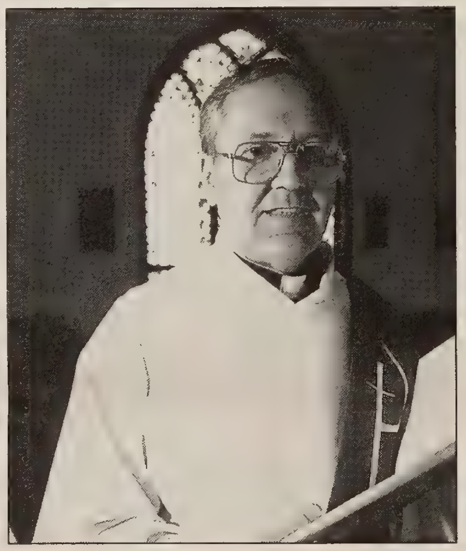
Deacon triumphs over personal obstacles through spirituality

By ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO — All he wanted was some tomatoes. A usually simple request from a child to his parents at dinnertime was made difficult because of a severe speech impediment. Rev. Mr. Phil Killian had lived his young life in Pennsylvania without words. His older sister served as his only interpreter and key to communication.

Their father, worn down by a long day's work and the strains of World War II, responded negatively, as his sister spoke in his defense. That was the turning point in young Phil Killian's life.

After realizing that night at dinner that Rev. Mr. Killian could actually be understood, his parents, who had been told that their son would never be able to speak correctly, argued to have him enrolled in speech therapy classes at the local public school. "There was no program in the Catholic school, but parochial school students weren't allowed to attend public school for programs," he recalled. "They threatened the school system with a lawsuit, and they changed the law."


Rev. Mr. Phil Killian

Every Friday, Rev. Mr. Killian walked to the public school to attend the classes and braved the insults and jeers about his speech from students at both schools. In order to cope with the feelings of being ignored in class and teased, he began to retreat into his own world.

"I had few friends because kids made fun of me. It was quite an experience and was very frustrating for me. Because I couldn't be understood, I didn't want to be visible. I was embarrassed about the way I spoke."

Two things saved him from permanently disappearing into the background — family and religion. Born into a family of seven, he received support from his brothers and sisters and his parents, and they attended church as a family. "We were the largest family in our parish, and I felt at times that we were the center of attention. We were often late to church because we all had to get ready in the morning, and my father would always march us to the front of the church."

Catholicism offered a sense of refuge and serenity for Rev. Mr. Killian, who threw himself into his religion. He would take his Catholic and non-Catholic friends to vacation Bible school and served as an altar boy at early Mass. Thoughts of becoming a priest also persisted in his spirit for most of his young life. "My religion was the most important thing in my life up until my mid-20's; it always gave me support."

He improved his speech through the help of a dedicated teacher originally from Great Britain. "I learned to speak by looking in a mirror, and some people can detect a slight Irish accent when I talk."

After graduation, he entered the Army, and an Army chaplain helped him to enter seminary. He found that the difficulties he had experienced in school from his speech defect had followed him. He could not maintain his grades, and frustrated and disappointed, he had to leave seminary and return to the Army. It was a tumultuous time for him. Disillusioned with life events and the drastic Vatican II changes taking place in the Church, Rev. Mr. Killian, who had been so staunchly dedicated to his faith, began an unofficial, personal boycott of Mass.

"My whole world went topsy-turvy. It seemed that the faith I had loved all my life and was so important became a stranger to me. I made a conscious effort to stop going to church and knew I was missing something, but through anger, I didn't know what it was."

Determined to move on in his academic life, he began attending night classes at St. Joseph University and found that he performed well in his accounting classes and received an accounting degree. "I began to understand that I had a place in the world and began to discover myself. I had professors who recognized my potential, and I gained self-confidence."

He began working as an accounting clerk for a small carpet company in Valley Forge, Pa., later purchased by Burlington Industries. He broke the age-old rule to never mix business with pleasure and began dating a woman who also worked at the company. By their second date, the woman informed her future husband that she would not continue to date him unless he began attending church again.

Rev. Mr. Killian began attending the Methodist Church with Sandy and realized that it was not the place for him. However, he credits the devout Methodist with leading him back to Catholicism. After marriage in 1970, four years later, they baptized their daughter Catholic, and he asked the priest if he could offer a hand at church when needed. The priest called him two hours later, which began a ministerial working relationship with the Church that has lasted for more than 25 years.

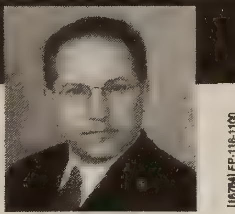
When the Valley Forge, Pa., company closed its doors in 1990, Rev. Mr. Killian had the option to transfer to Greensboro. They did not realize what a difficulty it would be for them. "We moved from a large city with many things to do to a quiet, rural area," said Rev. Mr. Killian. "We had a rough time adjusting to the environmental and cultural differences. I had a bad case of culture shock, and my faith is the one thing that kept me going."

He became involved with Cursillo, and the director at the time had mentioned the permanent diaconate to Rev. Mr. Killian. Moved and intrigued by the prospect of ordained ministry at this point in his life, he entered the lay ministry program, a diocesan diaconate requirement. "The more I got involved with lay ministry, the more God moved me toward the permanent diaconate, and Sandy supported me the entire time."

However, there was a slight glitch. His parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, already had two deacons, but St. Benedict Church in Greensboro did not. He registered at St. Benedict, and Rev. Mr. Killian was ordained in 1995. He is the parish director of faith formation and still works at Burlington Industries as an inventory cost manager.

"I guess God wanted me to talk because he knew that I would be preaching one day. The permanent diaconate has strengthened my spiritual life immensely," said the grandfather of one and one on the way. "I look out every week and am in awe over the parishioners' faith and love for God, and it has made me love God more."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.



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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Inside

Corpus Christi observance calls for true devotion to Eucharist ... Page 4

Diocesan graduations end one chapter, open another for students ... Page 10-11

Local News

Society must respond when working hard is not enough, says speaker ... Page 8

Sister Mona Wingert praised for dedicated service ... Page 12

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 14-15

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 16-17

Cover Photos By JOANN S. KEANE

Mercy Sister Jubilarians pictured top to bottom: Mary Jerome Spradley, Anita Sheerin, Mary Robert Williams, Mary John Madden and Maria Goretti Weldon.

In the top left photo, Sister Mary Robert looks over a display of photos with Sister Paulette Williams, vice president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina.

Jubilation reigns with triumph of love

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — "In the words of Leviticus, let the trumpet blast," proclaimed Mercy Sister Michelle Boulus. The words no more than passed her lips before a trumpet sounded through the sanctuary of St. Gabriel Parish on June 16.

The trumpeter heralded the jubilee celebration for five Sisters of Mercy of the Regional Community of North Carolina. A chamber orchestra and chorus of Mercy sisters, associates and friends rounded out the musical ensemble. The parish filled with friends and families there to celebrate some 270 years of combined ministry.

"This year shall be made sacred," said Sister Michelle. "It will be a jubilee for you, Sister Mary John Madden, Sister Mary Robert Williams, Sister Mary Anita Sheerin, Sister Mary Jerome Spradley and Sister Maria Goretti Weldon."

At the onset of the Mass, Sister Rosalind Picôt, president of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of North Carolina, said, "Jubilee is a time when those who have committed themselves solely to God and service to God's people bear public witness to the fact that God calls each of us to acknowledge the primacy of God in our lives."

One by one, the jubilee sisters were called forth to renew the vows they embraced decades past. Sister Mary John Madden stepped up, bringing her 70 years of Mercy service into the spotlight. Joining her at the base of the altar, golden jubiliarians Sisters Mary Anita Sheerin, Mary Jerome Spradley, Mary Robert Williams, and Maria Goretti Weldon.

For the Sisters of Mercy, Father Frank Cancro expanded his homily to take Hosea's espousal message to a higher level, that of professed individuals. The Mass' first reading from the prophet Hosea said, "I will espouse you to me forever." Although Hosea is generally interpreted in marital terms, Father Cancro, pastor of St. Eugene in Asheville, told of another element of espousal. "Along with those deep realities of culture and religious life ... there is this other

See JUBILATION, page 19

Cardinal calls Jewish group's ad criticizing pope 'unjust'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A high-ranking Vatican official has criticized the Anti-Defamation League for its ads expressing sadness at Pope John Paul II's "silence" after an anti-Semitic diatribe by Syrian President Bashar Assad in the pope's presence. "To defame the Holy Father by attributing 'silence' to him is quite unjust and cannot go uncontested," wrote Cardinal Walter Kasper in a letter May 18 to ADL National Director Abraham H. Foxman. The cardinal is president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. In a separate letter the same day, Cardinal Kasper declined a request by Seymour Reich, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, for a special IJCIC meeting with the pope to discuss the Assad incident.

Pope prays for victims of Bangladesh church bomb blast

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II sent a telegram of support to Catholics in a parish in southwestern Bangladesh, following a bomb attack that killed 10 parishioners during a Mass. In a June 4 telegram signed by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, secretary of state, the pope assured the parishioners of his "closeness in prayer at this time of tragedy and loss." He condemned "acts of violence and destruction" and appealed "to all to cooperate in ensuring a climate of peace and respect." The bomb exploded June 3 inside the parish church at Baniarchar village, 100 miles southwest of Dhaka. In addition to those killed, 10 people were injured, including one seriously.

Father Hehir to head Catholic Charities USA

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Father J. Bryan Hehir, a Boston archdiocesan priest who chairs the executive committee of the Harvard University Divinity School and is on its faculty, has been chosen to be president and CEO of Catholic Charities USA. Catholic Charities' board of trustees elected Father Hehir to succeed Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, who has been head of the Alexandria-based Catholic Charities since 1992. Father Kammer announced a year ago his intention to step down this September, which prompted the yearlong search for his successor. Father Hehir will be designated president in September at the Catholic Charities annual conference in Newark, N.J., and the priest will assume his new post full time Jan. 1, 2002.

DER VICTIMS FAMILIES
FOR
RECONCILIATION

CNS PHOTO BY LIZ QUIRIN, THE MESSENGER

Murder victims' families call for reconciliation

Families of murder victims, including Bud Welch (front), plant a tree in memory of their loved ones at Boston College in early June. Welch, who lost daughter Julie in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, joined more than 350 people gathered to share stories about their loss and their work in opposing the death penalty.

Cardinal says Americans must criticize as well as love culture

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago characterized American culture as both rocky and fertile ground for proclaiming the Gospel. Speaking June 8 at the Catholic Theological Society of America's national convention in Milwaukee, Cardinal George said North American culture's notions of justice and freedom and its resistance to authority add to the challenges of evangelization in the United States. He said Americans need to be critics as well as lovers of U.S. culture. "If we're going to evangelize, obviously we have to love first," the cardinal said. "We love America and we love our culture, therefore we have the possibility of transforming it. The best way to do this is through the witness and practice of holiness."

Catholic chaplain anointed McVeigh before death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Before Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was executed in Terre Haute, Ind., a Catholic prison chaplain anointed him. Father Ron Ashmore, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Terre Haute, told Catholic News Service June 12 that shortly after the June 11 execution he spoke with one of McVeigh's attorneys, Christopher Tritico, "and Chris said he received the anointing of the dying." The Catholic chaplain at the prison is Father Francis M. Roof, but in response to a query from The Criterion, Indianapolis archdiocesan newspaper, Bureau of Prisons spokesman James N. Cross said the priest doing the anointing "was not Father Roof." Cross said, "It was a Bureau of Prisons Catholic chaplain whose name we are not going to release."

Church lagging on genetic-testing implications, ethicist says

ATLANTA (CNS) — Catholic understanding of the ethical issues involved in genetic testing is lagging because it is linked with abortion in the minds of many, a Minnesota ethicist told a workshop at the Catholic Health Association convention in Atlanta June 11. Carol A. Tauer, senior scholar at the Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics in Minneapolis, said she thought Catholics avoided discussion of genetic issues because of the "bad connotations" raised by the fact that some couples who undergo prenatal genetic testing later decide on an abortion. Noting that 90 percent of prenatal genetic testing shows no genetic problem in the unborn child, Tauer said such testing can "put people's minds at rest." And if the testing shows a problem, Catholic hospital personnel can help couples who want to keep the child "find resources" to deal with their decision, she said.

New bill would fund 'responsible' adult stem-cell research

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As evidence of the effectiveness of adult stem-cell research continues to mount, a Catholic congressman introduced legislation June 5 that would provide at least $30 million annually to conduct and support such research. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., unveiled the Responsible Stem Cell Research Act of 2001 at a Washington press conference three days after Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Mass., introduced the Stem Cell Research Act of 2001, which would change federal law to allow for funding of stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos. Meanwhile, a survey commissioned by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops found that 70 percent of Americans oppose federal funding of stem-cell research that requires destroying human embryos, compared to 24 percent who support it.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 6 — 9 p.m.
Closing Mass of HEART
Work Camp
Holy Trinity Middle School, Charlotte

July 16-19
Provincial bishops' meeting
Savannah, Ga.

July 21 — 6:30 p.m.
Mass for installation of
Knights of Columbus state officers
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

July 24 — 5 p.m.
Charlotte Catholic High School
board meeting, Charlotte

July 27 — 10:30 a.m.
Opening Mass of National Gathering for
Black Catholic Women
Adams' Mark Hotel, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

June

25 CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

26 MAGGIE VALLEY — Augustinian Father Jim McBurney, prior of St. Augustine Friary in Pennsylvania, will be facilitating a retreat entitled "Called to Conversion: Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit" at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, beginning today through July 2. Father McBurney will be discussing how surrender to God's word and spirit can lead to a deepening of one's relationship with God. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

27 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

27 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, the oldest and largest order of Irish Catholic men, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location.

July

1 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Afghan refugee peers from tent in detention camp

An Afghan man peers from a tent in a detention camp for refugees in southern Iran June 19. Afghanistan has been facing a humanitarian crisis with people fleeing drought, civil war and widespread food shortages.

Irish voters reject Nice Treaty, support capital punishment ban

DUBLIN, Ireland (CNS) — Irish voters rejected a proposed European Union treaty that could have allowed abortion on demand. In a separate referendum, Irish citizens voted for an absolute ban on capital punishment. Both referendums were June 7. The Treaty of Nice, which 54 percent of Irish voters rejected, would have realigned the European Union. Crtics of the treaty said it would have created a "two-tiered Europe," with smaller countries having reduced representation and votes. Others saw the creation of a European "rapid reaction force" as a threat to Ireland's traditional neutrality. In rejecting the treaty, Irish voters blocked its implementation in the European Union. A coalition of pro-life groups, nationalists, neutrality activists and environmentalists led the campaign to defeat the treaty.

Vatican issues new rules on Third World clergy living abroad

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Concerned about the growing number of native clergy emigrating out of missionary dioceses, the Vatican issued stricter rules to govern how long priests may be gone and to make sure they return home. The Vatican said study and training abroad can be useful for priests from mission territories, but their own dioceses should ultimately benefit. Too often, it said, clergy from developing countries spend many years in Europe or North America because of better living conditions and because they are needed to serve in First World dioceses. It called on bishops to set conditions and a time limit for each case of clergy exchange and to take immediate steps for the return of priests in "irregular" situations. The norms were part of a 14-page instruction issued June 12 by the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

Ethics courses needed to combat AIDS, says Kenyan church official

MURANG'A, Kenya (CNS) — An official of the Kenyan bishops' conference called for the establishment of ethics and morals courses as a way to help young people avoid contracting AIDS. "The hope of the Catholic Church is to see an education system in which moral ethics and spiritual values are emphasized in efforts to change the morality of the society," said Augusta Muthigani, education secretary for the bishops' conference. She said that the war against AIDS would not have an impact unless the education system applied effective strategies to help mold the moral character of young people. Muthigani made her remarks while speaking at the Muragana Diocese's education day, held June 10 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cathedral in Murang'a town in central Kenya.

In Ukraine, pope hopes gestures succeed where dialogue has not

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Over the strong objections of the Russian Orthodox Church, Pope John Paul II will visit Ukraine in late June, hoping once again that gestures of respect will succeed where dialogue has not. However, unlike his earlier visits to predominantly Orthodox Greece and Romania, the pope is not scheduled to meet privately with any Orthodox leaders, let alone lead a prayer service with them. Only one ecumenical meeting is scheduled during the June 23-27 trip, and that includes representatives from all of Ukraine's Christian communities as well as Jewish and Muslim leaders. In Ukraine, Pope John Paul faces the delicate task of balancing his remarks on two subjects he feels very strongly about: ecumenism and martyrdom.

Bosnian religious leaders seek aid to rebuild places of worship

ROME (CNS) — Ahead of a summit of the world's most-industrialized nations, Bosnia's religious leaders appealed for aid to rebuild hundreds of places of worship destroyed in their country's war. In a joint statement June 8, the Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish leaders said the reconstruction of churches, mosques and synagogues would "enable us to fulfill the role of education to peace and faith." The statement was signed during a meeting in Rome hosted by the Sant'Egidio Community, a Catholic lay movement. The appeal was addressed to the heads of the Group of Eight industrialized countries, who were to hold a summit July 20-22 in Genoa, Italy.

South Korean archbishop warns against claims of Marian miracles

KWANGJU, South Korea (CNS) — Archbishop Andreas Choi Chang-mou of Kwangju has warned Catholics against helping or joining a group whose claims to Marian miracles have been rejected by the church. The archbishop also asked Julia Youn Hong-sun and her volunteers not to propagate in his archdiocese the alleged miracles concerning her and her statue of Mary, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In a May 24 letter sent to all archdiocesan parishes, Archbishop Choi asked Catholics to "obey the magisterium." He indicated that disobedience would be punished. He also asked Youn not to insist that her personal experiences are supernatural and not to propagate them as private revelations.

Internet offers a lot, except sacraments, says Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Though the Internet offers the church new possibilities for bringing priests and faithful together in cyberspace, the sacrament of reconciliation will never be administered online, said the Vatican's top communications official. "The Internet offers an opportunity for dialogue, for response to questions, for interactive instruction and even for pastoral counseling," Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said June 5. "It does not offer the opportunity for online confession — which must always be done in the sacramental context of personal encounter," he said. The U.S. archbishop made his remarks during a World Communications Day celebration in Vienna, Austria. The text of his speech was released at the Vatican.

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will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

1 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting today from 3-5 p.m. at the Showfety Activity Center at St. Benedict Church, 109 West Smith St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

2 CHARLOTTE — Christians in Career Transition is a ministry of St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., devoted to helping people in career crises. The meeting will take place tonight and July 16 from 7-9 p.m. in the office area of the parish center's conference room. For more information, call Rev. Mr. Jim Hamrlik at (704) 542-6459

2 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Aug. 6. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600, Ext. 200 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

2 CHARLOTTE — Because of the holiday, there will be no cancer support group meeting held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy.; however, the cancer support group will be meeting at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. The next meeting at St. Matthew will be held on Aug. 6 and at St. Gabriel on Aug. 7. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

5 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, will be meeting tonight and July 19 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call Joanne Parcell at (336) 924-9478 or the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

8 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The June hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call Nina D'Arcy at (828) 299-7618 or e-mail ninadarcy@juno.com.

BRYSON CITY — The St. Joseph Church thrift shop is open every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call the shop, located at 316 Main St., at (828) 488-2266 or Katherine Kelly at (828) 488-2519.

CLEMMONS — A Spanish Mass is celebrated 4 p.m. every Sunday at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. For details, call the church office at (336) 778-0600, Ext. 200.

CONCORD — The summer hours for the religious gifts and book shop at St. James Church, 251 Union St., are: Sun. after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, Wed. from 9 a.m.-noon and Sat. after the 5 p.m. Mass. For more information, contact Mary Moore at the church office at (704) 720-0600.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Corpus Christi celebration calls faithful to honor Eucharist

By DENISE KASPER
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — "The Body and Blood of Christ."

It's something Catholics hear from the very first time they go to Mass, but Bishop William G. Curlin asked parishioners if they really understood what that means — what that stands to embody.

"What does the Eucharist mean to you?" he asked of those assembled in the chapel at Maryfield Nursing Home in High Point on June 17, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. "Do you come with hungry hearts or is it just religious duty?"

Bishop Curlin presided at the Mass and anointing of the sick at Maryfield. He explained that the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi, is symbolized by the Eucharist and offers an opportunity to be renewed in Christ. He said that having part of Christ in us is having life itself in us. Taking holy Communion is a true communion — a joining of you and Christ.

Bishop Curlin spoke to a crowd of more than 200 people at the nursing home, and as he prayed over the offerings, church bells chimed and incense filled the small chapel. Members of the Knights of Columbus in their formal dress garb, complete with brightly colored plumed hats, kneeled in front of the altar, raised their swords and bowed their heads during the consecration of the Eucharist.

While this day may have no special meaning to some, Bishop Curlin held that sharing the Holy Eucharist is a very special honor.

After Communion, the congregation, members of the Knights of Columbus and children spreading rose petals took the celebration of the Eucharist to the sunny outdoors. The cross-bearer and acolytes were next in line of the procession, which made its way around the budding and fragrant rose garden in the front of the home. Bishop Curlin walked behind the procession carrying the Eucharist in a monstrance, a shiny and ornate silver vessel, which reflected the bright rays from the hot afternoon sun. The moving sequence then made its way back to the chapel after stopping to anoint the sick who were gathered in the community room.

As he gave his sermon, Bishop Curlin urged people to take this time to reconnect with Christ and to understand that God lives in each one of us.

"The way you look at someone is the way God looks at someone," he said. "Is that some nice pious thing the saints mumbled about? Sometimes we tend to separate our lives into two: our pious life and our real life. Until the two meet we must be frightened to die."

God is there every day through heartache, hopes, dreams and struggles, he said. Our daily life is our altar, and on that altar is where we put our love for Christ, Bishop Curlin said.

Resonating throughout his homily, Bishop Curlin had a clear and simple message: "There is no room for criticism, anger or snide remarks. Either be with it or not with it."

His message was not lost on his audience.

"(Bishop Curlin) always gives a great homily," said Arline Uhl of Greensboro. "It's poignant and one you can really take home with you."

In closing, Bishop Curlin urged the group to echo Christ's love.

"Find patience, kindness, forgiveness, hope and peace," he said. "God walks the earth in you."

Photo by Denise Kasper

Bishop William G. Curlin leads a procession on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christi, June 17 at Maryfield Nursing Home.

Seminarians receive degrees at St. Vincent Seminary

LATROBE, Pa. — Two seminarians of the Diocese of Charlotte, Rev. Mr. Christopher Roux and John Chapin Engler Jr., were among those who received degrees at St. Vincent Seminary's 155th annual commencement ceremony May 11 at St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

Rev. Mr. Roux and Engler each received the master of divinity degree, with honors.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago presided at the solemn vespers. Benedictine Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, chancellor of St. Vincent Seminary, conferred the degrees on the candidates, who were presented by the seminary rector, Benedictine Father Kurt Belsole, and the academic dean, Mercy Sister Cecilia Murphy.

Engler is the son of Peggy and John Engler of Charlotte. Rev. Mr. Roux is the son of Raymond D. and Gail P. Roux of Rock Hill, S.C.

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'Just do it,' bishop tells evangelization conference

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH — The time for excuses is over, and the time for evangelization has begun, Bishop F. Joseph Gossman of Raleigh told about 400 people at a national evangelization conference in Raleigh.

"Don't give me any excuses: 'I have to wait until I have more time, I have to wait until I take a few more classes, I have to wait until I get my new pastor or a better parish,'" Bishop Gossman said. "If we wait until the church is well on the way to salvation, with our house perfectly in order and our clergy and laity fully redeemed, we will do nothing."

Bishop Gossman's remarks came during the closing Mass of the June 6-9 conference of the National Council for Catholic Evangelization.

"I'm not asking you to go out and get on soapboxes, but I am asking you to take one concrete step: Invite another person to church," Bishop Gossman said. "Just ask him or her to come over to your home for a Sunday brunch, and then slip in, 'Oh, by the way, we always go there and do that right after Sunday Mass. So we'll pick you up and bring you along.'

"Just invite someone to church, and have a meal and a simple conversation," he continued. "That's the humble beginnings of grace, the beginnings of the connection we make to the Trinity, the beginnings of the dance."

Once the invitation is issued, Bishop Gossman said, it's not complicated. "Be willing to share some of your story. Nothing too fancy or difficult about it, but it begins a relationship that enables a conversation that can go deeper and deeper," he said.

"Inevitably we will tell them why we come to church, why we have found something that excites our lives in the Catholic Church."

The work of evangelization, the bishop said, is "not beyond the capability of any person immersed in the waters of baptism."

But Catholics are too ready to follow the American folk wisdom that one never talks about church or politics, he said. "As Catholics we have been far too timid about this. We have to quit worrying about whether or not we're doing it right, and just do it."

Bishop Gossman said it's like the ancient Chinese proverb: "A man can stand for a long time with his mouth open before a roast duck flies in."

He explained, "I think for a long time we as Catholics, instead of going out and inviting people to come in, have waited for them to wander in by themselves. But strangely enough, they never fly in."

But America is the third-largest mission field in the world, he said, third only to China and India in the number of non-Christians, and in desperate need of evangelization.

The strange and foreign culture that must be evangelized is not across the ocean but across the street, he added.

"It's a culture that can't say two sentences without referring to a TV show or a pop song, and that can't remember what it was like to have to get up and change channels," Bishop Gossman said. "It's a culture that is more likely to have a body part pierced than it is to know why Sarah laughed in the Bible.

"It's a culture that we stopped evangelizing."

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Hispanic Catholics do not feel welcome in church, says speaker

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic

RALEIGH — Sometime in the year 2000, a group of Spanish-speaking Catholics at a U.S. parish were told they could no longer celebrate Mass in the church basement on Sunday afternoons because the parish could no longer afford the air conditioning.

Besides, the space was needed for another activity, they were told.

"Does that happen?" asked Sister Tobin Lardie, a Humility of Mary Sister who is outreach project director for the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio. "It happens every day."

Speaking at a workshop June 9 during the National Council for Catholic Evangelization conference, Sister Lardie said her story is just one example of how Spanish-speaking Catholics in the United States are often made to feel like unwelcome strangers in an Anglo-dominant American Catholic culture.

And because they do not feel welcome, Sister Lardie said, Spanish-speaking Catholics around the country — as many as 600,000 a year — are leaving the Roman Catholic Church in favor of evangelical Protestant churches that are quickly building new facilities to accommodate them.

Sister Lardie said that a recent Pew Charitable Trusts study illustrates the trend.

According to the study, 70 percent of Hispanics in the United States identify themselves as Catholic; 22 percent, as Protestant.

Those who were born in another country were more likely to identify themselves as Catholics. The survey found that among Latinos born in another country, 74 percent said they were Catholic. That dropped to 66 percent among U.S.-born Latinos with an immigrant parent, and 59 percent among those whose immigrant roots went back two generations or more.

"That's sad," said Sister Lardie.

The reasons for the apparent exodus are varied and many, she said.

Language certainly plays a role, she said, as does the lack of "ownership" for Spanish-speaking Catholics in established churches.

Furthermore, not only are Spanish-speaking Catholics not being made to feel welcome, she said, but established American parishes do not tend to understand Hispanic or Latino Catholic culture.

"Our understanding of what it means to be church is very different," she said.

For example, American Catholic churches expect their new members to register with the parish's office, especially if they have need of such sacraments as marriage or baptism. But it's not customary for Cátholics from many Latin American and South American countries to register.

"You just don't want your name on anything," she said.

Obviously, she said, Hispanic Catholics are attracted to a community that welcomes them, honors and deepens their internal culture of "faith, family and fiesta," and offers a "powerful preaching style" and liturgies and services in their native language.

"If we're not doing these things on a level deeper than tacos, then they're not going to feel at home," Sister Lardie said,. "And if we are not talking about God and Jesus, if we're not talking about faith and family as one, we are not entering the conversation on a level that can be part of Hispanic life on a daily basis."

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Nun killed, two injured in ambush at roadblock in Burundi

ROME (CNS) — A Catholic nun died and two men were injured in Burundi when they were ambushed at a makeshift roadblock, according to a Rome-based missionary news agency. Sister Claire Nduwakristu, a member of the Congregation of Disciples of Christ, died June 11 as she sat in a car hit by machine-gun fire near the town of Rumonge, reported MISNA, the news agency. The agency said Burundi authorities blamed members of the rebel-led Forces for the Defense of Democracy for the attack.

Pope canonizes four Italians, first female Lebanese saint

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a ceremony that highlighted holiness as a liberating response to life's sufferings, Pope John Paul II canonized four Italians and Lebanon's first female saint. As Lebanese pilgrims cheered and waved their national flag, the pope prayed that their new saint, a 20th-century monastic nun who died blind and paralyzed, would intercede to end the sufferings of the conflict-torn peoples of the Middle East. Tens of thousands of pilgrims from around the world crowded St. Peter's Square June 10 for the canonization Mass. In addition to the Lebanese nun, the new saints included a 17th-century swordsman-turned-ascetic, a 19th-century priest attributed with the miraculous healing of an African seminarian with AIDS, and two 19th-century founders of female religious orders.

Two nuns among four found guilty in Rwandan genocide trial

BRUSSELS, Belgium (CNS) — Two nuns were among four Rwandans found guilty in a Belgian court of helping Hutus slaughter thousands of Tutsis in Rwanda's 1994 genocide. A 12-member jury found Benedictine Sisters Gertrude, 42, and Maria Kisito, 36, both ethnic Hutus, and two men guilty of war crimes June 8. They face a maximum sentence of life in prison. Sister Gertrude, whose legal name is Consolata Mukangango, was charged with collaborating with the attackers during the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Among her accusers were fellow nuns, who blamed her for the deaths of more than 30 of their family members who had been safely hidden in the convent until Sister Gertrude summoned police. Prosecutors also linked Sister Gertrude, the order's superior, and Sister Maria Kisito, whose legal name is Julienne Mukabutera, to several other incidents of turning in refugees. Sister Maria Kisito had a brother in the local Hutu militia.

COURTESY PHOTO

Faith Formation Office helps procure two grants

The Diocese of Charlotte's Office of Faith Formation, in collaboration with the leaders of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, obtained two grants to assist the region in ministering to 3,077 persons in 1,512 registered households. The first grant comes from the diocesan Foundation in the amount of $5,000 to be used for faith formation of ethnic minorities in traditional and non-traditional settings. Pictured above is Father George Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, and Jim Kelley, executive director of the diocesan Foundation. The second grant of $2,000 came from the FSC Foundation to create a portable mini-resource center for the region.

Funeral Mass said for philanthropist who made Barney possible

PLANO, Texas (CNS) — More than 700 people attended the June 1 funeral Mass for Dallas businessman and philanthropist Richard Leach, known for his generous support of Catholic charitable causes but probably best known for helping make Barney the purple dinosaur possible. Leach, who was involved in the entertainment and publishing industries, died May 29 of complications from a heart attack. He was 73. Leach began in his family's Chicago printing and publishing business, Argus Press. In 1980, he moved the business to Dallas, where he started Color Dynamics, one of the region's leading commercial printers. He also founded Resources for Christian Living, a Catholic publishing company, through which he helped develop two television series — "Barney and Friends" and "Wishbone" — which became household names and are broadcast worldwide.

Religious community urged to protect children from conflict

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Protection of children in situations of armed conflict requires the active involvement of the religious community and other non-governmental groups, a U.N. official said June 5. Olara Otunnu, special representative of the secretary-general for children and armed conflict, said the problem was "a much greater challenge" than government officials could handle alone. Children "represent the future of every society," but in conflict situations "they suffer the most," said Otunnu, a former foreign minister of Uganda. Without special efforts to meet the needs of these children, the world likely will see that "those abused today will become abusers tomorrow," the U.N. official said.

'Hate doesn't accomplish anything,' says Holocaust rescuer

CHICOPEE, Mass. (CNS) — Irena Gut Opdyke's life was turned upside-down by Adolf Hitler. Her quiet life as a nursing student in Poland came crashing down in 1939 when Nazi bombers and tanks descended upon her country. Life would never be the same. And she would be forced to make some serious decisions during the chaotic times of World War II. Each time, though, she chose life and ultimately ended up helping to save the lives of more than a dozen Jews. In May, just days shy of her 79th birthday, Opdyke captivated three audiences in the Chicopee area when she talked about what she did to help others. She said her message was what she learned from her mother, "that you are not born for yourself ... you are born for others."

Puerto Ricans welcome remains of Blessed Charlie in his hometown

CAGUAS, Puerto Rico (CNS) — Thousands of Puerto Ricans gathered in Caguas to receive the remains of the first Puerto Rican to be beatified, Blessed Carlos Manuel "Charlie" Rodriguez. The remains of Charlie Rodriguez, the second Latin American layman to be proclaimed blessed by Pope John Paul II, were in the town of Humacao, but in late May they were transported in procession to Caguas. The seven-hour procession ended at the Sola Morales Stadium in Caguas, where local Bishop Ruben Gonzalez Medina received him. Cardinal Luis Aponte, retired archbishop of San Juan, and his successor, Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez, celebrated a Mass attended by more than 10,000 people.

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Woman religious dedicates life to education, service, church ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Some family members might say that it was evident at an early age that Larretta Rivera-Williams would dedicate herself to religious life. Before going outside to play normal childhood games like hide-and-go-seek and marbles, Larretta would insist that she and her cousins play "church" complete with prayer and "Mass." Even though her faith was important to her, the call to vocation was probably obvious to everyone except for Larretta.

Born in Winston-Salem, she was baptized Catholic but attended Episcopal services with her mother. When she began attending Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, she decided that she wanted to resume practicing her childhood faith again. High school wasw also the place where she developed relationships with the Sisters of St. Joseph who staffed the school at the time.

"The Sisters of St. Joseph had a powerful and positive influence on my life. They would invite me to dinner, for prayer and Mass, while I was a student," said Sister Larretta.

In fact, one of the sisters asked her if she had ever thought about religious life. While thinking about the boy she was dating and all of the things she had planned for her life, she responded in a surprised and negative tone. "In high school, I hadn't thought about being a sister because I hadn't seen any black sisters. There were Oblate Sisters at Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte at the time, but I never got to meet them."

A visit to Sacred Heart College introduced her to the Mercy Sisters, and she remembers how welcoming and friendly they were. She decided to attend college in Belmont and became friends with young women, most of whom had decided to enter into religious life. From discussions with her friends and soul-searching, the ideas about religious life lingered in the back of her mind. A year before she finished college with a bachelor's degree in social work, she told her mother.

"I ran away from it (my calling) for

See MERCY SISTER, page 13

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Photo by Alesha M. Price

Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams is pictured following the Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School graduation on June 2. Sister Larretta gave the commencement address to her alma mater and was the recipient of the Founders' Award for service, dedication and for upholding the ideals of the school.

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Society must seek answers when working hard is not enough, says DSS speaker

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

GREENSBORO — The living wage is an issue that raises many questions as well as challenges people of good will to ponder solutions, said the director of Guilford County's Department of Social Services to a group at the Franciscan Center June 11.

In the age of a global economy, welfare reform and rising health insurance costs, millions of Americans struggle to ensure the most basic of necessities because they work in low-paying jobs, said Shore.

Basing his presentation on nearly 25 years of county government service, as well as the 2001 report "Working Hard is Not Enough" by the North Carolina Justice and Community Development Center and NC Equity, Shore highlighted several points of the living wage quandary.

"One of the things that I think many people have come to realize is that the federal poverty level does not any longer provide any real indicator of what it takes to support a family," he said. "What you see is, in most cases, the low-income wage earner is not making enough to live."

The "Working Hard is Not Enough" report notes that the final yearly income needed to meet basic necessities in Guilford County is actually between $5,116.42 to $21,746.49 higher, depending on family size, than the poverty level guidelines set by the federal government. Those figures compare the poverty level to what the report calls a "living income standard," which factors the most basic costs of housing, food, childcare, transportation, medical, taxes and miscellaneous necessities.

About 37 percent of families living in Guilford County currently earn below that living wage standard, Shore said. He added that more than one-third of all North Carolinians earn below that amount.

"The question this raises for us as a society — and hopefully we try for a just society — is how do we go about addressing this," Shore said.

At the heart of the issue is the debate over raising salaries to accommodate low-wage earners while business owners attempt to remain competitive in a free-market — and global — economy. Shore pointed out that paying workers higher wages in such traditionally low-paying industries such as childcare, construction and food services would force consumers to pay higher prices.

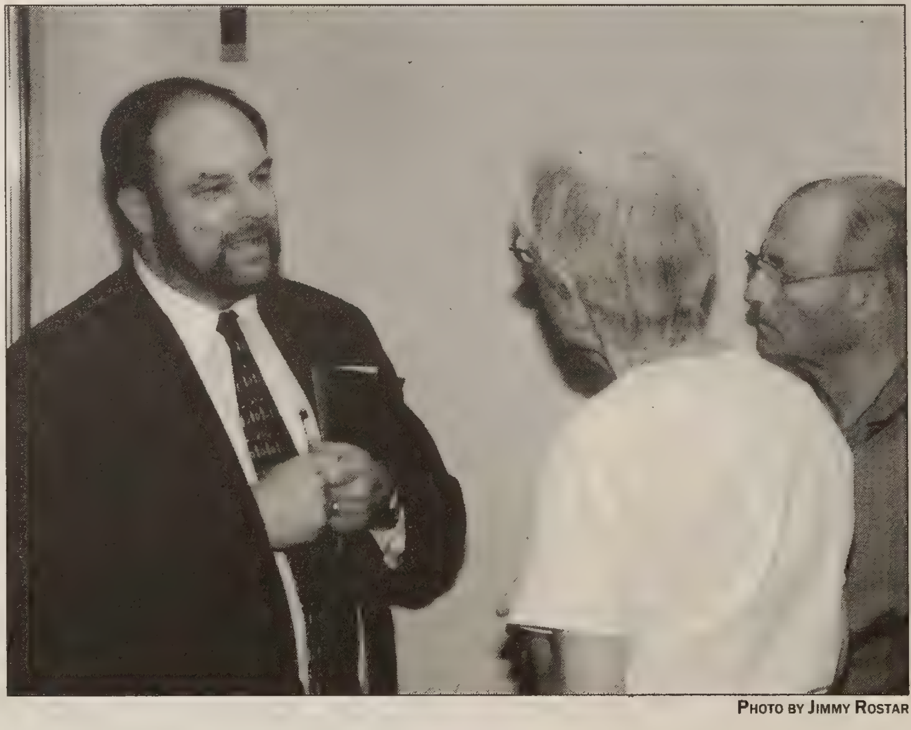

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Director of Guilford County's Department of Social Services John Shore, pictured left, addressed the living wage issue at the Franciscan Center June 11.

"If we get everybody up to the living wage, how much will we as middle-class people have to pay for day care?" Shore posed. "Can we afford that? How will our houses get constructed? ... Where are we going to get that work done, and are we willing to pay the price and make the sacrifices in our lives?"

He said education and training are strong possibilities at improving the situation.

Education and training are important factors in how much income people earn, he said, "so the efforts to improve our school system and close the achievement gap between minority students and other students in our schools is something that we as a community can do that will positively impact this over time."

Raising the minimum wage is another option, he said, though one that is cause for division. Many advocates of low-wage earners, such as those involved in the "Working Hard is Not Enough" report, support the increase and feel government should lead the way to more just wages.

Opponents say there are better ways to combat poverty than raising the minimum wage, which many feel could negatively impact the free-market economy.

Shore, who said his presentation was designed to ponder these important questions rather than attempt to answer them, urged his audience to discuss the issue in depth with neighbors and in faith communities.

In his experience in county government, and especially as a DSS director, "I get to see the whole range of human experience," Shore said. "There are stories of people who overcome odds that are just unbelievable. It astounds you, the strength of the human spirit and what people can accomplish.

"Then there are other stories where people are in despair, where everything has gone wrong."

Shore emphasized this issue is a community one, adding, "Christ calls us to wrestle with these kinds of problems."

Franciscan Father Louis Canino agreed that education for everyone is key in the issue, especially for those who do not want to face such an important concern that affects so many. He added that teaching and learning moments abound for those open to change and the possibility of reaching solutions as a community.

"We are so caught up with our lifestyles that even being open to coming to a presentation like today might necessitate a change," said Father Canino, director of the Franciscan Center. "It's really a matter of grasping your faith and asking what is the Lord really calling you to do at this time in your life to consider making a change."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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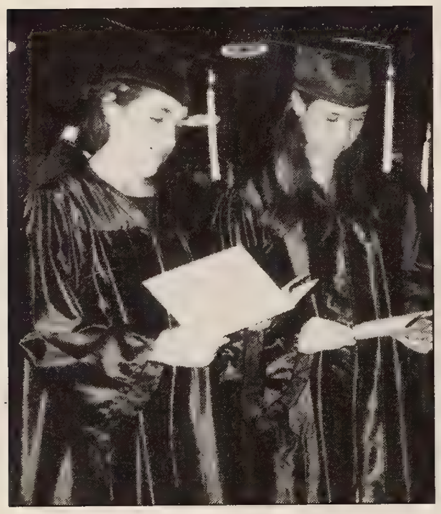
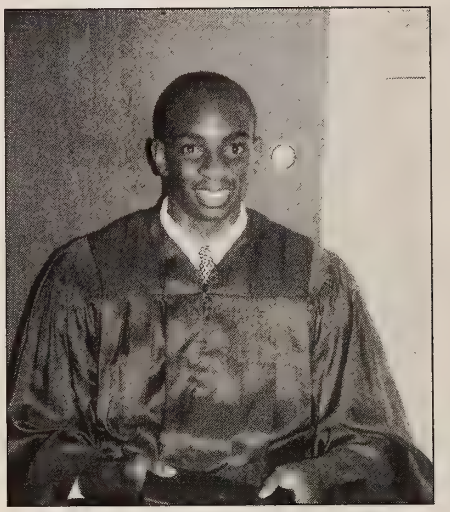
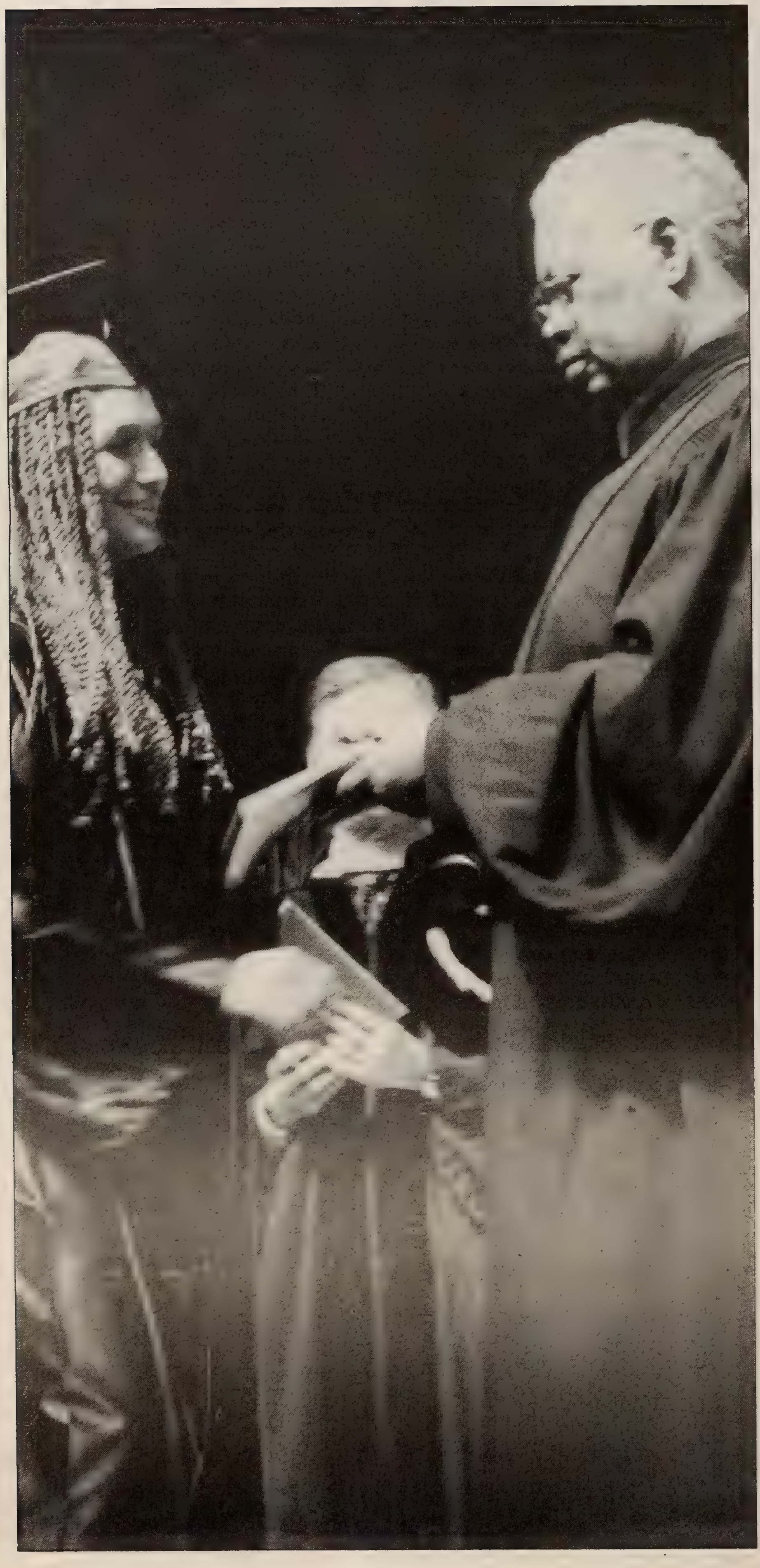




Photos By Alesha M. Price



By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

At the age of 17 or 18, a person's life has just begun, even though it is already filled with many events — birth, first steps, the first day of school, prom and now, graduation. It may be the end of high school, but the beginning of the students' lives in the working world, the military or in college. Seniors from Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte and Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem said good-bye to their days as high school students and said hello to a new world of opportunities and challenges.

"We congratulate the graduates as they walk down the road to adulthood to work toward obtaining the goals they have set for themselves and as they forge ahead armed the grace and loving care of Jesus," said Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor, who presided at both graduations this year.

Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School

Young women checked their makeup and hair in the large dressing room mirror, while the young men checked each other ties and made sure the tassels would not fall off of their mortarboards. They waited patiently backstage at the Stevens Center in the North Carolina School of the Performing Arts in Winston-Salem until it was time for them to make their grand entrance and take their places onstage.

Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, BMHS dean of students, gave the nervous bunch last-minute cues and instructions. As the familiar sounds of "Pomp and Circumstance" were heard, the students entered from behind the crowd of expectant parents and family, some of whom had their cameras and camcorders in hand to catch their son or daughter frozen in their memory-making moment.

On the second of June, 55 students sat onstage behind George Repass, BMHS principal; Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of schools and Father West. Repass remarked that this class of 2001 would be the last to graduate from the school. A new school building has been erected, and its halls await the return of current students and will welcome incoming students.

"The class of 2001, in so many of its activities during the course of the current school year, has demonstrated a unique awareness of its special place in the history of the school," said Repass in his welcoming address. "They have exhibited a fervent desire to be remembered not only as the evidence of a final chapter in a particular phase of our school's history but to be, in very real ways, a part of new beginnings."

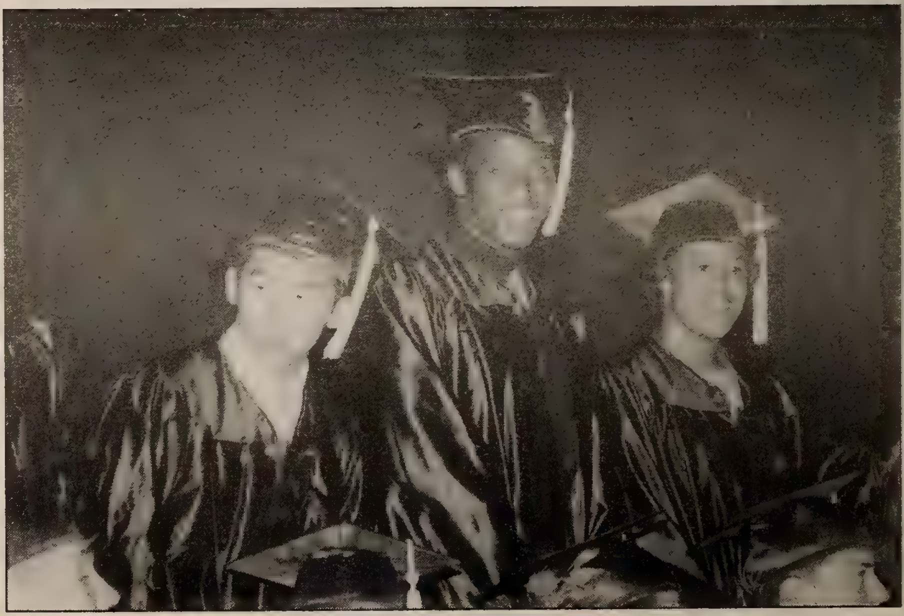
As the students sat quietly, they listened a fellow alumna give the commencement address. Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, from the class of 1972, reminded the students of their education at BMHS and to take the lessons, morals and ideals that they have learned with them to their respective colleges and to remain true to themselves in anything they decide to do.

"Yes, you think you are ready, but I would be willing to bet that the majority of you are not ready... . I could not come here and not talk about the importance of prayer, faith and how you are going to have to keep God as your guiding force and Jesus as a constant companion by your side," said Sister Larretta during her animated speech to graduates.

"Class of 2001... take the lead. At this priceless moment, you have your whole life in front of you. Remember the strong foundation that has been granted to you by God, family and the community of BMHS. Live in faith, walk with courage, stand tall with integrity. May God be most generous in blessing each of you as you get a grip and take the lead," she continued.

During the commencement exercises, Sister Larretta received the Founders' Award for an "alumnus or associate of the school whose life has been marked by service who is a reflection of the ideals embodied in the school's sense of mission." The award will be presented to individuals periodically at various designated times of that year, explained Repass.

Salutatorian William Trey Ketcham kept the audience and his classmates in constant laughter with his humorous address which included descriptions and characteristics of several of the students,



graduations end one in students' lives

faculty and staff in continuous reminiscence of school days not long since past for these new alumni.

"We have been fortunate to have a great environment to learn and to grow under the watchful eyes of many people. From the time we first met each other huddled elbow-to-elbow in the foyer of the school to this moment right now, sitting elbow-to-elbow on the stage, we have constantly been nurtured and guided toward our next step and next decision. But, (we) know it is time to make our own decisions and step forth from the guidance that has taken us thus far," said Ketcham to his fellow graduates.

Jessica Enos, the class valedictorian, said in her address, "Don't ever forget the lessons you learned in high school... . Next, along with the lessons, keep the memories you made and the experiences you had at Bishop close to your heart. I guarantee the good ones will bring a smile to your face. But don't forget about the bad ones because they have made you stronger. Also, don't ever forget your roots. Remember that you are a part of Bishop, and Bishop is a part of you... ."

The BMHS graduates received over $2 million dollars in scholarships. Thirty-eight of the students will attend in-state colleges, while 13 will venture out into new territory to attend colleges elsewhere in the country.

Charlotte Catholic High School

Area meteorologists had predicted rain that evening, but the ominous clouds seemed to hold the storms in respect of the occasion. Graduates, parents and faculty gathered in Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte to witness commencement exercises for the class of 2001. Two-hundred students walked into the auditorium on June 7 and began cheering for the night they had been working toward for 13 years, while their parents and family, many of them in the balcony area, stood to congratulate their children.

After the night's honorees calmed down, they listened to their fellow graduates reminisce about their four years together at school. Salutatorian Patrick Barrett Honeycutt talked about the family atmosphere at his school and how much he will miss his classmates, friends and teachers at CCHS: "Tonight, we officially graduate. We get our wings, so to speak, that will take us many places. As far as we travel, however, we will always remain a part of Charlotte Catholic. ... Yes, we will love our new lives after high school, but we will always remember those wonderful early years of learning, laughter and preparation for leadership."

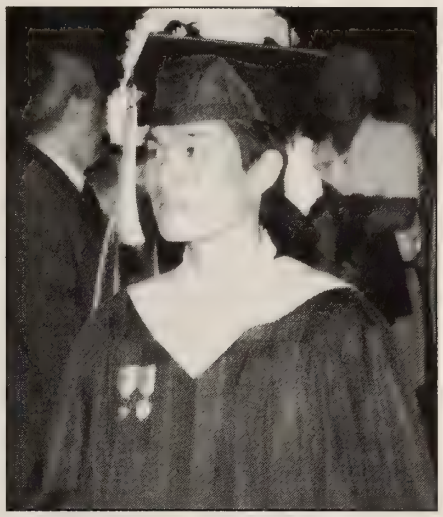
The class valedictorian, Ryan Soer, followed with his thoughts about his time spent in a Catholic high school setting. The theme of acceptance was interweaved throughout his address as he talked about college acceptance letters, being accepted by friends and the importance of accepting one's self. He told all of his classmates to strive for their dreams and goals and to keep in mind that they are the future.

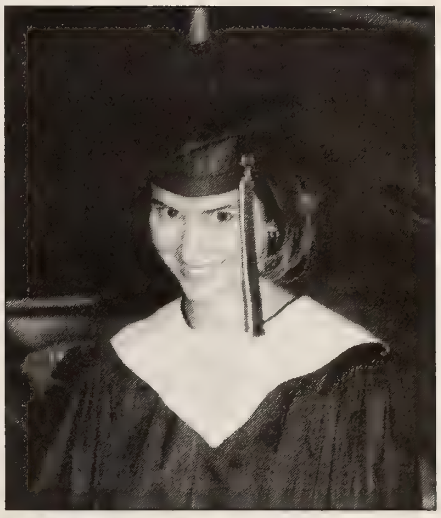
"What better topic for graduation than acceptance? It would seem that our entire year has been dominated by it... But don't we also find it in our parents — who unlike our friends are always pushing us to change, to improve and grow," said Soer to his class. "Our parents who accepted us without ever seeing our (college) application, and who have embraced us ever since ... . Surrounded by it (acceptance) from our friends and family, hopefully, we have grown in our acceptance of ourselves as well."

Augustinian Father James Cassidy, CCHS principal, Dr. Skube and Father West presented the diplomas to an excited group of students, some of whom strutted on stage, all smiles because of what they were hearing. Many of them were treated to familiar nicknames said aloud and yelps from students as well as family. After the last 'Z' name was called, the students rose again to cheer their achievements.

The entering college freshmen were awarded over $3 million in scholarships, and 38 percent of the CCHS students will remain in North Carolina to start the next phase of their education at colleges and universities across the state.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.





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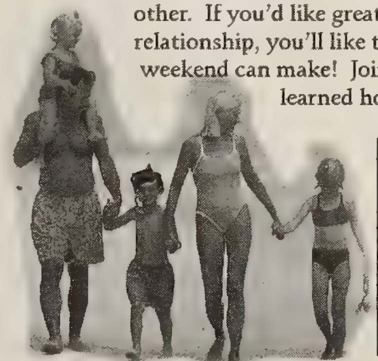

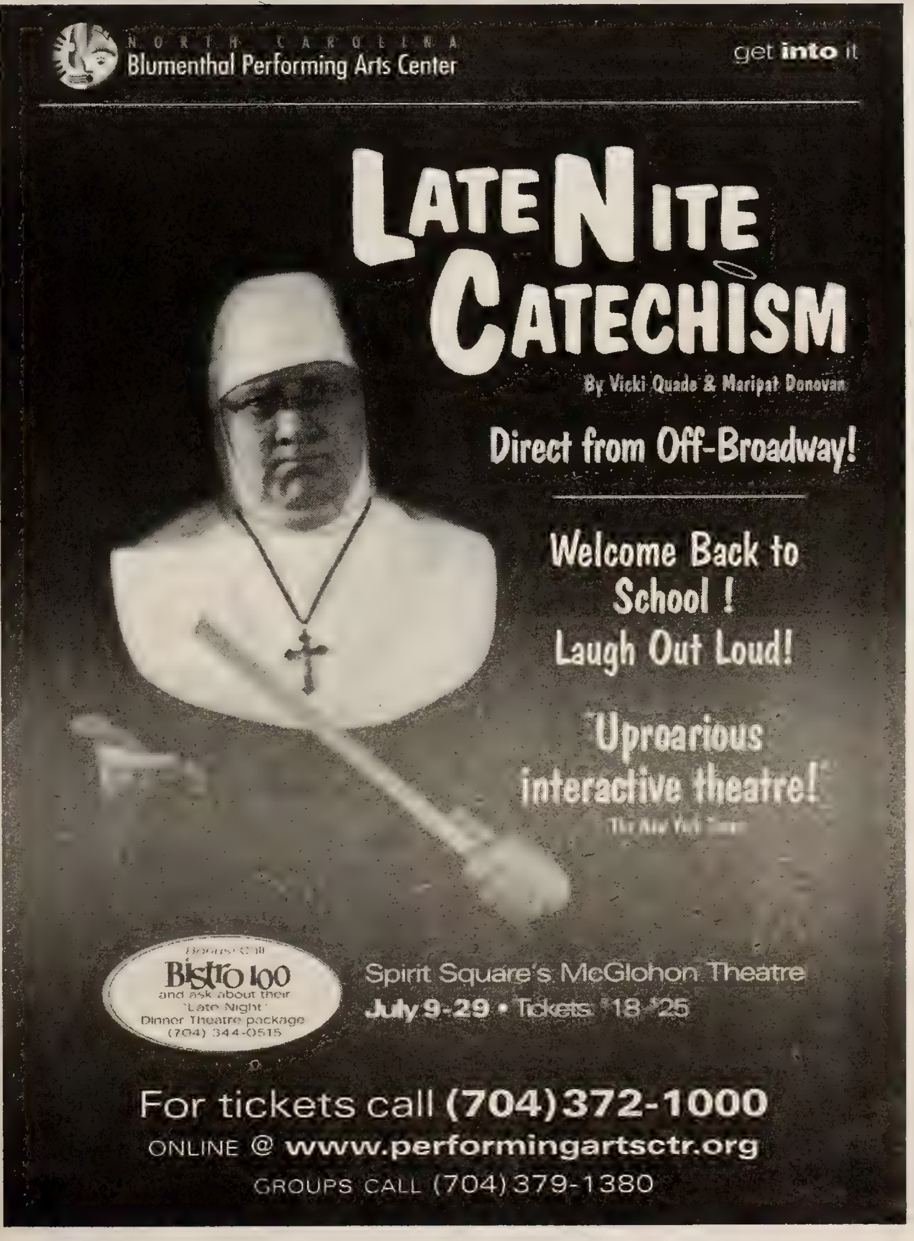

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Sister Mona Wingert praised for dedicated service

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Praising her as a dedicated teacher with a cheerful spirit and a love for adventure, peers of Franciscan Sister Mona Wingert honored her for 15 years of service to the Catholic school community of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sister Mona is retiring this summer as assistant superintendent of Catholic schools. Principals, diocesan officials, school board members, family members and close friends gathered June 13 in the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church to pay tribute to a woman who has overseen the diocesan schools' curriculum, testing program and teacher certification for a decade and a half.

In addition to her tenacity as an administrator, her colleagues lauded Sister Mona as a caring and enthusiastic woman of God.

The evening was a lighthearted affair. Principals from the diocese's 17 Catholic schools, along with Schools' Office administrators and school board members, shared memories of Sister Mona's ministry of education and service.

"I certainly want to thank all of you for all of your kind words tonight, just for being here and making me feel so much a part of you," said Sister Mona at the conclusion of the festivities. "There are so many things about this that I will miss. I do thank all of you so very much."

Just as she had done through the evening of good-natured "roasting" June 13, those gathered said Sister Mona kept a smile on her face through all the challenges and experiences of her tenure as a leader in Catholic education. With poems and props, prayers and presents, speakers showered Sister Mona with fond tributes.

"Sister Mona, we from the mountains really, really love you," said Dr. Veronica Bereen, principal of Asheville Catholic School. "We admire so much your spirituality, your intelligence, your great sense of humor, your spirit of forgiveness, your generosity and your tenacity."

Such traits have come in handy in her role as an administrator, speakers said. They noted Sister Mona's love for a good adventure — from seeking the best prices on textbooks to navigating roads leading toward principals' meetings — all the while seeing the best in everything she encounters.

George Repass, principal of Bishop McGuinness High School, recalled Sister Mona's sincerity with all people and in all situations, calling her a "uniquely open and cheerful Midwestern spirit" who is always "ready for anything." He said from his earliest days as a principal in the Diocese of Charlotte, he recognized Sister Mona as "an extraordinary presence — a combination of terrific countenance and steely professional determination," qualities he said have shaped her as a dedicated educator.

Sister Mona arrived in the Charlotte Diocese after service in a variety of educational roles in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in her native state of Iowa, where she was an educational consultant for 20 schools. She was also a school principal and teacher in Waterloo, Iowa, and in Chicago.

In the Charlotte Diocese, Sister Mona has worked with teachers in the diocesan schools to earn and keep their teaching licenses. In overseeing the testing program, she ensures that each of the 17 diocesan schools administer standardized tests properly. Her supervision of curriculum has included assisting in the choosing of textbooks for the classrooms and ordering them from publishers.

Though now "retired," Sister Mona will continue to be periodically involved in teacher certification for the Diocese of Charlotte, and she plans to assist the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., with testing as well.

Continued on NEXT PAGE

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Sister Mona Wingert reads from a collection of jokes during a reception for her at the Diocese of Charlotte Pastoral Center June 15. Cheering her on is Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools, who gave her the gift in honor of Sister Mona's retirement.

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FROM previous page

One of seven children, Sister Mona also looks forward to spending more time with family. She plans to travel to Germany next month.

The gathering with principals and other guests was but one celebration for the retiring assistant superintendent. Sister Mona was honored during a Mass at St. Gabriel Church June 10 and at a reception in the diocesan pastoral center June 15.

At the June 13 gathering, Sister Mona was hailed as a mentor not only to the countless students she has encountered, but also to the teachers and principals in the schools she helps oversee. Janice Ritter, assistant superintendent of schools, called Sister Mona a "living saint" and thanked her for showing Ritter the ropes as a new administrator several years ago.

"It's been an absolute pleasure working with Sister Mona," said Sandra McMonagle, principal of Our Lady of Mercy School in High Point. "She definitely has been a wonderful teacher to all of us, and I am grateful for the time and energy she gives."

Betsy DesNoyer, principal of All Saints School in Charlotte, said Sister Mona's model of service is inspiring. "One of the remarkable things about you, Sister Mona, is that you truly find joy in your ministry, and that is a wonderful example to all of us," she said.

It is that example by which she lives that illustrates Sister Mona's Christ-like presence, said Dr. Michael Skube, superintendent of Catholic schools.

"If you look at someone's life, if you look at how she's contributed to all of us, if you look at how she not only impacted us but the lives of children before, now and in the future, we really do see God in Mona Wingert," Skube said.

Bishop William G. Curlin remarked on his most vivid memory of the Franciscan sister, whose office was in the diocesan pastoral center in Charlotte, as seeing her in the center's chapel. There, he said, she showed her love for God most especially — both in personal prayer and during daily Mass.

"Of all the wonderful things we do in that building, I always say our celebration of the Eucharist is the most important thing we do," said Bishop Curlin. "Sister Mona is certainly part of the heart of that."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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MERCY SISTER,
from page 7

eight years after that, but I began to be open to the idea after I spoke with Mercy Sister Jeanne Margaret McNally, who was superior general at the time. She told me that 'if it is courage you need, come to us, and we'll give you that courage,'" remembered Sister Larretta, after she had taken part in a Christian Leadership weekend.

With her newfound courage, she began the nine-month-long application process. She entered into candidacy with the Regional Community of North Carolina of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in 1982. "I found the Sisters of Mercy were friendly, hospitable, encouraging and inviting. Eight years prior to that time, I would not have been ready."

Sister Larretta professed final vows in 1991 and continued working as an educator for 15 years at Bishop McGuinness High School, her alma mater; Sacred Heart School in Salisbury; the now-defunct Sacred Heart School in Belmont; St. Patrick School in Charlotte and Charlotte Catholic High School in Charlotte.

"I enjoyed teaching high school students and probably learned more from them as much as I was trying to teach them. I have received notes and letters from kids I've taught thanking me for something I've said or the rapport I had with them," she said. Perhaps the most touching article she has ever received was a wedding invitation from a former student with a note which read 'thank you for teaching with your heart.'

In 1993, she began to feel fatigue, which persisted, and a couple of years later, while at a diocesan teachers' meeting, she felt shooting pains across her back and neck. Visits to the chiropractor attributed the pain to common back and spine trouble. However, the paralysis and the numbness which followed were not normal. Multiple Sclerosis was the final diagnosis.

Sister Larretta had to give up teaching because of the pain and numbness she experiences to this day. Daily injections have been reduced to weekly injections which keep her in remission, but there are some mornings when she cannot rise out of bed. She is frequently tired and has to use a cane when walking great distances, but the disease has not dampened her spirit.

"It is such an unpredictable disease, but I've been fortunate. I don't have to use a walker, and I haven't lost my eyesight like so many people with this disease. I've never felt defeated by it, and I have faith everything will work out all right," she said in a courageous tone. "I received so much support from the Sisters throughout this process, and I cannot thank them or repay them enough for that."

Sister Larretta, who has been the director of faith formation at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem, her home parish, plays guitar and accessory percussion instruments in her spare time. She says that she enjoys church ministry and has been intrigued by the role reversal she has experienced.

"Many of the older parishioners that I once looked up to are now coming to me for advice and help. It is affirming because I know I'm needed and wanted," said Sister Larretta, who is currently teaching summer adult education programs at her parish. "This is a different lifestyle. It is hectic but also wonderful, beautiful and life-giving. When people ask me why I wanted to enter into religious life, I answer 'because I was called.'"

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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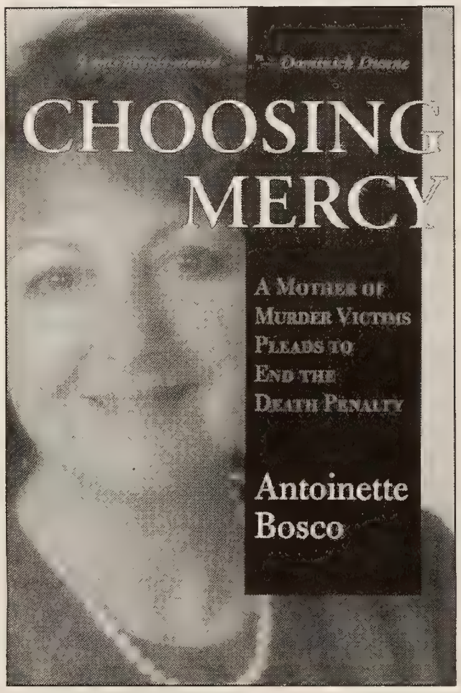
Book Review

Book offers host of persuasive voices

REVIEWED BY SISTER CAMILLE D'ARIENZO, RSM
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CHOOSING MERCY: A MOTHER OF MURDER VICTIMS PLEADS TO END THE DEATH PENALTY, by Antoinette Bosco. Orbis (Maryknoll, N.Y., 2001). 239 pp., $17.

Springtime 2001 stands as a season of discontent in which our national psyche throbs with passion for vengeance and vindication. The target of its venom is a former Catholic altar boy, Timothy McVeigh, who, in an unfathomable departure from his childhood faith, became the despised "Oklahoma bomber," ending the lives of 168 innocent children, women and men. Make no mistake about it, the most staunch opponents of capital punishment find their faith severely tested by both the violent act and its unrepentant perpetrator.



When McVeigh was granted a stay of execution, resulting from the undeniably errant behavior of the FBI, the public discourse escalated. With providential timing, Antoinette Bosco's. new book, "Choosing Mercy: A Mother of Murder Victims Pleads to End the Death Penalty," presents us with a host of persuasive voices opposing the death penalty, including families of murder victims.

Bud Welch, whose daughter Julie was among McVeigh's victims, is one of the stories. Welch told Bosco that from his reservoir of rage he drew the memory of Julie's observation after listening to a report of an execution in Texas:

"Dad," she said, "that makes me sick. All those Texans are doing is teaching all the children down there to hate. The murderer did wrong, but now the government has stooped to his level."

Coaxed away from his own rage by that memory, Welch recognized that no execution would bring his daughter back. He concluded, "It's all about revenge and hate. And revenge and hate is why Julie and 167 others are dead today."

The numerous relatives of murder victims crammed into the pages of Bosco's book express similar beliefs. As an author of nine books, a columnist for Catholic News Service and the mother of a slain son and daughter-in-law, Bosco is personally and professionally qualified to bring together these voices.

Marie Deans, a founder of Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation in 1976, distilled from the anguish surrounding the murder of her mother-in-law that killing those who kill "only takes us deeper into imitating and becoming what we despise."

Coretta Scott King, widow of one of America's most famous murder victims, concluded, "An evil deed is not redeemed by an evil deed of retaliation. Justice is never advanced in the taking of a human life. Morality is never upheld by a legalized murder."

Marietta Jaeger Lane, whose 7-year-old daughter, Susie, was kidnapped, brutally abused and murdered, realized that her desire to destroy her daughter's torturer was destroying her. She begged God to transform her fury into forgiveness. She came to define forgiveness as "a letting go of the desire for punishment and, instead, taking up the idea of restoration, of putting things back in some good order, although it may not be the same order." She added, "Forgiveness means feeling concern, even love, for the offender."

All who have suffered a death do not concur in the approaches cited here, but from those who have let God transform them, there are lessons to be learned — lessons as old as time and as new as today.

"Choosing Mercy" has edges that cut to the heart and mind, leaving spaces for grace to enter in.

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Word to Life

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1) Isaiah 49:1-6
Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15
2) Acts 13:22-26
3) Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

BY JEFF HENSLEY
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

To say that prophets are less than appreciated is an understatement to the max. If they are saying anything at all, it is the thing that makes us uncomfortable, that seeks to move us to repentance, beyond our comfort zones and perhaps off into unknown territory, where our actions become risky.

The Catholic Church, both in its social and moral teachings, is almost always prophetic. It pains a lot of people to hear ancient verities proclaimed in the face of current sinfulness. Even Jesus' claims to divinity and Sonship, the most basic part of our faith, the part which undergirds all the claims to truth from which the rest of our proclamation of Gospel values flows, is an affront to those who do not believe. Yet we must proclaim. But sometimes we think too narrowly of who it is that proclaims the prophetic message.

There are those who share the heritage of John the Baptist and make bold proclamations on street corners or from pulpits or from the Sistine Chapel. But not all are crying out in the wilderness or from halls of marble. My now-deceased father-in-law, Royal, was such a one. He was a simple man of quiet virtue, who spoke little. But when he spoke of his respect for other people, no matter their race or religion, he spoke volumes.

My mother-in-law, Irene, his widow, has always spoken to me of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation in ways that no pastoral or learned volume could — but in the flesh. Now, with her weight dropped below 90 pounds, and her eyesight dimmed by macular degeneration, she still stands for me as a sign, a bold sign of the Gospel enfleshed. She is in no way perfect, as none of us are, but she proclaims the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, come in the flesh, dying to reconcile us to all men and women, just as clearly as if she sang from the rooftop, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

QUESTION:

Can you name silent prophets and vocal ones in your own life and experience?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of June 24-30

Nativity of John the Baptist, Isaiah 49:1-6, Acts 13:22-26, Luke 1:57-66, 80; **Monday,** Genesis 12:1-9, Matthew 7:1-5; **Tuesday,** Genesis 13:2, 5-18, Matthew 7:6, 12-14, **Wednesday (St. Cyril of Alexandria),** Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18, Matthew 7:15-20; **Thursday (St. Irenaeus),** Genesis 16:1-12, 15-16, Matthew 7:21-29; **Friday (Sts. Peter and Paul),** Acts 12:1-11, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18, Matthew 16:13-19; **Saturday (First Martyrs of the Roman Church),** Genesis 18:1-15, Luke 1:46-50, 53-55, Matthew 8:5-17

Readings for the Week of July 1-7

Sunday, 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21, Galatians 5:1, 13-18, Luke 9:51-62; **Monday,** Genesis 18:16-33, Matthew 8:18-22; **Tuesday (St. Thomas),** Ephesians 2:19-22, John 20:24-29; **Wednesday (St. Elizabeth of Portugal),** Genesis 21:5, 8-20, Matthew 8:28-34; **Thursday (St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria),** Genesis 22:1-19, Matthew 9:1-8; **Friday (St. Maria Goretti),** Genesis 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67, Matthew 9:9-13; **Saturday,** Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29, Matthew 9:14-17

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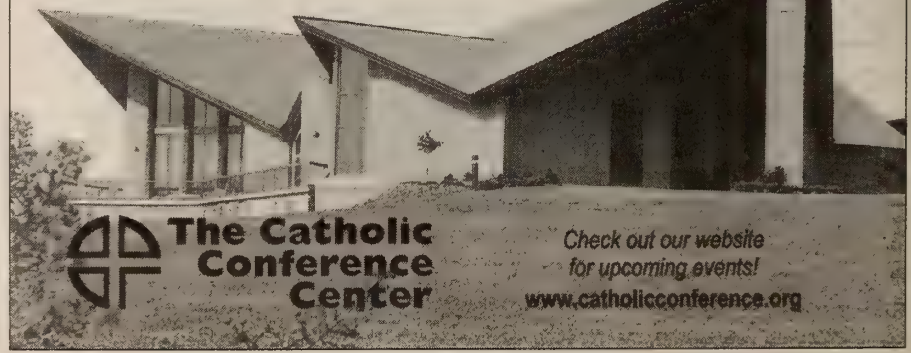
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Video reviews

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — *The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available on VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Catholic Conference classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.*

The following films feature Anthony Quinn, who died June 3.

"The Guns of Navarone" (1961)

Oversized World War II action yarn from Alistair MacLean's novel about Allied commandos (Gregory Peck, David Niven, Anthony Quinn, Stanley Baker and Anthony Quayle) sent to destroy a German artillery emplacement atop a Greek island. Director J. Lee Thompson notches the suspense tightly along the way to a bang-up finish but the spectacle's impact is lessened by scant attention to the tale's human dimension. Wartime violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-I — general patronage. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Columbia TriStar)

"La Strada" (1956)

Two-bit strongman (Anthony Quinn) adds a simple-minded peasant (Giulietta Masina) to his circus act, treating her badly until a tragic encounter with a bantering acrobat (Richard Basehart) who tries to help her. Italian director Federico Fellini's somber picture of lost souls on the backroads of life has its emotional center in Masina's Chaplinesque performance as the poor waif struggling to keep her spirit from being crushed by the brute she serves. Subtitles. Some stylized violence and brutalizing conditions of life. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Sultan Entertainment)

"Lawrence of Arabia" (1963)

Set within the frame of a grand adventure is this interesting study of British hero-author T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole), whose World War I exploits in leading the Arabs against the Turks made his literary works popular in the 1920s. Director David Lean focuses on the diverse aspects of the man with an ambiguity suitable to the mystery still surrounding this mythic figure. Bloody wartime battles and implications of a homosexual incident. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG — parental guidance suggested. (Columbia TriStar)

"The Lost Command" (1966)

French paratroopers retaliate by atrocity and torture against the terrorists whom they are fighting in Algeria. Directed by Mark Robson, the film may have muddled the politics, but the acting is good (Anthony Quinn and Alain Delon) and the action well-staged with realistic violence. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Columbia TriStar)

"Lust for Life" (1956)

Kirk Douglas gives an intense performance as Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh (1853-90) struggling in poverty to learn his craft and perfect his art, then suffering through a mental breakdown to achieve his best works, with his genius unrecognized until after his death. Directed by Vincente Minnelli from Norman Corwin's adaptation of the Irving Stone novel, the result does well in re-creating the artist's times as well as his artistic influences (notably Paul Gauguin in Anthony Quinn's Oscar-winning performance), but has a more difficult time trying to get inside the artist's mind and creative vision. Stylized violence and sexual innuendo. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (MGM/UA)

CNS photo from Columbia Pictures

Scene from movie 'Evolution'

Actors Orlando Jones, Seann William Scott and David Duchovny, notice that a "dead" alien might not be dead in Columbia Picture's new comedy "Evolution." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

"Requiem for a Heavyweight" (1962)

Gritty drama in which a social worker (Julie Harris) tries to help a punched-out prizefighter (Anthony Quinn) find a new line of work until stymied by his manager (Jackie Gleason) who plans to square his debts by turning the boxer into a clownish wrestler. Directed by Ralph Nelson from Rod Serling's TV script, the result is an emotionally strong picture of a broken-down boxer trying to retain some human dignity after 17 years in the ring. Brutal boxing scenes and corrupt aspects of the fight game. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Columbia TriStar)

"A Walk in the Clouds" (1995)

Stylish but highly contrived romance set at the end of World War II when a married vet (Keanu Reeves) undertakes to help an unwed pregnant woman (Aitana Sanchez-Gijon) face the wrath of her Mexican-American father (Giancarlo Giannini) by pretending to be her husband. Lyrically directed by Alfonso Arau, their subsequent romance unfolds on the wealthy vineyard estate of the woman's loving family (headed by grandfather Anthony Quinn), but the plot contrivances detract from the story's celebration of traditional values and feel-good ending. Plot hinged on deceit, some violent wartime flashbacks and several sexual situations. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating was PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (20th Century Fox)

"Zorba the Greek" (1965)

Anthony Quinn embodies the zestful, warmly human title character who helps his withdrawn English employer (Alan Bates) learn to enjoy life in spite of its imperfections, including sad encounters along the way with a lonely widow (Irene Papas) and an elderly courtesan (Lila Kedrova). Directed by Michael Cacoyannis, the realistic depiction of harsh living conditions on the island of Crete is transformed by the movie's joyful affirmation of life. Some brutish coarseness and sexual references. The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-IV — adults, with reservations. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America. (Fox/Lorber)

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

God's true desire is to impart peace, says pope

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite God's fearsome power over the universe, believers discover through prayer that his true desire is to impart peace, Pope John Paul II said.

"Even faced with the chaos of evil, the tempests of history and the wrath of divine justice, the one who prays feels at peace, wrapped in the mantle of protection that providence offers to those who praise God and follow his ways," he said June 13 at the weekly general audience.

Addressing some 15,000 pilgrims gathered in blinding sunshine in St. Peter's Square, the pope continued a series of talks on the Psalms used in the Liturgy of the Hours by focusing on Psalm 29, which likens God's voice to thunder.

In the psalm's description of a deafening storm, "terror is replaced by the certainty of divine protection," he said.

The pope said the storm imagery serves to remind believers that God's mystery "cannot be captured and dominated" by humans.

"The psalm presents us, however, with another aspect of the face of God, one that is discovered in the intimacy of prayer and the celebration of the liturgy," which is "the mystery of love poured forth on the faithful, the serene sureness of blessing reserved to the just," he said.

Christians also see echoes of the psalm, considered by some to be among the oldest, in the New Testament accounts of God speaking from heaven over Jesus, the pope said.

While the thunder in the psalm represents God's voice in the universe, "the highest expression of this voice is that with which the Father, in his manifestation at Jesus' baptism, revealed the deepest identity of this 'beloved son,'" he said.

Pope says catacombs are privileged place for evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Welcoming visitors to the catacombs of Rome where early Christian martyrs were buried can be an opportunity to help them rediscover the importance of faith, Pope John Paul II said. "By following the itinerary of the early Christians and imitating their gestures of devotion, modern pilgrims, who often are disoriented and doubtful, can be led more easily to rediscover their own religious identity and dedicate themselves with renewed enthusiasm to following Christ like the many martyrs of the first centuries did," the pope said. He met June 9 at the Vatican with members of the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology, the office responsible for the operation and preservation of Christian catacombs throughout Italy, but particularly in Rome.

Coming of Age

AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Notes on the Sarcastic Conversation Mode

When you're growing up, there's a lot of adapting to be done.

You have to adjust to your new size. You can't just jump up from the dining room table anymore, since chances are you would bash your head on the light fixture, and that might hurt.

You also have the fun trick of figuring out how to make all the parts of your body work together in concert. I once knew a boy who grew a foot in a year. That's an inch a month. His mother said that not only did the kid experience real "growing pains," he had a terrible time with coordination.

Besides all of that and a lot more, there's the matter of conversation: chit-chat; exchanging words and ideas. Your relationship to that part of life requires adaptation too. How do you learn to talk like an adult?

If you're like most kids I've known, the transition from childish speech to conversation fit for adult ears isn't exactly smooth.

One pitfall in this process for a lot of young people is to resort to sarcasm.

I recently visited with a group of people that included a young teen-ager. The young person sat on the couch next to me, and during the whole gathering she made constant sarcastic comments under her breath about what was going on. The first couple of times, I chuckled along with her, but after several minutes of this, quite frankly, it got pretty tiresome.

My teen-age sons both have gone through the same stage, with one still firmly entrenched in it. There's no such thing as a straight answer from this guy, I tell you. It's not that he's mean, it's just that for some reason he feels moved to state the opposite of the truth in answer to every single question he's asked.

"Do you want some more pizza?"

"No, of course not. You know I hate pizza."

Or,"I'm really tired. I think I'll go to bed. Shut out the lights, OK?"

"Come on Mom, you can't be tired. You don't do anything all day."

Part of it's the culture, I know. We live in a culture that's drenched in sarcasm and irony, or humor that's rooted in mockery or comments that are obviously untrue.

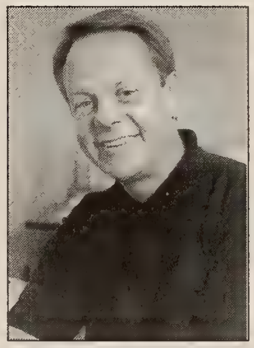
But there's something else, and maybe this is what you should watch out for if you find yourself falling into the trap of constant sarcasm. For teens, sarcasm can be an attempt to put yourself above the situation you're in. In a way, it goes back to the whole growing-up thing.

In order to seem more adult, both to ourselves and others, we try to indicate that we're beyond the trivialities being discussed, that ordinary life is so very ordinary, so self-evident that it doesn't even require a serious response from us.

Of course, what we all have to learn is that none of us are above ordinary life and that being sarcastic, while funny once in a while, isn't the most helpful way to communicate. It can be demeaning, it can be arrogant, and, worst of all, it can be a means of avoiding other, more honest ways of communicating.

God gave us the gift of speech for a reason: to share the realities of our inner lives with others and to grow in love. If you're falling into the trap of sarcasm, it might be worth considering what you might be trying to avoid.

So next time a sarcastic comment crosses your mind, think twice. Because, you know, we really are "so interested" to hear what it might be!



On the Light Side

DAN MORRIS
CNS Columnist

Human Brain and Religious Experience: Finding All the Links

Thanks largely to Buddhist monks and Franciscan nuns we have a new area of scientific research studying the link between the human brain and religious experiences: neurotheology.

I am among those who think it should have been called nunmonkology to honor the holy people who allowed their brains to be scanned — the resulting images proving that parts of the brain are stimulated and other parts quieted by meditation and prayer.

Regardless, we should all be grateful. This opens up all kinds of potential spinoff sciences.

"Like what, smarty pants?" you might say.

How about "theogeekology," the study of the spiritual relationship between humans and computers? Or, "jockeology," the quest for understanding human spirituality and televised sports?

What about my personal favorite, "theomechanics?" This would be the study of the spiritual relationship between human beings and machines. Many, many, many men and women have secretly studied this for years and have been waiting for the right time to call it for what it is: goofy.

But, yes, there are times when a man is driving his 1957 Chevy pickup with the engine purring, sun shining, arm resting out the open window and he receives one of those roller-coaster, hoop-dee-doo feelings in his stomach even though the road is flat. Man and machine merge.

It's a high-five from God. No doubt about it.

And, yes, there are times a woman will be walking out to the car and know the battery is dead before she even unlocks the door. She just knows, that's all. Mind and machine merge.

Low-five from God. Maybe.

If researchers took a picture of our brains about then, I would wager my Ricky Henderson rookie card they would look a lot like the cranium candids of those monks and nuns in a highly spiritual state, only with roadkill.

Likewise, theomechanics could explore mysteries like how the ground exhorts a supernatural attraction to tools placed under an open hood. When men are alone with other men, they will admit seeing 9/16ths sockets or even torque wrenches levitate off a flat battery and dart to the ground, way faster than if you just dropped it.

When men know one another well, they also confide hearing the tools sing little high-pitched, taunting songs (like, "wee, hee, wee, hee, 'ding-dingy-ding") en route to mother earth. Closed-end half-inch wrenches sing a particularly irritating little ditty.

Sophisticated and highly sensitive testing equipment would be developed to measure particular machines' dislikes for certain individuals. A whole chapter in theomechanics could be based on one 1972 Mercedes 220D's intense dislike for my wife. It would take me anywhere, no questions asked. However, it broke down with her driving so many times we claimed the tow-truck driver as a dependent.

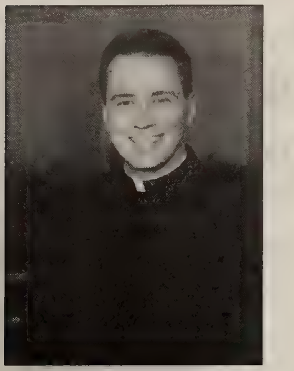
One branch of theomechanics could be titled "Ooooh-Eieee, Ooooh-Eieeee." Students would concentrate on questions such as, "How far can prayer make a car go after the gauge reads empty?"

Or, "Under what conditions will God intervene to make the warning light quit flashing 'HOT!'?"

Or, "What saint's dashboard statue is the most efficacious in preventing accidents?"

Like the authors of the book on neurotheology wrote: "The realness of Absolute Unitary Being is not conclusive proof that a higher God exists, but it makes a strong case that there is more to human existence than sheer material existence."

I wonder if they have a 1957 Chevy pickup.



Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Letting Go

The telephone message said it all: "Steven has no chance of recovery. The end is coming soon. Please come to bless and anoint our son." Steven was thirty-years-old and a lifetime parishioner, the youngest of several children in a close-knit family. From birth, Steven has battled cystic fibrosis. His life was in many ways a miracle. At the time of his diagnosis, in infancy, he was not expected to make it past five years of age. Owing to advances in medicine that was later amended to age 15. Then maybe 20. His survival to see his thirtieth birthday had been a reason to rejoice. To get to that age wasn't easy, and included a lung transplant along the way.

On this night, the lungs and kidneys had finally given up. All that was left was the droning sound of the respirator, doing the breathing that Steven could no longer do for himself. He was deep in a coma, and there was no chance that he would return. Left to his own devices he would have already left us. His body remained alive because of machines. That's what I walked into at ten o'clock one recent night. And into the maelstrom of an animated family discussion. Steven's mother, convinced that mechanical life was not life at all. His father was equally convinced that he did not want to turn the machine off and end his son's earthly life. Both are great people who loved the son they had nurtured for so long. Both are people of hope, who saw that for the first time in Steven's earthly journey, hope was not temporal but heavenly.

Our discussion centered on the proper choice for Steven. The Catholic Church says that we are not morally obligated to use extraordinary means to sustain human life. A respirator fits into that category. And that view is most forcefully true when the "extraordinary means" will not result in recovery. Instead, we're encouraged to let nature take its course. Turning off the respirator is not "causing" him to die. In fact, keeping him on the machine prolongs a bodily life whose time has come. And does it to no advantage for Steven.

In time, his Dad saw the wisdom of letting Steven go home. And so, with parental consent, the machine was turned off. Steven slipped quietly and gently away.

The challenge faced by Steven's parents is no longer unique. People face this kind of decision every day. The best way to meet this challenge is through dialogue before we get to that point. Living wills that indicate who we are and what we believe can help. But making our intentions known to family and friends is the best assurance that our hopes for the end of our lives will be respected.

And, importantly, we need to see that life is of value, but not an absolute value. We come from God, and our hoped-for eternity is with God. The end of life shouldn't been seen as a feared ending, but as transition to a higher life and a higher level of love. Steven has moved past his body. Turning off a machine that could not give him true earthly life was the release that allowed Steven to experience the fullness of life in God.

For me it was a privilege: to share a family's pain is a grace; to participate in their important discussions about the love it takes to let go and let God; and to witness Steven's passage from this life to the next. The situation I've just described is something all of us face, one way or another. Don't read this and think it's about others. It's a wise and insightful family that talks about this issue today, so that tomorrow's outlook can be filled with fewer obstacles. Life is a great gift. Knowing how to leave can only enhance that precious gift.

Msgr. Jim Lisante is the director of the Christophers

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Inactive Catholics Receiving Holy Communion

Q. We recently had a death in the family, and there was some discussion as to who should receive Holy Communion. Some of the family were baptized and confirmed long ago, but had not been to Mass for the last 10 years or so.

Since it was their parent's funeral, they went to Communion. Someone claimed this was all right, that the church permitted it in situations such as this. Are there such exceptions to the rules about receiving Communion?

A. There are no exceptions to the requirement that people should be in the state of grace, not conscious of any unforgiven mortal sins, to receive Communion.

For Catholics to neglect the obligations of their faith to the point of seldom participating at Mass and not receiving the sacraments is objectively seriously sinful.

By objectively, I mean it is a sin unless they are so ignorant of their faith or so mentally or otherwise handicapped that they do not know what is necessary for a good Communion.

Catholics who are so uneducated in their faith or are seriously out of touch with the meaning of Communion, would be sinning objectively, but perhaps not subjectively or personally.

In other words, Catholics who consistently refuse to share in Mass and the sacraments should not receive Communion without confession.

One wonders, if their Catholic faith and the sacraments are so important, why the gross neglect of their relationship to God in these ways at other times?

Only God can judge them. I'm just asking whether they feel they still have any Catholic faith. If they do, why is it important only on sad and family occasions and not at other times? It's a matter of personal honesty with God.

Mary's resting place

Q. In a recent column you discussed the possible locations of the Blessed Virgin's death and tomb. Doesn't the church teach that Mary was not subject to death as is the rest of humanity?

I was taught Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven, and we celebrate this on Aug. 15. Is your answer consistent with Catholic theology?

A. You are correct. We do believe that the mother of Jesus was taken into heaven, body and soul, when her life on earth ended.

However, the church has never taken an official position on whether she died or not before the assumption. Most generally, it is believed she did die, and if she did she would have been buried somewhere, just as Christ was. The discussions are about where such a burial might have taken place.

When the assumption was proclaimed a dogma of the Catholic faith by Pope Pius XII in 1950, he avoided the question of her death. He said simply that at the end of her earthly life (in Latin, "expleto terrestris vitae cursu") she was accepted into heaven by God.

A free brochure in English or Spanish outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining the promises in an interfaith marriage is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

Planned Giving

GINA M. RHODES
Guest Columnist

How to Help Your Lawyer — and Yourself

Before meeting with your attorney about your estate plan, you can do some things to save time and money. Here are four tips:

1. Prepare an inventory of your estate.

Since your estate plan will essentially direct the transfer of your assets at death, you should compile a list of all your holdings and obligations. What do you own? How much is it worth? Where is it located? How are the various assets owned (jointly, separately, etc.)?

List any memberships (country club, time-shares, etc.). What are the beneficiary designations on your bank, brokerage and retirement accounts and your insurance policies? How much do you owe and to whom?

This will take some time and force you to get all your records in order. But the process will be instructive for you and timesaving when your attorney begins to quiz you about these things. It's easy to overlook some assets, so be as thorough as possible.

2. Select key people you want to involve.

Who do you want to oversee the probating of your estate (your personal representative)? Who do you want to serve as the trustee of any trusts created by your will? Who do you want to be the guardians of any minor children you might have? And don't forget about your power-of-attorney and health care documents.

You will need not only primary names, but also back-up names in case your first choices are unable or unwilling to serve. If possible, have two additional names for each position.

Having all of this cared for before visiting your attorney will make things much easier and time-efficient.

3. Decide what to give family members.

This can be one of the most difficult parts of the whole process. Indeed, some people endlessly delay getting a will because this step is either too perplexing or painful.

There are many issues to consider. Too much inheritance may stifle personal initiative and feelings of self-worth. One child may be careless with money, another disciplined. One may have physical needs requiring extra assistance. One may be self-sufficient, another financially strapped. How much is too much? How little is too little?

You might want to discuss this subject with a trusted friend or personal advisor. And remember, with a will you can always change your mind later. The important thing is to at least get a plan in place for now.

4. Determine your charitable bequests.

Which organization(s) do you want to support with gifts from your estate? Of course, we hope your will includes either your parish, Catholic school, agency, the Diocese or the Foundation in your plans. Your estate gift will make a difference and help us continue this important work into the future.

A charitable giving component to your estate plan can have significant meaning to your survivors and communicate your values in a powerful way. It can also help you establish a legacy that will outlive your children and grandchildren.

To help you organize and plan for the future, I'd like to send you a free copy of the brochure "Personal Financial Affairs Record." Please contact me at (704) 370-3320, or write to me at 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C., 28203.

Gina M. Rhodes is the director of planned giving for the Diocese of Charlotte.

N.C. Council of Churches announces new leadership

SPECIAL TO
THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

RALEIGH — The North Carolina Council of Churches recently elected new leadership to serve on its executive board. Members of the council's House of Delegates chose the officers during a meeting last month.

The Rev. Joseph C. Brown Sr. is the new president. Pastor of St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Wilmington, Rev. Brown is a graduate of Shaw University and has been active with the council in a variety of roles for more than a decade.

Bridget B. Johnson of Greensboro becomes immediate past president after serving as president for two years. Johnson represents the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte and works as a parish area coordinator for the Piedmont-Triad office of the diocese's Catholic Social Services.

The Rev. William H. Tiemann of Davidson is the new first vice president. A longtime pastor and Presbytery administrator in Texas and North Carolina, he represents the Presbytery of Charlotte.

The Rev. Hope Morgan Ward is the new second-vice president. A resident of Raleigh and graduate of Duke University and Duke Divinity School, she serves as executive director of Correctional Ministries for the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist church.

The new third vice president is the Rev. Dr. Conrad Pridgen, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greensboro. He holds degrees from Shaw University, Yale Divinity School and United Theological Seminary, and he has served churches in Raleigh, Kenansville, Kinston, Jackson and Charlotte.

Barbara Volk of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh is fourth vice president. She is president of the North Carolina unit of Church Women United and serves on the community Resource Council for the North Carolina Correctional Institute for Women.

Sandy C. Irving, also of Raleigh, has been re-elected secretary. She is a member of Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church and represents the Presbytery of New Hope. She works as a research associate for the Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Remaining as treasurer is the Rev. Dr. James W. Ferree of Winston-Salem, representing the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. He has held various positions at all levels of the church and is a former president of the council.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is the state's largest organization of its kind, stressing ecumenism and social justice on local, state and national issues ranging from the environment to matters of race and gender. More than 1.5 million North Carolinians are members of congregations under the council's umbrella.

The council's members are the governing bodies or judicatories of the following religious groups: African Methodist Episcopal Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church. Also among the members are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the General Baptist State Convention, the Moravian Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the Religious Society of Friends, the Roman Catholic Church, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church and the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

In addition, six Baptist congregations, whose judicatory is not a member of the council, are members.

Charlotte to host National Right to Life convention

CHARLOTTE — The National Right to Life Committee will host its annual national convention in Charlotte June 28-30 at the Adams Mark Hotel in uptown Charlotte.

Speaking and educational presentations, family fellowship, exhibits, and sessions for teens and college students will highlight the national pro-life convention.

An interfaith organization, NRLC, was ranked eighth among the most influential public policy groups in Washington, D.C., by Fortune magazine in December 1999. In April 2001, NRLC gave its annual Proudly Pro-Life Award to Father Frank A. Pavone, director of Priests for Life. The late Cardinal John O'Connor of New York was also honored with the award, in 1994.

Last year's national convention in Arlington, Va., drew about 1,200 participants, many of whom represented the organization's 3,000 local chapters.

For details on the conference, visit the registration web site at www.nrlc.org/convention.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Bookkeeper: Part-time. Position is open at St. Matthew Catholic Church. Prior accounting experience required. Fax (704-542-7244), or mail letter of interest and resume to Parish Business Manager, St. Matthew CC, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy, Charlotte, NC 28277. No phone calls, please.

Church Photographer, Portrait Sales: 100% employee-owned Lifetouch Church Directories and Portraits is expanding teams in metropolitan Charlotte and surrounding counties to service area churches. Must be able to work independently and as a team member, be creative, embrace new ideas, and be able to work afternoons, evenings, and Saturdays. Paid training, excellent benefits. Send resumes to stacmc@prodigy.net, or call Stacey at 704-596-9265.

Director of Office of Youth Ministry: Full-time, Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Responsibilities include: actively coordinating diocesan-wide program; coordinate and serve as resource for parochial youth programs; promote youth ministry awareness among clergy, parents and youth. Qualifications are: Catholic in good standing; college degree with theological course work (master's degree in theology or related field preferred); experience in youth ministry as articulated in Renewing the Vision, USCC 1997 programs; working knowledge of Spanish; ability to work and communicate with adolescents and adults; enthusiasm for and loyalty to the Church. Competitive salary commensurate with experience. Full benefits package. Send resume to: Fr. Michael Taylor, Diocese of Arlington, 200 N. Glebe Rd., Suite 519, Arlington, VA 22203. Please send resumes by July 1, 2001.

Director of Religious Education: DRE/Coordinator of Youth Ministry for suburban Charlotte parish of 1400 families. Major responsibilities include:oversight of entire Faith Formation program and coordination, grades six through 12 catechetical and youth program with emphasis on high schoolyouth. Applicant must be practicing Catholic and have certificate in Religious Education or Youth Ministry with at least one year experience. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. Contact Rev. William Kelley, SJ., St. Therese Catholic Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., Mooresville, NC 28117; (704) 664-3992: or email: w_kelley@msn.com

Elder Ministry, Regional Coordinator: Diocesan Catholic Social Services position for Morganton/Hickory area. Team member to develop elder programs, activities; engage in ecumenical cooperation on elder issues; provide on-site assistance to parishes within designated region. Bachelor's degree desired. Extensive travel required throughout diocese. 30 hours per week. $21-$24K plus full benefits. Send inquiries/resume to: Sandra Breakfield, Catholic Social Services, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203-4003. Deadline: July 9th.

High School Youth Minister: Vibrant 4,500-family suburban Atlanta parish. Sunday evening mass and program (currently LifeTeen); also teen OCIA, retreats, adult leader formation, confirmation preparation, and cooperation with colleagues to oversee entire parish catechetical effort. Healthy Vatican II spirituality, collaborative skills, a must; degree in religious education or related field or comparable experience required; Spanish-language facility a plus. Full-time position available immediately. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Send resume and references to Business Manager, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 535 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, GA 30004. Fax 770-772-0355.

Parish Music Minister: St. Joseph, Kannapolis, seeking dedicated, spiritual leader for music ministry program. Would like to have music teacher/instructor with church experience and music degree. Knowledge and familiarity with choral and instrumental programs desirable. Beginning hours, part-time (5-10 hours per week). Send resume and salary requirements to: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Attn: Music Ministry Position, 108 St. Joseph St., Kannapolis, NC 28203. For information, (704)932-4607 or fax:(704)932-0566.

Receptionist/Data Entry Operator: Part-time, 20 hours per week. St. Leo Catholic Church, Winston-Salem. Call Jerry Felten: (336) 724-0561.

Sales/Ventas: Empleo en ventas. Buscamos persona de ventas para atender mercados latinos, restaurantes e individuos. Somos distribuidores de frutas secas, nueces, semillas, especias, dulces y otros productos alimenticios. Los candidatos deben ser bilingues y tener alguna experiencia en ventas al detal, preferiblemente comida. Ofrecemos paquete completo de beneficios y seguro. Envie su hoja de vida en Ingles a Retail Sales, PO Box 7505, Charlotte, NC 28241.

Secretary: The Catholic News & Herald has an opening for a full-time (9-5, Monday through Friday, 35 hours/week) secretary. Candidate will be computer literate with PC experience in a Windows environment using Microsoft Office products. Seeking self-starter with good organizational skills. Good benefits package that includes health insurance, life insurance, retirement plan, 403-B program, and liberal holiday, vacation and leave package. Please send resume by July 6 to: Secretary, The Catholic News & Herald, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Stewardship & Development Officer: Newman Catholic Student Center at Duke University. New position responsible for all aspects of the planning, implementation and management of an effective stewardship and development program to support Catholic Campus Ministry financially. Minimum requirements: Bachelor's Degree; five years successful experience in higher education or non-profit development; excellent organizational, planning and communication skills. Must be practicing Catholic. EOE. Send resume to Newman Catholic Student Center, Box 90974, Durham, NC 27708-0974 or email joev@duke.edu

Teachers: 4th Grade; MS Language Arts; MS Social Studies/Religion; part-time PE (K-5); part-time Athletic Director beginning August 9, 2001. Applications available: Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27403. Call (336) 275-1522 or FAX (336) 279-8824.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706)722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop Middle/High School and Young Adult Ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

REAL ESTATE

Home for Sale: NC mountain foothills. 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, den, rec room, 2-car garage, 3 utility rooms. New gas central AC/Htg. Excellent home for growing family. In city - Lenoir; best school area. (828)758-2274 after 7 pm.

Vacation Rental: Daytona area. Fully furnished, 2 bedroom, 1 bath. 1 1/2 blocks to uncrowded beach. $500/week. ($700/week special events). 904-441-5834.

ROOMMATE

Roommate Wanted: Share 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath house in Charlotte's university area — Cambridge community. Amenities include: 25 meter pool/community clubhouse. **704-532-5926**

JUBILATION,
from page 1

relationship of respect and commonality that is very much a part of what it means to be espoused."

"We come here today reaching into the roots of community life and to the roots of individual members' lives, into the roots of our life in faith together," said Father Cancro. "Those elements of espousal become especially important in our celebration, because in a very real way Osee's [Hosea's] understanding of what it meant to be joined to the common good, what it meant to be joined to the whole community of faith, is indeed what we celebrate as we gather here." Today, we celebrate the espousal of these jubilarians.

Sister Mary John Madden

Following graduation from Belmont Abbey College, Sister Mary John received her master's degree from St. John University, New York. She held certifications as a teacher on both the elementary and secondary levels. She taught in Newton Grove, N.C., St. Mary's in Wilmington, Charlotte Catholic High School, and Sacred Heart School in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. She served as principal at Our Lady of Assumption School in Charlotte and at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Salisbury. Sister Mary John also spent time serving her local community as director of the novitiate in Belmont, as regional superior in Guam and in her current ministry, visiting the shut-ins of Queen of the Apostles parish in Belmont.

Sister Mary Anita Sheerin

Beginning with a bachelor's degree in Social Studies from Belmont Abbey College, Sister Anita continued her studies to obtain her master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in religious studies from Forham University. She served a myriad of educational ministries from teacher to principal, and also served as hospital chaplain and continues in pastoral ministry at St. Eugene in Asheville.

Sister Mary Jerome Spradley

As a nursing student at the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Betty Dee Spradley had her first encounter with the Sisters of Mercy. Here, she realized her concurrent calling to the Catholic Church, and to a vocation as a woman religious. She earned her master's degree at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and graduated from the Executive Graduate Program in Health Care at the University of South Carolina. In her mid-30s, she was named administrator of Mercy Hospital, making her one of the youngest Hospital Administrators in the nation. Currently, Sister Mary Jerome is president of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation, Inc. The foundation is one of the largest philanthropic foundations in the state of North Carolina.

Sister Mary Robert Williams

Beginning with a bachelor's degree in Social Studies from Belmont Abbey College, Sister Mary Robert continued her studies and earned a master's degree in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Sister taught for many years and now serves as a pastoral associate at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. "I work mostly with the elderly and in doing so I'm learning patience, compassion, understanding and wisdom," said Sister Mary Robert.

Sister Maria Goretti Weldon

With a bachelor's degree in business from Belmont Abbey College, Sister Maria Goretti studied further at Manhattanville College and later studied Scripture and Spirituality in the ARC Program in Rome. Over the span of her 50 years as a Sister of Mercy, Sister Maria Goretti has: served as superior general of the Regional Community of North Carolina, and as vicar for religious, served in Retreat Ministry and has ministered to individuals with AIDS, and served as pastoral associate at St. Raphael's parish in Raleigh. Today, Sister serves as Mission Effectiveness Liaison for Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care in Asheville.

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

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Holy Angels administrator receives state award

BELMONT — The president and CEO of Holy Angels, Regina Moody, received the Cornerstone Award for Individual Achievement by the NC Association of Community Based ICF/MR Providers at the organization's annual conference May 23 in Greensboro.

Julie Ewing, president of the NC Association of Community Based ICF/MR Providers, presented the award to Moody during the group's 2001 state conference and awards banquet.

Ewing said the award is given to an individual for leadership in the field of developmental disabilities and for work to enhance the lives of individuals served, especially in the ICF/MR residential programs.

Ewing noted that Moody, who has served at Holy Angels for more than 19 years, was an exemplary award winner and is deserving of the Cornerstone Award.

The NC Association of Community Based ICF/MR Providers is made up of agencies and organizations that provide residential care for persons with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

Holy Angels, which celebrates its 45th anniversary this year, has three group homes classified as Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR). Construction on a fourth ICF/MR group home, also to be located on the main campus, should be completed in December 2001.

"I am thrilled and honored to be recognized in such a way by my colleagues in our field of developmental disabilities," said Moody. "An award such as this truly recognizes the tremendous care and commitment that those who work at Holy Angels exemplify."

"This award is a shared with all of our employees at Holy Angels who go above and beyond the call of duty to provide the very best care, programs and services to the individuals we serve," she added. "Holy Angels will continue to be committed to providing the highest quality of care possible, and I am most grateful for the honor of receiving this award."

Mercy Sister Nancy Nance nominated Moody for the honor.

Sister Nancy, director of the café and candy bouquet shop vocational programs at Holy Angels, noted Moody's "visionary force in guiding Holy Angels through a 20-year period of growth and development."

Sister Nancy said that among Moody's duties are responsibilities for the overall administration and operations of all programs and services, including overseeing the parent organization and two subsidiaries with a budget of $7 million.

"Under Regina's guidance and direction, Holy Angels has become a leader in providing innovative, cutting- edge programs and services for children and adults with mental retardation," Sister Nancy said in her nomination letter.

Under Moody's administration, Holy Angels has added a sensory environment room and programs in the creative arts and horticulture. Additionally, Moody pursued an ICF/MR certificate of need to provide continued services for medically fragile individuals who were aging out of the main residential center program. A four-year process with state leaders yielded Moody's being able to secure the eight ICF/MR beds needed.

Founded in 1956 by the Sisters of Mercy in Belmont, Holy Angels is a private, nonprofit corporation providing residential and other services to children and adults with varying degrees of mental retardation and physical disabilities, some of whom are medically fragile.

In addition to its three ICF/MR group homes and the vocational programs mentioned earlier, Holy Angels offers a specialized community residential center for children, five community group homes, a supported living arrangement for a married couple, an outreach social club, a handicapped-accessible camp and an on-site integrated daycare center.

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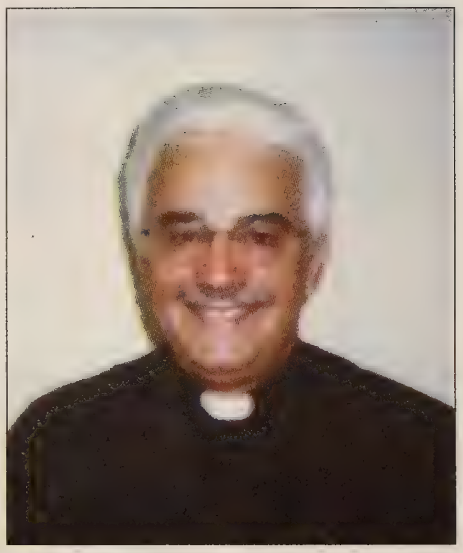
Family, faith fufill deacon's life ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Louis Pais sometimes misses the old days. Like many people, he can recall a simpler time when he would gather with family and friends to laugh and talk the day away. In his large Italian family complete with grandparents who emigrated from their homeland, their lives centered around faith and food. The pungent smell of homemade spaghetti sauce and the intoxicating scent of wine still waft through his memories from time to time.

"I grew up in a closely-knit family, and on Sundays, we would go to my maternal grandparents' home for dinner and share stories about what life was like in Italy and when they came to this country," said Rev. Mr. Pais, reflecting on his childhood in Louis Run, Pa. "This was an important time because it basically enabled me to hear about our traditions and deepened my knowledge of what my family went through."



Rev. Mr. Louis Pais

Catholicism was also an important aspect of family life. "Faith was a major part of our family, and the members were involved in various church activities."

The first inklings of ordained ministry began surfacing while Rev. Mr. Pais was attending Catholic high school. He decided to attend seminary to fulfill a long-embedded desire to deepen his spirituality. "I had always felt the call to want to serve the Lord in a deeper way. In high school, that call was there."

However, life dealt the Pais family a difficult hand when his father was killed in a work accident. After nearly three years into seminary, Rev. Mr. Pais had to leave to be with his family, do some soul-searching and assess his life's path. He found himself surrounded with flashbacks of times spent with his father fishing, walking along the stream near his house and simply being together.

"Dad's death affected me deeply and was probably the reason why I left. I was uncertain as to what the Lord was calling me to do, and I needed time away," said Rev. Mr. Pais. "I knew after that, God had a different plan for my life, but the call to ministry was still there. I think about it (his death) even today."

That call to ministry remained a part of his life as he completed college and received his bachelor's degree in history with minors in philosophy and theology from Gannon University in Erie, Pa. While attending college, he came home to meet the woman that would become his wife. Actually, it was their second meeting. He first met Josie when he was a senior in high school, but the seminary was calling him. When they met again after he had left seminary, he knew she was the one, and so did Josie.

"From the very first time I met him, I knew he was different from anyone else I had ever met. He told me that we were going to be married, and I knew it too," she remembered. They were married in 1964, and the couple moved to western New York, where Rev. Mr. Pais's 33-year teaching career began and where they raised their three daughters.

He says his years teaching in the small farming community were very rewarding, and he enjoyed educating young minds. "It was the most wonderful place to be at that time. The kids were very hard-working and wanted to learn."

Throughout his life, his faith supported him especially during his father's death and while teaching and raising his family in the Catholic faith. He says that his wife's questions about Catholicism also further strengthened his faith. "They (the questions) made him research and find out more about his faith," said Mrs. Pais, who was raised in the Pentecostal Church.

"The one word that Josie used is 'why.' That question forced me to go deeper in finding answers to my faith," said Rev. Mr. Pais. "My wife enabled me to gain a deeper understanding of who I am as a Catholic."

He went back to school to earn his master's degree in education including some post-graduate work in social studies. Although seriously dedicated to his faith, his desire to serve the church in a more significant capacity never left him, and his prayers about what he should do were answered in an unexpected way. A neighbor gave his wife an article about a permanent deacon and his church ministry, and a spiritual fire rekindled his desire for ministry.

"When I read the article, it became very clear to me that this was the way in which I should go. We weren't sure where it would draw us, but my wife was very supportive," said Rev. Mr. Pais of his decision to enter into formation.

"We hadn't heard of the permanent diaconate, but I was delighted because I knew that he really loved the Lord. I knew he could be a blessing for God's people," said Mrs. Pais.

They attended classes and found themselves the recipients of supporters near and far, whether it was money for textbooks, babysitters for their young children, a prepared dinner or words of encouragement.

Rev. Mr. Pais was ordained in 1978 and began his ministry at his parish in Gowanda, N.Y. It was there that he became involved with his first love of teaching in the Diocese of Buffalo's permanent diaconate program. He was later named director of the permanent diaconate while maintaining a full-time high school teaching schedule. He says that it was difficult and thoroughly fulfilling at the same time. "I was able to do the work because I had a supportive and willing wife who would never say no primarily because she knew it was where God wanted me to be."

He decided to retire early in 1996 to focus on his ministry full-time and began looking for another place to go, partly because he had promised his wife, a Virginia native, that they would eventually return to the South. A visit to his daughter who was living in Huntersville, N.C., and a meeting and an interview prompted their decision to move to Charlotte.

He accepted a permanent diaconate position at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte, and based on his experience, was asked to become the director of formation and to produce the program for the new class of aspirants in formation for the permanent diaconate. His first class was ordained on June 23, and now, he is focusing his attention on the new class, which will begin formation in January 2002.

"I really believe the Lord's plan for me was the permanent diaconate," said Rev. Mr. Pais, grandfather of two and one on the way. "The ministry we enter into is the fruit of our relationship with the Lord."

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Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

Award-winning director plans feature film on Mother Teresa

By Catholic News Service

COCHIN, India (CNS) — An award-winning Indian director plans a feature film on Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity congregation.

Rajiv Nath, who won a national award for best director in 1999, said he has short-listed British actress Kate Winslet to play Mother Teresa in the still-untitled film.

Nath told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that the "love and charity" of Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, "have always had an impact" on his life.

The director said he wanted to create a full-length feature film focusing on the life of the nun beginning with her arrival in the eastern city of Calcutta in 1929 as an 19-year-old Loreto nun.

Nath said the film would be shot in Calcutta, where Mother Teresa based her life and mission. He expressed hope that the film would become "the biggest ever cinematic project on Mother Teresa for an international audience."

Nath said the movie would have some real-life characters like Jyoti Basu, former West Bengal chief minister and communist leader. Basu, who was Calcutta councilor when Mother Teresa started her work, will be a central character in the film.

Nath said Basu's attachment to Mother Teresa was such that she was the only person able to visit him without prior appointment when he was chief minister.

An array of leading writers and filmmakers are helping Nath prepare the film's script.

Nath said some groups have shown interest in funding the film on the nun.

"I am sure my film on the Mother will fetch me international acclaim, not because of my ability, but because of Mother's blessings," the filmmaker said.

In Brief . . .

CCHS student awarded Eagle Scout Award

CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School student Michael Stout has completed his Eagle Scout Award.

His service project was building a grotto at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School. The grotto is a combination of an architectural and a landscaping project in honor of the Blessed Mother. It was designed to provide a comfortable and reflective place to pray.

Stout is the son of Bob and Janet Stout of Charlotte.

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

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Inside

Doctor discusses abortion-breast cancer link at national conference ... Page 4

Bishop Curlin announces pastoral changes ... Page 5

Local News

Sister continues tradition of Catholic education ... Page 7

Faith celebrated with Forty Hours Devotion ... Page 19

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 14-15

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 16-17

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

– Luke 10:27

Photo by Chris Keane

"My brothers, you are being ordained to care for those in need. You're being ordained to serve," Bishop William G. Curlin told seven men ordained into the permanent diaconate June 23 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte. See coverage below and on pages 9-11.

Seven ordained as permanent deacons

Laying of hands brings men into hands-on service

By JOANN S. KEANE
Editor

CHARLOTTE — June gave rise to joyful celebrations in the Diocese of Charlotte as ordinations — both to the priesthood and permanent diaconate — brought forth men into generous service to the faithful.

On June 23, Bishop William G. Curlin imposed his hands upon the heads of seven men, conferring the Holy Spirit and bringing them, as permanent deacons, into the fold of Holy Orders. That Saturday morning, the lives of Scott Gilfillan, Pierre K'Briuh, David King, Alexander Lyerly, James Mazur, Mark Nash and Michael Zboyovski were transformed as they became dedicated to service at the altar and the people of God.

The permanent diaconate is a ministry in the Catholic Church. Bishops, priests and deacons are all ordained for service in the church.

"You're not only being ordained a minister of the church, you're ordained to be a defender of God's wonderfulness," said Bishop Curlin. "You're living a ministry."

"To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak." From the book of Jeremiah come those words of obedient service. From Ephesians, further declarations of service: "I plead with you as a prisoner for the Lord, to live a life worthy of the calling you have received, with perfect humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another lovingly.... It is He who gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in roles of service for the faithful to build up the body of Christ."

Those readings selected for the ordination speak to diaconal service to the body of Christ, said Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor of the Diocese of Charlotte, who also serves as director of the permanent diaconate program.

Ordination to the diaconate is on the rise in this country. During a three-year period in the late 1990s, nearly 1,000 men were ordained nationwide as deacons, according to statistics from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. In the United States, nearly 13,000 men share in the fraternity of the diaconate. With the June 23 ordination at St. Gabriel parish in Charlotte, the Diocese of Charlotte now counts 72 men as permanent deacons.

"You have studied for years, first through the Lay Ministry program, the diaconal program and work at parishes," said Bishop Curlin. "My brothers, you're being ordained to care for those in need. You're being ordained to serve."

The ministry of the deacon is particularly challenging. Permanent deacons preach, baptize, and officiate at marriages and funeral services. They solemnly pledge and maintain an obligation to charity and conveyance of the Word. Most deacons support themselves in the private sector in addition to performing diaconal duties. A permanent deacon continues first and foremost with obligations to his own family.

"You are going to be assisting your brother priests in the giving of God's marvelous gifts," said Bishop Curlin.

"People want to see Jesus," said Bishop Curlin in his charge to the new deacons. "Your task is to bring him in loving service to your brothers and sisters."

Contact Editor Joann Keane by calling (704) 370-3336 or e-mail jskeane@charlottediocese.org

Abstinence, respecting human dignity seen as key to stopping AIDS

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers told the U.N. General Assembly's special session on AIDS that the path to preventing the disease lay in "respecting human dignity and the person's transcendent destiny." Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragan, who headed the Vatican delegation to the session held June 25-27 at U.N. headquarters in New York, also said prevention was aided by "excluding campaigns associated with models of behavior which destroy life and promote the spread of the evil in question." Speaking on the last day of a session that often had condoms at the center of attention, he said the most effective way of preventing sexual transmission of AIDS was through "training in the authentic values of life, love and sexuality."

European anti-sect laws threaten religion, says church group

ROME (CNS) — Though countries like China, Sudan and Indonesia still lead the world in violations of religious freedom, legislation in Western Europe to combat sects poses a growing threat to the continent's religious believers, a Catholic aid group said. In an annual report on religious freedom around the world, Aid to the Church in Need said a recent French bill that criminalizes "mental manipulation" potentially could be turned against any parents who raise their children in a faith or Catholic monks who live in communities that could be viewed as sect-like. The report, 377 pages in its English-language version, was released at a June 28 press conference by the aid group's Italian office.

'Smart cards' help India Catholics keep up with church events

HYDERABAD, India (CNS) — A parish in Hyderabad in southern India has introduced an electronic "smart card" system to help people in the tech-heavy region access parish information easier and faster. Archbishop Marampudi Joji of Hyderabad launched the system June 17 at St. Anthony's Parish, some 900 miles south of New Delhi, calling it "a thought-provoking incentive" for all church personnel, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Parishioners can use the microchip-embedded card with a touch-screen computer near the parish hall to check on church events, renew subscriptions, transfer payments and make parish bookings. Smart cards will be given to all 556 families of the parish.

CNS PHOTO BY JOANNA LIGHTNER, CATHOLIC STANDARD AND TIMES

Touching Liberty

Five-year-old Lauren Strickland from St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Clearwater, Fla., touches the Liberty Bell on Independence Mall in Philadelphia June 22. On July 4th, Americans celebrate the 225th anniversary of the birth of the nation.

Cardinal Dulles says church needs dialogue, not dissent

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The church needs respectful internal dialogue, but not the kind that tolerates dissent from church teachings or substitutes "civility for truth," Cardinal Avery Dulles said in a lecture June 22 at Georgetown University. "For Catholics the only acceptable common ground is the teaching of Christ and the church," he said. "To seek a common ground between approved and disapproved doctrines would be to give all the trump cards to the dissenter. ... Authentic dialogue, on the contrary, keeps the fullness of truth as its norm and goal." The U.S. Jesuit theologian, who was made a cardinal earlier this year, delivered the third annual lecture of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative. His topic was "Dialogue, Truth and Communion."

Pope beatifies martyrs from Ukraine's Eastern Catholic churches

LVIV, Ukraine (CNS) — Pope John Paul II beatified 27 martyrs from Ukraine's Eastern Catholic churches at a Divine Liturgy attended by many of the martyrs' parishioners, widows, children, grandchildren and students. The martyrs of the Ukrainian and Ruthenian Catholic churches died between 1935 and 1973, the victims of Nazi terror and the systematic Soviet repression of the Eastern Catholic churches. The pope also beatified Sister Josaphata Hordashevska, founder of the Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate. Hundreds of the estimated 1.2 million people at the June 27 liturgy had known personally one of the martyred bishops, priests, religious or laity. Several of the priests were married and left behind their wives and children.

Campaigns launched to raise awareness on Africa

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three major faith-based organizations kicked off separate Africa aid campaigns with the support of several bishops, ambassadors and politicians at a Georgetown University conference June 23-26. Catholic Relief Services, Bread for the World and a group of Lutheran relief agencies each recently began campaigns to raise Americans' awareness about Africa and encourage support for addressing some of the continent's most pressing issues: hunger, AIDS and peace-building. Former Sen. Bob Dole, the ambassadors to the United States from South Africa and Uganda, Catholic and Protestant bishops, and representatives of the United Nations and the State Department all said the time is right for a concerted international effort to help the nations of Africa address their most serious problems.

St. Louis Archdiocese conducts eucharistic congress

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Tens of thousands of Catholics from the Archdiocese of St. Louis and elsewhere participated in a two-day eucharistic congress in St. Louis, which culminated in a June 16 Mass to celebrate the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. After the Mass, a procession was held from the Trans World Dome, where the Mass was celebrated, to the Gateway Arch on the St. Louis riverfront. According to one former official of the National Park Service, 32,000 people took part in the procession. The June 15-16 congress took place 100 years after the first eucharistic congress to be held in St. Louis. Cardinal Jan Schotte, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops in Rome and Pope John Paul II's special envoy to the congress, was the principal celebrant at the Mass.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take partin the following events:

July 16-19
Provincial bishops' meeting
Savannah, Ga.

July 21 — 6:30 p.m.
Mass for installation of
Knights of Columbus state officers
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

July 24 — 5 p.m.
Charlotte Catholic High School
board meeting, Charlotte

July 27 — 10:30 a.m.
Opening Mass of National Gathering for Black Catholic Women
Adams' Mark Hotel, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

July

8 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

11 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343 or (704) 536-6520 or 536-6523.

18 MAGGIE VALLEY — A retreat for women will be held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, beginning today through July 24. Through Gospel reading, dramatization and self-introspection, Olivia Woodard will help participants explore the friendships and relationships various biblical women had with Jesus. For more information, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

22 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome, so for more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

23 CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia will be held today from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired can also be provided. For more information about the support group or the Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

CRS earmarks $50,000 for Peruvian earthquake relief

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services has released an initial $50,000 to help victims of a June 23 earthquake in Peru. The quake killed at least 70 people and injured more than 1,200, said Peruvian civil defense officials. The 8.1 magnitude quake hit areas in southern Peru, from its Pacific coast to inland zones high in the Andes Mountains. CRS, the U.S. bishops' relief and development agency, said at least 60,000 homes were destroyed, many in difficult-to-reach areas.

Vatican renews appeal for worldwide moratorium on death penalty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican renewed an appeal for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty, calling it an "integral part of the defense of human life at every stage of its development." Msgr. Paul Gallagher, a Vatican diplomat, told a June 21-23 world congress against the death penalty, "It is surely more necessary than ever that the inalienable dignity of human life be universally respected and recognized for its immeasurable value." Gathered in Strasbourg, France, speakers of parliaments from four continents signed a formal declaration calling for a global ban on capital punishment and criticized the United States and China for their recourse to executions.

Police from across U.S. gather to mourn loss of transit officer

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — A Catholic priest told an overflow crowd gathered for the funeral Mass of a slain Washington transit police officer that "no line-of-duty death is ever senseless." Speaking June 20 at St. Louis Church in Alexandria, a suburb of Washington, Msgr. Salvatore Criscuolo said, "It is honorable because it comes from dedication to the oath that a police officer takes." He was addressing more than 1,000 police officers and the family of Marlon F. Morales, 32, who was shot in the head June 10 when he tried to stop a fare evader at a Metro subway station in the District of Columbia. He died from his wounds June 13.

CNS PHOTO FROM CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

McCarrick kisses crucifix in titular church

Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick bows to kiss the crucifix upon entering his titular Church of Sts. Nereus and Achilleus in Rome June 28.

House bill puts limits on oil firms doing business in Sudan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House has passed a bill that would sharply restrict the financial activities of foreign oil companies doing business in war-torn Sudan, where the Islamic government has waged an unrelenting civil war against Christians and animists in the South. The Sudan Peace Act, which passed in a 422-2 vote June 13, also seeks to compel the Sudanese government to "enter into a good faith peace process" to end the conflict that has claimed an estimated 2 million lives since it started 18 years ago. The bill also would require the U.S. secretary of state to report annually to Congress on the status of Sudan's construction of oil pipelines, the extent of aerial bombing by the government, and whether relief aid has been manipulated by government officials as the bill alleges.

Church prepares sainthood causes for more than 100 WWII Poles

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Poland's Catholic Church is preparing beatification documents for more than 100 World War II victims, two years after Pope John Paul II beatified 108 other Poles. Bishop Jan Bernard Szlaga of Pelplin, Poland, said the beatifications would fill gaps in the 1999 list and confirm the "great martyrology" of Polish Catholics. The candidates include 17 martyrs from the northern Pelplin Diocese, all of whom died at Nazi hands during Poland's 1939-45 occupation, as well as 102 names put forth by religious orders.

Puerto Rican archbishop asks immediate end to Vieques bombings

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (CNS) — The U.S. Navy bombing exercises in Vieques must end immediately, said Archbishop Roberto O. Gonzalez of San Juan. While praising President Bush for deciding to terminate the bombings in 2003, the archbishop said, "I am deeply saddened by the fact that the bombings can be continued for another 23 months." He said in a June 19 statement, "I am committed to continue pleading for the immediate end of the bombings." The statement came a day after the Navy resumed its exercises amid widespread protests in Puerto Rico, a U.S. possession in the Caribbean.

Refugees' return essential for lasting peace, says Bosnian bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Bosnian bishop said the safe return of displaced people and refugees was essential to maintaining peace in the Balkans. Bishop Franjo Komarica of Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, said some 68,000 ethnic Croats remain displaced from his diocese since the end of the 1992-95 war. Peace accords signed in November 1995 in Dayton, Ohio, were to ensure the safe return of all displaced people and refugees. The bishop said the threat of violence and a lack of political will from local leaders and the international community have prevented the return of the displaced to the Banja Luka region. The goal of Bosnian leaders in preventing the return of refugees was "ethnic homogenization," Bishop Komarica said.

Annotated Korean New Testament published after 27 years

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — A revised and annotated version of the New Testament in Korean has been published after 27 years of work by Catholic scholars on what was conceived as a 10-year project. Bishop John Chang-yik of Chunchon, president of the Korean bishops' Biblical Committee, wrote a congratulatory message in the newly published version, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The bishop said the local church had longed for a Korean New Testament more faithful to the original texts, as well as one with annotations "helpful to a deeper understanding of God's word and Christian life."

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25 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

25 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division, is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for times and locations.

31 MAGGIE VALLEY — Silence and quiet prayer will be the focus of a retreat that will be held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, beginning today through Aug. 6. Dominican Sisters Mary Pat Dewey and Mary Ann Ennis will discuss God's presence through centering prayer, meditation and simple listening. Morning prayer and daily Eucharist will include preaching on the daily readings. For further details, call (828) 926-3833.

August

1 NATIONWIDE — There are retreat opportunities at Trappist monasteries across the country at the Gethsemani Trappist Abbey in Trappist, Ky.; Holy Trinity Monastery in Huntersville, Utah; and at monasteries in Iowa; Georgia; California; Massachusetts and other states. These vocational awareness retreats include work, prayer and conferences with the monks. The next retreat is taking place Aug. 1-5. Early registration is a must, and some restrictions may apply. Call 1-800-866-3463 for more dates and further information.

5 CHARLOTTE — Christopher West, director of marriage and family life in the Archdiocese of Denver, Colo., will be the guest speaker at a program for teens and adults entitled "John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body.'" The session will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., from 2-4 p.m., and West will discuss the pope's revolutionary teachings on marriage and sexuality. For details, call (704). 543-7677.

Upcoming

FORT MILL, S.C. — Power Rally 2001, presented by Good News Ministries in cooperation with the Dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah and the Archdiocese of Atlanta, will take place Sept. 8 from 12:30-8:30 p.m. in the Charlotte Hornets Training Center. The event, targeted for high school students and young adults in their 20s and 30s, will feature Bishop William G. Curlin and Fathers Matt Leonard and Matt Kauth from St. Gabriel and St. Matthew Churches. Joining the bishop are Steve Angrisano, Christian contemporary singer; Jeff Cavins, EWTN show host; Catherine Rumore, author; Franciscan Father Paul Williams and Matt Pinto. Praise and worship music will be provided by Charlotte's own Kathy and David with Redeemed. For further details and to register by the Aug. 25 deadline, call (704) 521-9949 or visit www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews.

RALEIGH — The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, in co-sponsorship with People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, will be presenting its 25th Annual Conference entitled "Building Communities of Justice and Hope" Oct. 18-21. If interested in attending, contact the NCADP, 1436 U St. NW Suite 104, Washington, D.C., 20009, e-mail nationalconference@ncadp.org or call toll-free 1-888-286-2237.

WINSTON-SALEM — Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed for couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones for 44 hours and focus only on each other. The next Marriage Encounter will be taking place Sept. 28-30 at the Holiday Inn in Winston-Salem. Registration closes Sept. 23, and the weekends fill up quickly. For further details and to register, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Abortion's link to breast cancer

Doctor discusses abortion's link to breast cancer at pro-life conference

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — An increasing amount of medical evidence has yielded more insight into the possible link between abortion and breast cancer, said an endocrinologist who addressed the National Right to Life Committee's annual convention.

Dr. Joel Brind, a professor of biology and endocrinology at Baruch College of the City University of New York, was the opening general session speaker at the 29th annual National Right to Life Convention June 28-30.

The convention, held for the first time in Charlotte, was hosted by North Carolina Right to Life and South Carolina Citizens for Life. About 1,100 people from across the nation came to the convention to attend workshops and speaking presentations on educational and legislative projects of National Right to Life and to learn more about the pro-life movement in general.

Since 1981, Brind has studied the connection between breast cancer and induced abortion. His extensive writing, research and lecturing on the issue yielded 1998's "Induced Abortion as an Independent Risk Factor for Breast Cancer: A Comprehensive Review and Meta-Analysis," a peer-reviewed research paper he wrote with colleagues at the Penn State College of Medicine.

The report was published in the British Medical Association's Journal of Epidemiologists and Community Health, and it has received press on news programs and in such medical journals as the Journal of the National Cancer Institute and the New England Journal of Medicine.

Among the report's findings is that an induced abortion increases the risk of breast cancer by an average of 30 percent. The research included studies that involved almost 61,000 women.

At the conference, Brind shared the findings published in the report. He said such research is another example of how abortion's victims extend beyond the womb.

"Very soon, I think, the floodgates will open, and instead of being safe and legal, the American public will know for sure that abortion is unsafe and lethal," said Brind.

Brind explained the biology involved in the abortion-breast cancer link, noting that an induced abortion raises the risk for cancer by exposing the body to highly increased levels of estrogen, the main female sex hormone.

"It's known that most risk factors for breast cancer act through some kind of overexposure to estrogen in some form," he said. Heightened levels of estrogen are found in women during menstruation and just before ovulation, he said, but women come into contact with their most prolonged and highest dose of estrogen during pregnancy.

See ABORTION, page 18

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St. Joseph of the Hills offers Irish blessing to beloved nun

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

EDEN — Mercy Sister Bernadette McNamara began her call to the religious life in her late teens, just out of high school in Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland. It was then that Sister Bernadette fulfilled her plans to join the order at Belmont in North Carolina.

After serving as the parish administrator at St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden, Sister Bernadette is returning to Belmont for a new ministerial assignment.

Upon acceptance to the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Bernadette went off to Marywood College, in Scranton, Pa., where she received her undergraduate degree in education.

Having taught for several years in Charlotte and in Long Island, N.Y., Sister Bernadette was called to the role of teacher/administrator in the Diocese of Orlando. It is there that she received her master's degree in administration from Stetson University in Deland, Fla. Sister Bernadette also earned a master's of education degree in pastoral ministry from Fordham University, the Bronx, New York.

With her credentials behind her, Sister Bernadette was transferred to Mount Carmel Cathedral, Saipan, in the South Pacific. It was there in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa she founded and became the first director of the Office of Worship for the diocese. The five years Sister Bernadette served on the Island of Saipan were "perhaps the most exciting years (of her career)."

One would wonder if that were due to the typhoons she encountered, or the whirlwinds created on her road to success in her ministry while there. Sister Bernadette indicated that she had been able to travel quite extensively in that area due to the "free" tickets afforded her through the frequent-flyer plan.

This Irish sister seems to have the missionary spirit of St. Patrick. It's no wonder that she finally landed in the city of Eden. It was just like yesterday that the parish of St. Joseph of the Hills in Eden was introduced to its new parochial administrator, with a smile on her face and the twinkle of love in her eyes.

Her first official undertaking was to hold a meeting with all the women of the parish. That was the start of her very successful tour of duty in her "Garden of Eden," as Sister Bernadette would affectionately call her new parish.

According to parishioner Martha Joyce, "Sister Bernadette's ministry was truly ecumenical," for it extended beyond the boundaries of St. Joseph of the Hills. Not only did she get the Catholic community involved, she embraced the entire community of Eden in her efforts to fulfill the mission of the church.

"Sister Bernadette had a way of asking 'you' to do something so that 'you' just could not refuse," responded Lucille Minter. "For instance, when visiting the sick at home or in the hospital or even the nursing home to bring the Eucharist, Sister Bernadette was always welcomed with her cheerful smile and Irish wit."

Mark Ligon added that "not only has Sister Bernadette brought many people back into the church, she has made new converts to the faith, like myself, feel not only welcome, but more importantly, she makes you feel like a significant part of the church."

"She had a way of putting you at ease," replied Mary Ann Ligon. It was through Sister Bernadette's influence that both Mr. and Mrs. Ligon became catechists for the parish — this, shortly after Mr. Ligon's conversion and acceptance into the church.

"Sister Bernadette is truly a 'fixer-upper' around here," said Wayne Carter. "Not only has this good sister healed and mended lost and wayward souls, she has done wonders to both the church and the rectory as well."

Whether it was by increasing the membership of the parish or the size of the parking lots or, even, by changing carpeting and refurbishing the pews and the lighting and sound systems, Sister Bernadette has accomplished much for the physical plant at St. Joseph of the Hills.

Father Christopher Davis, the sacramental minister of the parish, says that "she will be sorely missed."

But Sister Bernadette is not leaving without good reason. She has been asked by the Sisters of Mercy of Belmont, where her mission for Christ and his church really took off, to serve as president and CEO of Catherine's House, located at the Sacred Heart campus in Belmont. This is one of the ministries to the poor and disenfranchised that are sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

So Sister Bernadette will not be far away from Eden, because she has accepted this challenge to minister to the poor women and children just as Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, did in the early 19th century in Dublin, Ireland. If anyone can meet this challenge to care for the poor and disenfranchised homeless women and children successfully, it is Sister Bernadette McNamara. She has already left her mark not only on the parishioners of St. Joseph of the Hills, but on each and every location she has ministered.

As a token of appreciation to Sister Bernadette for her years of service to the community of St. Joseph of the Hills, the parish had a get-together in her honor on June 24. It was their way of saying thank you for all she has done for the parish and the community, as well.

It is with this in mind that the parishioners will be wishing their beloved Sister Bernadette the luck of the Irish with their hopes that God will continue to bless her and all those with whom she comes into contact.

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It's official: USCCB replaces old NCCB and USCC

By JERRY FILTEAU
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' national organization became the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops — USCCB — July 1.

The old twin names adopted in 1966, National Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. Catholic Conference, are now largely consigned to history.

When NCCB-USCC staff left national headquarters June 29, they drove past the long, low, freestanding concrete wall at the driveway entrance on which the old name was engraved.

Returning from the weekend the morning of July 2, they were greeted with a new sign — 30 feet, 6 inches long and 39 inches high — with the new conference name and logo in white on a forest green background.

The new sign, made of steel, was attached over the lettering of the old. USCCB Associate General Secretary Bruce Egnew said the construction and installation cost, $17,000, was less than it would have cost to demolish and remove the concrete wall.

Also changed over the weekend were the conference Web site — from www.nccbuscc.org to www.usccb.org — and staff e-mail addresses, which now end with @usccb.org.

The change did not involve any changes in conference departments, offices or staffing.

Like the old conference logos, the new one has a white cross atop a green circle. In the old logos, the words "National Conference of Catholic Bishops" or "United States Catholic Conference" formed a square enclosing the circle. In the new logo the words form a circle: "United States Conference of" forms the top arc and "Catholic Bishops" the bottom arc.

On the Web site, the new name and logo have replaced the old on the home page and the pages of the various departments and secretariats. Egnew said other things, such as documents which came from the USCC or NCCB, will not have their attribution changed.

He said people will be encouraged to use the new Web address, but those using the old one will connect to the new site "probably indefinitely."

"We don't know how many (computer) bookmarks we're on and address lists and that kind of thing," he said. "We don't want to close it off, nor do we want to surrender the old name for Web purposes."

Egnew said some transitional things, such as changes in office stationery, business cards and phone book listings, were still in progress.

The transition involved "a number of legal requirements" as well as practical issues, he said. "Some of it we could and had to do ahead of time, and some of it we could not do ahead of time. It will take a few weeks to complete it all."

"Like a new bride who changes her name to her husband's name, we probably have a number of other things that we haven't even thought of yet but will come to mind as the marriage of the two conferences really takes shape," he said.

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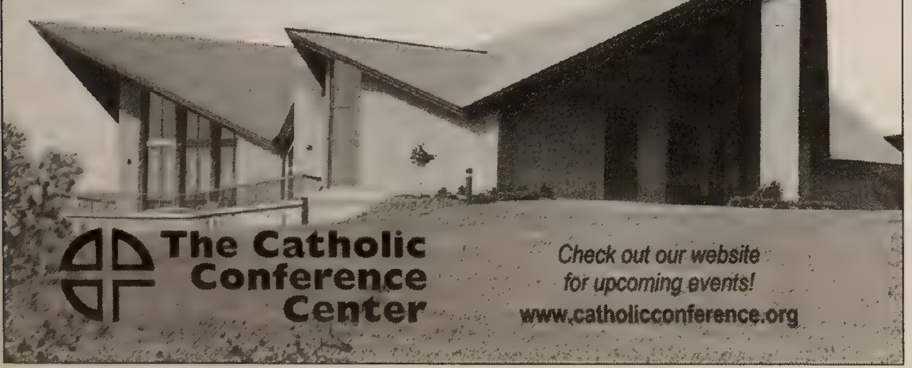

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Pastoral Assignments

Bishop William G. Curlin announces the following pastoral changes:

Effective July 10:

Appointment of new vicars
Rev. Richard Bellow, Vicar of the Charlotte Vicariate
Rev. Michael Buttner, Vicar of the Winston-Salem Vicariate
Rev. Kenneth Whittington, Vicar of the Hickory Vicariate

Pastoral assignments

Rev. Herbert Burke	From: Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem To: Administrator, Immaculate Conception, Forest City
Rev. Michael Buttner	From: Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, Lenoir To: Pastor, Holy Family, Clemmons
Rev. Dean Cesa	From: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte To: Pastor, St. John, Tryon
Rev. Duc Duong, Newly Ordained	To: Parochial Vicar, St. Matthew, Charlotte
Rev. Tien Duong, Newly Ordained	To: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte
Rev. Robert Ferris, Newly Ordained	To: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte
Rev. Kurt Fohn, Newly Ordained	To: Parochial Vicar, St. Leo the Great, Winston-Salem
Rev. Francis Gillespie, S.J.	From: Pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption, Charlotte To: Reassignment by Jesuit Order to Washington, D.C.
Rev. John Hanic	From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte, and Part-time Chaplain, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte To: Sacramental Ministry, Holy Trinity, Taylorsville, and Full-time Chaplain, Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School, Charlotte
Rev. Peter Jugis	From: Judicial Vicar, Diocesan Tribunal, Charlotte To: Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe, while remaining as Judicial Vicar
Rev. Eric Kowalski	From: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro To: Administrator, Holy Angels, Mount Airy
Rev. Mark Lamprich	From: Pastor, Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro To: Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte
Rev. Matthew Leonard	From: Parochial Vicar, St. Gabriel, Charlotte To: Administrator, St. Francis of Assisi, Lenoir
Rev. Gregory Littleton	From: Administrator, St. John, Tryon To: Pastor, Our Lady of the Assumption, Charlotte
Rev. Carmen Malacari	From: Outside the Diocese To: Parochial Vicar, St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte
Sister Bernadette McNamara, RSM	From: Administrator, St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden To: Reassignment by Sisters of Mercy at Catherine's House, Belmont
Rev. Gabriel Meehan	From: Pastor, Immaculate Conception, Forest City To: Retirement at his own request
Rev. Fidel Melo	From: Administrator, Our Lady of the Americas, Biscoe To: Administrator, Hispanic Ministry, with residence at Holy Family, Clemmons
Rev. Frank O'Rourke	From: Pastor, Holy Family, Clemmons To: Pastor, Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
Rev. Luis Osorio	From: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe To: Parochial Vicar, Our Lady of Grace, Greensboro
Rev. Msgr. William Pharr	From: Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul, Charlotte To: Retirement at his own request
Rev. Ricardo Sanchez	From: Parochial Vicar, Holy Family, Clemmons To: Administrator, Our Lady of the Americas, Biscoe
Rev. Thomas Selvaraj	From: Parochial Vicar, St. Ann, Charlotte To: Pastor, St. Joseph of the Hills, Eden
Rev. Thomas Stott	From: Pastor, Holy Angels, Mount Airy To: Sabbatical at his own request
Rev. Arockiasamy Sundaram	From: Outside the Diocese To: Parochial Vicar, St. Ann, Charlotte
Rev. Carlo Tarasi	From: Pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes, Monroe To: Chaplain for Food for the Poor, Florida, at his own request
Rev. Joseph Waters	From: Administrator, Holy Trinity, Taylorsville To: Retirement at his own request

Effective August 15:

Rev. James Hawker	From: Vicar for Education To: Pastor, St. Luke, Charlotte, while remaining as Vicar for Education
Rev. Joseph Mulligan	From: Pastor, St. Luke, Charlotte To: Sabbatical at his own request

Actor O'Connor's commitment to faith recalled at funeral

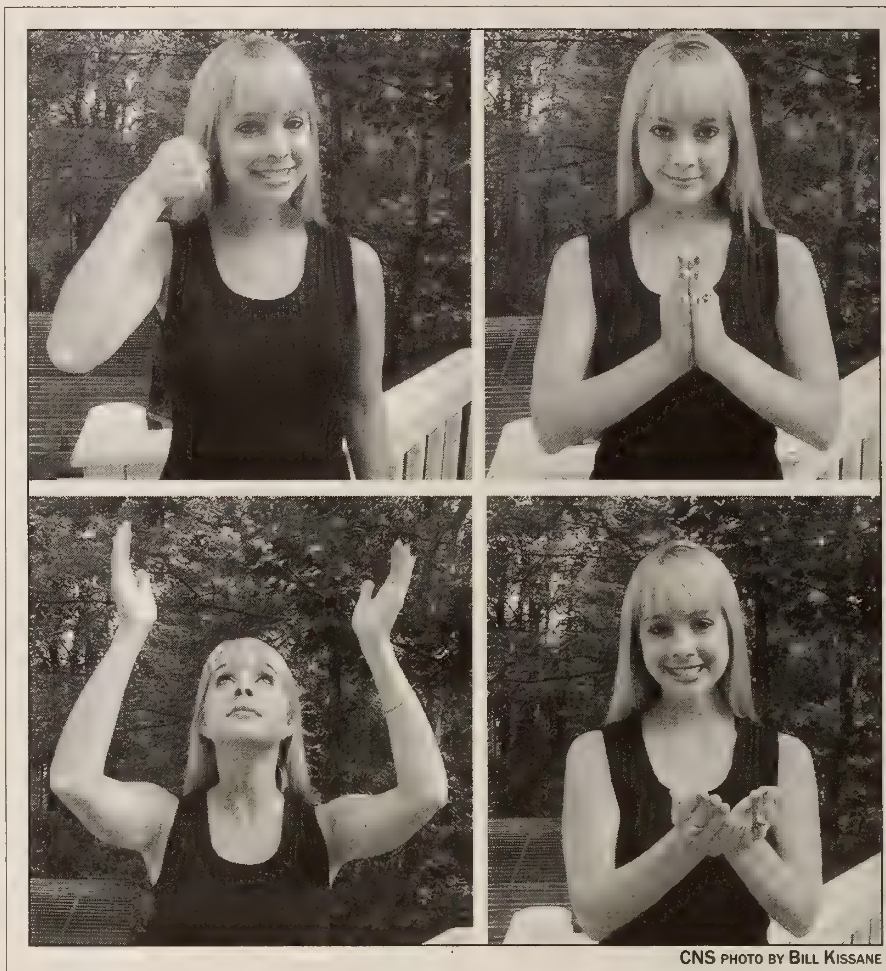
LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Family, friends and many leaders in the entertainment industry gathered for the funeral Mass for actor Carroll O'Connor at St. Paul the Apostle Church in west Los Angeles June 26. O'Connor "symbolized in such a beautiful and courageous way a commitment to faith he allowed to be part of his personal life and his professional life," said Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, the principal celebrant. "Dallas" star Larry Hagman and Martin Sheen of "The West Wing," the actor's friends, served as lectors. Liam Gannon recited an Irish blessing and Mary Reynolds played a violin solo of "Danny Boy" that left many in tears. Known for his TV portrayals of Archie Bunker on "All in the Family" and "Archie Bunker's Place" and police chief Bill Gillespie on "In the Heat of the Night," O'Connor died June 21.

Fellow ecumenists reflect on Father Hotchkin's life, work

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father John F. Hotchkin rarely appeared in the public spotlight, but behind the scenes he was easily one of the most significant and influential Catholic ecumenists of the past third of a century, according to those who knew him best. In interviews with Catholic News Service and public statements, other leading ecumenists painted a portrait of a man of grace, humility and a passion for Christian unity — and one who perhaps more than any other person has shaped the Catholic ecumenical enterprise in the United States. Father Hotchkin, 66, died unexpectedly June 24 from a severe bronchial infection. A Chicago priest, he was executive director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs in Washington for more than 30 years.

College grad designs sign system to help disabled communicate

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A college research project inspired by a grandfather who was recovering from a stroke has made a 22-year-old Woodbridge, Va., resident something of a national phenomenon. Nikki Kissane, a recent graduate of the University of Virginia and member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Lake Ridge, Va., spent most of her college years developing a simplified form of sign language designed to help autistic children or stroke-impaired adults communicate. Her system uses simple signs that clearly resemble the object or action represented, such as folded arms and a rocking motion as a sign for the word baby. "The system is similar to pantomime. It's supposed to be something that you can pick up without having to learn a lot," Kissane told Catholic News Service.



CNS PHOTO BY BILL KISSANE

Student developes simplified sign language

Recent college grad Nikki Kissane signs words using the Simplified Sign System. Clockwise from top, left are the signs for phone, pray, book and God. Since her freshman year at the University of Virginia, Kissane has worked on developing a simple form of communication for non-speaking people with autism or aphasia.

Father Hesburgh gets 16th presidential appointment

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS) — President Bush has appointed Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, retired president of the University of Notre Dame, to the Commission on Presidential Scholars. It marks the 16th presidential appointment for Father Hesburgh, who also has served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Presidential Clemency Board and the Overseas Development Council, which led an initiative to avert mass starvation in Cambodia in the late 1970s. The Commission on Presidential Scholars meets annually to select some 140 high school students from across the country for recognition as presidential scholars.

Pope blesses formerly communist property set to become university

LVIV, Ukraine (CNS) — Pope John Paul II blessed a piece of property in Lviv where the Soviet Communist Party had started to build a cultural center. What was to have become a monument to the primacy of communism will become Ukraine's first Catholic university. Pope John Paul blessed the site June 26 and was scheduled to bless the cornerstone of the new university June 27 during a Divine Liturgy. "May the university serve simultaneously as a source and a channel of divine and human wisdom for the renewal of the entire people of God throughout the land of Ukraine," the pope prayed as he blessed the property.

Unscheduled papal stop at Marian icon strikes chord in Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (CNS) — The first stop on Pope John Paul II's long-awaited trip to Ukraine — a prayer visit to an icon of Mary — wasn't even on the official program, but it struck a chord among Ukrainian Catholics and Orthodox alike. The pope pulled his motorcade over at the edge of a Kiev park June 23 and walked into the small Church of St. Nicholas, a former recital hall under communism, to meditate before a "miraculous" image of Our Lady of Zarvaniza. Tradition holds that the icon was found by a Ukrainian monk fleeing persecution in the 13th century, after he fell asleep next to a stream and had a dream about Mary. He eventually built a shrine to her on the spot, and it draws thousands of pilgrims today, many seeking physical healing.

Holy smoke! Skywriter praises God in the air

BOCA RATON, Fla. (CNS) — Because many people live busy and hectic lives they often forget about God and the many blessings that he has bestowed on them, according to Jerry Stevens, a member of St. Jude Parish in Boca Raton in the Diocese of Palm Beach. To help people think about God more often, the veteran pilot decided to take up skywriting and put messages of hope and inspiration in the skies over south Florida. Stevens, 58, adds a special oil to his plane's exhaust system to make the mile-long letters of inspiration, 9,000-12,000 feet above the ground. He said he keeps his messages short and sweet because they can dissipate quickly in the wind. Among them are "God is Great," plus "God Loves U" and "Jesus Loves U," the latter two with smiley-face icons. At Thanksgiving he writes, "Thank God," and at Easter, "He is Risen."

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Sister continues tradition of Catholic education

Photo by Alesha M. Price

Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor, dean of students at Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, is busy at work preparing to move to the new building in July. The administration is in the midst of packing and will be ready to welcome students in the fall at the new location.

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Whenever Sister of St. Joseph Anne Thomas Taylor watches the old Bing Crosby movie "The Bells of St. Mary," she is reminded of her childhood. It is not as if she compares herself to anyone in the movie, but when she was younger, there were times that it almost seemed as if she were a character in some of the scenes.

Sister Anne's childhood home was located across the street from the Sisters of St. Joseph convent in Philadelphia, and she would sit on her steps and listen to the sisters sing and pray. She says she watched the sisters walking back to the convent on Saturday afternoons, and she would note the satisfied and content expressions on their faces. Those experiences always evoke pleasant memories for her and are what propelled her to want to be a Sister of St. Joseph.

"I could probably safely say that by the time I was in my junior year of high school, I knew what I wanted to do," said Sister Anne, referring to entering religious life. "I began working after graduation and cared for my invalid mother. The more I worked in the banking industry, the more frustrated I became and the more I knew that religious life was for me."

She entered religious life in 1976 and began attending Chestnut Hill College, the institution established by the sister community. She soon realized that it would be somewhat of a difficult time for her. "It was pretty overwhelming in the beginning because I was getting used to living in a community and going back to school after eight years. It was a challenge, but I had a huge support system.

"It's not like Whoopi Goldberg in 'Sister Act' where she puts on a habit and becomes one of the nuns. I love the movie, but it's not like that," she said with a chuckle.

Even though college was tough at times, she is glad that she was able to work and live in the secular world before making her commitment to God.

"It's important to have a good college experience, to experience the social life, dating, so that you have a much better idea of the world and whether you are willing to give that up," she explained. "I came in at an advantage because of my age. I knew what I was doing and what I was giving up, and it was OK. I knew it would be a sacrifice, but I don't think it was as difficult for me as it was for other younger women."

Sister Anne professed her final vows in 1984 and continued teaching fourth grade. After seven years in elementary school, she went back to earn her master's degree in humanities with concentrations in music, fine arts and theatre. She is an accomplished flute and guitar player and singer and would practice late into the night on the convent piano in the basement to play a selection from Bach as part of her degree requirements.

She taught band and chorus in an inner-city high school where she also began a pep band and a gospel choir. That choir became her favorite part of teaching in that school. "There was no way you could have a bad day starting off like that," she said of the 7:15 a.m. practice sessions, which now remind her of "Sister Act II," in which Whoopi Goldberg directs a gospel choir. "It was so invigorating, life-giving and spiritual, and the choir became well-known."

She came to Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School in Winston-Salem as the music teacher in 1997 and helped to re-establish the drama program and started the school's pep band. Principal George Repass asked her to become assistant dean of students, and an illness made it necessary for her to devote her attention serving as dean full-time.

Sister Anne is carrying on the tradition of BMHS, established in 1959 by the first Sisters of St. Joseph who came to the Winston-Salem area in the early 1950s. Her three years at the Winston-Salem Catholic high school have been fulfilling for her, and now, she is helping to make the transition to the new school as seamless as possible for the students and faculty.

She has become a part of the BMHS family in a short amount of time. The talent and dedication of the students and their willingness to learn and want to be involved with various extracurricular activities has impressed her throughout her years there.

"More people have realized that there is a lot that can happen for young people in Catholic schools, and there is a lot happening here at Bishop. The building is never quiet," said Sister Anne. "We have kids who come here who want to be at Bishop, and because they want to be at Bishop, they succeed."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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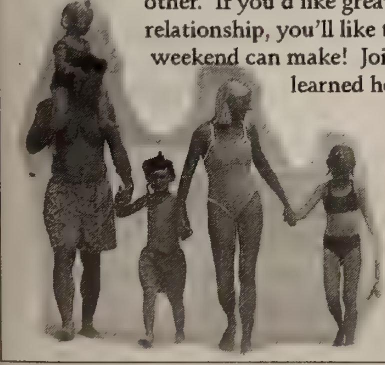

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The Franciscan Center hosts talk on spirituality

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

GREENSBORO — At an inconspicuous storefront building in the center of Greensboro one can locate The Franciscan Center. Here amid the hussle and bustle of the busy everyday city life is a place of solitude. It is a sanctuary where one can take refuge from the world.

The Center itself is a Catholic book and religious article store run by Franciscan Father Louis Canino. But it is more than that. Every Wednesday, Mass is said at 12:10 for the people who work in downtown Greensboro area. Throughout the year the Center hosts visiting Catholic and Christian speakers who give lunchtime talks on a wide range of topics dealing with Christian life and how Christians can achieve everlasting life with the Eternal Father.

Father Canino is also instrumental in the planning and the building of the proposed St. Francis Springs Prayer Center to be located on the Stoneville/Wentworth border. The project has gotten off of the drawing board and will start with an official groundbreaking ceremony on August 18 at 11 a.m.

Along with his other duties around the Center, Father Canino is also the chief cook and bottle washer for the luncheon presentations.

The guest speaker for June 21 was Father Anthony Marcaccio, who celebrated his 10th anniversary in the priesthood in June. Father Marcaccio is presently serving the diocese as pastor of St. Pius X in Greensboro. Prior to this assignment, he was the bishop's priest secretary.

Father Marcaccio spoke on the topic "Practicing the Presence of God," an approach to spirituality based on what little is known of Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite lay brother who lived in 17th-century Paris.

As Father Marcaccio pointed out, Brother Lawrence's life was centered on God through everything he did, including his cooking and dish washing until his death at the age of 80. Through his spirituality, probably based on the spirituality of another Carmelite, St. Teresa of Avila, Brother Lawrence became one of the great mystics of his day.

Spirituality, according to Father Marcaccio, must encompass a "complete abandonment to God." By it, one "comes to know God more fully through all created things," much like the spirituality of St. Francis — for it is not only poetic in nature but contemplative as well.

According to the spirituality of "Practicing the Presence of God," the believer must have utter trust and complete confidence in God at all times. Father Marcaccio indicates that "there must be a continual unity with God such that one does not abandon self to the will of God, but to God himself."

Therefore, each must accept not only the sweet things in life, but also the bitter. Father Marcaccio emphasized this type of spirituality consists of a "simple loving gaze upon God, who is both the beloved and the lover." It would be like placing oneself as a "block of stone before the Master Sculptor allowing God to shape as he saw fit."

Father Marcaccio emphasized the variety people bring to their personal spirituality, from reciting rote prayers to praying the rosary in silence to saying simple prayers like "Jesus, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Of those in attendance, Kathleen Brockman indicated that this was one of the best presentations that she had heard at the Center, while Bette Steinkamp and Pat Cleary said: "We ate it up. We are interested in growing in Catholic mysticism. And we thoroughly enjoyed Father's presentation."

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Vatican welcomes, with some reservations, U.N. AIDS declaration

By TRACY EARLY
Catholic News Service

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican welcomed the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by consensus at the June 25-27 special session of the U.N. General Assembly, but expressed some reservations and regrets in a "statement of interpretation."

Although the rules of some international conferences such as the 1994 Cairo, Egypt, conference on population and the 1995 Beijing conference on women allowed the Vatican to be a full participant, in the General Assembly it is only an observer state and not a voting member.

But it participated informally in the negotiations on the text of the declaration, and at the conclusion of the session secured time to set forth points that qualified its general acceptance of the results.

The statement said the Vatican joined in the commitment expressed at the special session on AIDS to "address the needs of those whose lives have been ravaged by this horrible disease."

However, it added that Vatican involvement in discussions about the declaration text should not be "understood or interpreted as an endorsement of concepts that it cannot support for moral reasons."

The statement singled out use of terms such as "reproductive health" that it said should apply to "a holistic concept of health" and be interpreted "in accordance with moral norms."

It also declared that, "with regard to the use of condoms as a means of preventing HIV infection" the Vatican "has in no way changed its moral position."

"The Holy See also regrets that irresponsible, unsafe and high-risk or risky behavior was not adequately discussed and addressed in preparing this declaration," the statement added.

In a section on AIDS prevention, the U.N. declaration called for a wide range of programs, such as "encouraging responsible sexual behavior, including abstinence and fidelity," as well as use of condoms.

Msgr. Anthony R. Frontiero, a staff member with the Vatican mission to the United Nations who read the statement at the end of the session June 27, told Catholic News Service the following day that the Vatican was pleased it was able to get in the reference to "reducing risk-taking behavior."

But he said there was not adequate attention to the responsibility of those engaging in the risky behaviors for the spread of the disease.

"That has to be fundamental to any discussion of this disease," he said. "Responsible behavior cannot just be listed alongside condoms, but has to be prior."

Similarly, the Vatican statement said the discussion of human rights in the declaration was not linked in an adequate way to "the ability to be protected from the irresponsible behavior of others."

The declaration called for "measures to increase capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including sexual and reproductive health, and through prevention education that promotes gender equality."

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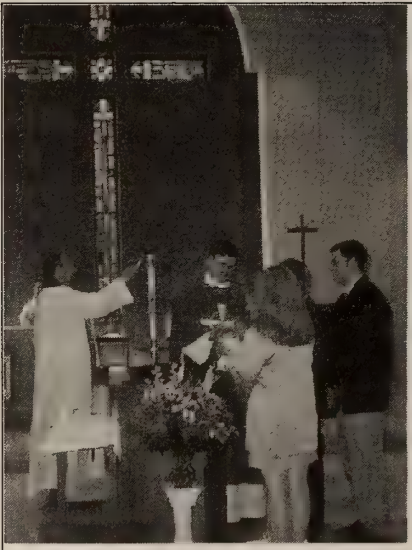

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Permanent deacon Class of 2001 brings variety of paths to service

The newly ordained permanent deacons of the Diocese of Charlotte come from a variety of family and professional backgrounds, yet they now share in a common ministry of service to God's people in the western half of North Carolina.

Here is an introduction to seven men who were ordained as permanent deacons by Bishop William G. Curlin at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte June 23.

Rev. Mr. Gerard La Pointe was ordained by Bishop Curlin March 9 at St. Margaret Church in Maggie Valley. He was featured in the March 16 issue of The Catholic News & Herald.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

From left, Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan, Rev. Mr. James Mazur, Rev. Mr. Pierre K'Briuh, Rev. Mr. Mark Nash, Bishop William G. Curlin, Father Mauricio West, Rev. Mr. Alexander Lyerly, Rev. Mr. David King and Rev. Mr. Michael Zboyovski stop for a quick picture.

Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan

Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan lives in Conover with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children. In his leisure time, he enjoys being with his family, hiking, playing tennis and mountain biking.

Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan earned a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from Clemson University and credits toward a master's of business administration degree at the University of West Virginia.

His educational background set the foundation for a career in various supervisory and managerial roles in manufacturing and engineering. After college, he worked for Butler Manufacturing Company, a leader in pre-engineered buildings.

For the past 10 years, he has been the general manager of a steel service center in Newton currently owned by Bethlehem Steel Company.

His leadership and volunteer activities include his assignment as a Guardian ad Litem advocate for more than 10 abused and neglected children. He is past president of the Newton-Conover Rotary Club and is a Junior Achievement consultant. At his home parish, St. Joseph Church in Newton, he is past chairman of the pastoral council and is currently involved in cantoring, RCIA, youth ministry and adult education.

Rev. Mr. Pierre Moock K'Briuh

Rev. Mr. Pierre Moock K'Briuh was born into a Montagnard peasant pagan family in November 1937 at Di-Linh in the Lam Dong province of Vietnam. His life's journey has taken him on a circuitous route from Southeast Asia to the United States where, in 1987, he came to settle in the Diocese of Charlotte.

He was baptized in May 1955 and confirmed a year later. On Jan. 25, 1970, he married in Banmethuot, Vietnam. He and his wife, Anna, went on to have eight children — though the family would be split apart for a time because of the turmoil in their native land.

Prior to the collapse of the former Republic of South Vietnam, Rev. Mr. K'Briuh was a civil servant at the Ministry for the Development of Ethnic Minorities. But he was later sent to a "re-education camp" in Thai Nguyen, North Vietnam — a test of his faith and a strain on his family.

He escaped by boat in 1983 and settled in Sacramento, Calif., in hopes of a brighter future with his family in the United States. He moved to Greensboro in 1987, and in 1992 his wife and eight children joined him as immigrants to the United States. With nine grandchildren now in the K'Briuh family, a new generation is taking root in the United States.

They are parishioners at St. Mary Church in Greensboro.

Rev. Mr. David E. King

A convert to the Catholic faith, Rev. Mr. David E. King came into the church at Easter of 1989. His family was diversified in its faith traditions — his mother was a Methodist, his father a Mormon.

One of three siblings, Rev. Mr. King is the uncle of eight nephews and nieces and eight grandnephews and grandnieces. All of his family members live within 100 miles of one another; family get-togethers are frequent.

After Rev. Mr. King graduated from high school, he was drafted into the military. He joined the U.S. Army Intelligence service and served four years on active duty, including a year in Vietnam. During his service time, he traveled to many places and met many people of various cultures. Following his active service, he served nine years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Rev. Mr. King earned an associate's degree in accounting and graduated from Ashemore Business College. He has worked in the furniture industry and spent his career in logistics management.

A parishioner of Our Lady of the Highways Church in Thomasville, Rev. Mr. King made his Cursillo in 1989 and continued to grow in faith as he became a lector, eucharistic minister, faith formation teacher, RCIA instructor and team member, parish council member and Boy Scout troop leader. He has also brought a nephew into the Catholic Church through the RCIA process.

Rev. Mr. Alexander Lyerly

Rev. Mr. Alexander Lyerly was enrolled in the Diocese of Charlotte's Lay Ministry program when he first began to contemplate entering the permanent diaconate.

A native of Banner Elk, the North Carolinian attended public schools, graduated from Lees-McRae College and from Appalachian State University before earning his doctorate in law from South Texas College of Law at Texas A & M University.

He practiced law in Houston, Texas, before eventually returning to North Carolina. In 1980, he was elected to the district court. He continues to be a district court judge.

Rev. Mr. Lyerly says the diaconate formation period has been a time of deep personal growth for both himself and his wife, Kate. Both look forward to continuing to serve God in more and more ways, as they remain active at their parish, St. Elizabeth Church in Boone. A native of Illinois, Kate is assistant director of admissions at Appalachian State University.

Rev. Mr. Alec and Kate Lyerly are both converts to the Catholic faith.

Rev. Mr. James Mazur

Rev. Mr. James Mazur is a parishioner at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. He has been married to wife Colleen since 1991, and they have two sons, Michael and Stephen.

Rev. Mr. Mazur was raised in Ohio, in the Diocese of Youngstown. The product of Catholic grade and high schools, he went on to attend college at Youngstown State and graduated in 1982 with a bachelor of science degree.

With an interest in healing, he moved on to medical school at Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in Cleveland, where he graduated in 1987 with a doctorate in podiatric medicine. He practiced his residency in the surgical residency program at the Foot Clinic of Youngstown.

As a doctor, he opened a private practice in Salisbury after settling in North Carolina. He is a partner on the board of directors of Carolina Primary and Urgent Care based in Statesville, and he is certified in foot surgery by the Fellow American College Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

At Sacred Heart Church, Rev. Mr. Mazur has been an acolyte serving at daily and Sunday Masses, the leader of the parish's altar servers and a reader at daily Mass.

Rev. Mr. Mark D. Nash

Rev. Mr. Mark Nash is a native to the South, though he would spend years in his home state of Florida and in Texas before making his way to the Diocese of Charlotte in North Carolina.

Born in Daytona Beach, he attended Catholic elementary and high schools there. He would later graduate from the University of South Florida in Tampa with a bachelor of arts degree in special education.

Rev. Mr. Nash is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He served as a hospital corpsman and attained the rank of Petty Officer Third Class.

With his degree in special education, he taught middle school for three years, and he met his future wife, Heidi, while they were both teaching in Key West. They married in December 1985 in Orlando. The Nashes now have two children, Justin and Sarah.

Nash moved to Dallas, Texas, in 1986 and two years later changed professions; he has been in the banking business ever since. He is now employed by First Union National Bank in the CMG-Corporate Trust Department.

Nash had entered the permanent diaconate program in Dallas, but in 1998 he and his family transferred to Charlotte. He is a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, where he is a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #10505.

In his leisure time, Rev. Mr. Nash enjoys gardening, reading W.E.B. Griffin novels, and spending time at the beach.

Rev. Mr. Michael J. Zboyovski Jr.

At an early age, Rev. Mr. Michael J. Zboyovski Jr. had dreams of being a medical missionary. Over time, he felt called toward the priesthood, but after four years of seminary he realized his gifts might be better utilized in the medical field.

Moved by the calling to heal, both Zboyovski and his brother John enrolled in the Logan College for Chiropractic Care in Chesterfield, Mo. Zboyovski and his brother are talented musicians, and their music helped put them through college.

After they graduated, they opened a practice in Asheville.

With his family — wife Jan and children Michael Jr., Matthew and Kristen — he settled into life in the North Carolina mountains. While practicing medicine, he still felt called to ministry in the church, and began to ponder the possibility of the permanent diaconate. He attended a Cursillo in 1986, and became growingly more convinced that new doors were opening for him.

He entered the diaconate program eager to fulfill his calling to serve.

Meanwhile, his brother John also answered a different calling in life. He is now a priest in the Russian Orthodox Church.

Rev. Mr. Zboyovski is a parishioner at St. Eugene Church in Asheville.

— Compiled by Jimmy Rostar

Bishop William G. Curlin has appointed the newly ordained permanent deacons to the following parishes, effective July 10:

Rev. Mr. Scott Gilfillan: St. Joseph, Newton (and prison ministry)

Rev. Mr. Pierre K'Briuh: St. Mary, Greensboro (and ministry with Montagnard community)

Rev. Mr. David King: Our Lady of the Highways, Thomasville (and ministry to Maryfield Manor)

Rev. Mr. Alexander Lyerly: St. Elizabeth, Boone, and St. Lucien, Spruce Pine

Rev. Mr. James Mazur: Sacred Heart, Salisbury (and pro-life ministry)

Rev. Mr. Mark Nash: St. Thomas Aquinas, Charlotte (and ministry to Engaged Encounter)

Rev. Mr. Mark Zboyovski: St. Eugene, Asheville (and prison ministry)

Diaconate Ordinations

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

Above: As part of the ordination, the diaconal candidates lay prostrate on the floor in prayer as a sign of total commitment. The congregation kneels to join the candidates in prayer, invoking all the saints to ask the blessing of God upon them.

Above right: "The Blood of Christ." Rev. Mr. David King distributes the Communion cup to a brother deacon.

Right: Ordained earlier this year, Rev. Mr. Jerry La Pointe participated in the ordination June 23.

Below right: "You are going to be assisting your brother priests in the giving of God's marvelous gifts," said Bishop William G. Curlin in his homily.

Below: The newly ordained deacons are vested with the stole, a sign of the deacon's office of service, and the dalmatic, the outer garment used in the liturgy. Here, Rev. Mr. Carl Macero assists Rev. Mr. Mark Nash with vestments for the first time.

PHOTO BY JOANN S. KEANE

PHOTO BY CHRIS KEANE

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Photo by Chris Keane

Above: The ordination rite concludes as the bishop greets the newly ordained deacons with the kiss of peace. This action emphasizes the deacon's role as a co-minister in the bishop's ministry to the Church. Here, the other deacons in attendance extend this sign of peace to the newly ordained as a symbol of their mutual love and responsibility.

Above left: Assisted by Father Anthony Marcaccio and Rev. Mr. Ben Wenning during the rite of ordination, Bishop William G. Curlin prays over the diaconal candidates.

Left: In addition to their ministerial duties, permanent deacons hold first and foremost their obligations to their wives [and families.] At left, a newly ordained Alexander Lyerly and his wife, Kate, process happily out of St. Gabriel Parish.

Below left: It is the deacon's duty to proclaim the Gospel and preach its meaning by word and the example of his life. Below left, Bishop Curlin presents Rev. Mr. Pierre K'Briuh with the book of the Gospels as a sign of the deacon's mission to "Believe what you read, teach what you believe, practice what you teach."

Below: In this profound gesture of ordination, each diaconal candidate kneels before the bishop. The bishop then imposes his hands upon the head of the candidate. This gesture comes to the church from the holy Scriptures.

Photo by Joann S. Keane

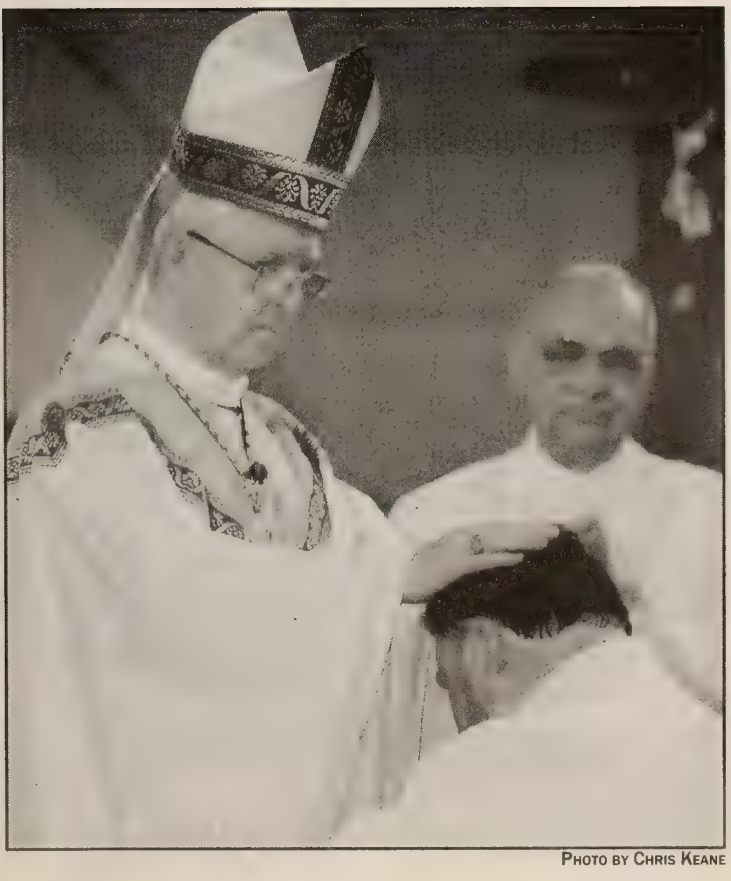

Photo by Chris Keane

Photo by Joann S. Keane

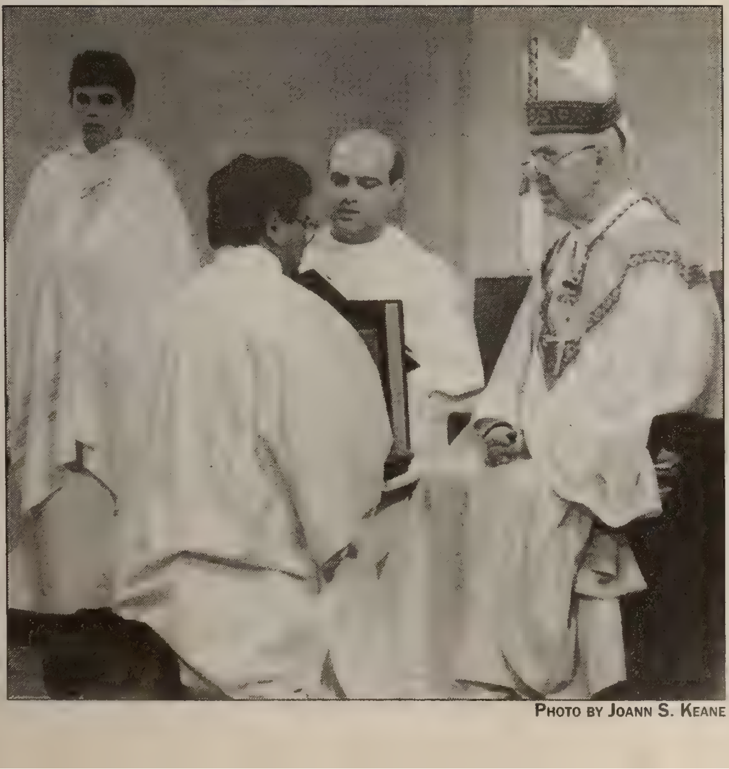

Photo by Joann S. Keane

Diocesan Schools Office recognized for exemplary program

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

BOSTON — By providing teachers and parents in Catholic schools in western North Carolina with the technology to access its programs, the Diocese of Charlotte's Education Office is being recognized nationally for its efforts to support educators and families.

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Charlotte is among 13 education offices from across the United States honored by the National Catholic Educational Association and Boston College for programs considered as national models for recruiting and retaining teachers.

"Web-Based Teacher Development and School Religion Programs" was developed by Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Schools Office. She and 12 other Catholic school officials presented their programs during the National Catholic Educational Association's "Conversations in Excellence 2001: Teacher Recruitment and Retention" conference June 29-July 1 at Boston College.

Educators in elementary and secondary Catholic schools across the nation attended the conference.

"The goals of this program are to educate and support both parents and teachers with the Catholic education curricula by providing them direct access via our Web site to the diocesan Catholic Education Office and its programs," said Sister Maureen of the diocesan program.

The program serves as a "distance-learning" model for parents and their children, Sister Maureen added.

"Parents, who are the primary educators of their children, have at their fingertips access to program descriptions that will better enable them to be in sync with their child's learning," she said. "Additionally, parents can use the information available through the Web site to reinforce what their child is learning in the classroom."

Using the program together can lead to a richer parent-child relationship, she said, "which can foster the faith life within the family."

Teachers benefit from the program by having access to information designed to support the classroom experience.

"Modules, worksheets, activities and suggested prayer services are just a few of the samples of the wealth of information available to the educators," Sister Maureen said. "These resources will enable the teachers to take ownership of the teaching situation and offer the students the best environment for learning."

The Web site invites teachers to partake in the diocese's religion certification program as well, which confers certificates in religious education.

The conference at Boston College was a part of the Selected Programs for Improving Catholic Education (SPICE) initiative, organized by the National Catholic Educational Association and Boston College to recognize and share information on successful Catholic educational programs.

"Through this conference, we hope to provide participants with practical methods and models for assisting Catholic schools with teacher recruitment and retention," said Regina Haney, co-director of SPICE and executive director of the National Catholic Educational Association's National Association of Boards of Catholic Education.

Including the presentations of the 13 programs, keynote speakers Thomas Groome, Janice Jackson and Michelle Doyle addressed issues important in the field of Catholic education.

Groome, who addressed teachers in the Diocese of Charlotte during an in-service session two years ago, represents the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry at Boston College. Jackson works in Boston College's Lynch School of Education. Doyle is a member of the U.S. Department of Education.

A goal of SPICE and the Boston conference is to share information on programs such as the 13 honored so that schools can adapt them for their needs.

Sister Maureen said the Diocese of Charlotte's program is designed to reach a wide audience.

"Teachers in any school environment could very well adapt this program because it is age appropriate and culturally diverse," she said. "The educator can access the information and tailor it to the children in their school setting, be it inner city, rural, urban and so forth.

"For example, the Social Justice program might be adapted for the children in the inner city to reflect the needs of the neighborhood poor as opposed to a rural setting, which might reflect the needs of the farm worker."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

Knights give millions of dollars, hours to charity

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — Knights of Columbus in the United States last year raised and donated to charity more than $116 million and volunteered more than 56.7 million hours of service, the Catholic men's organization reported.

Results of the Knights' annual survey of fraternal activity showed an increase from the previous year in time and money donated. In 1999 Knights reported raising and donating $108.9 million and volunteering 55.3 million hours of service.

The figures are based on reports of fraternal activity received from approximately 70 percent of local and state units of the Knights of Columbus. The Knights have about 1.6 million members in 12,000 local units in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, the Caribbean and Pacific rim.

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Book Review

Book looks into Salvadorans' plight

REVIEWED BY BOB ZYSKOWSKI
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

***THE WEIGHT OF ALL THINGS,* by Sandra Benitez. Hyperion (New York, 2000). 241 pp., $22.95.**

We whose lives are not touched directly by the violence and death of war, who never learned that our sons were killed in battle, who never watched as family or neighbor died from bombs or bullets, have been spared.

While the movie "Saving Private Ryan" captured the futile deaths of soldiers, its setting in a war against an evil enemy allows deaths as useless as were many of those during World War II to be ennobled and honored. In contrast, Sandra Benitez takes us inside El Salvador's 1979-1990 civil war, a war for which there is no redeeming value, no noble cause.

In "The Weight of All Things," many of Benitez's characters die terribly, brutally and for nothing. Whether killed by the soldiers of their own nation, by guerrillas, by so-called "security forces" or even from across the border by Honduran forces, Salvadorans die — and no one gains. Not the army, not the revolutionaries, and certainly not the poor, subsistence-level campesinos who are caught in the middle between armed combatants.

We need to know about El Salvador's war because it happened on our watch, almost under our noses — some would say almost with U.S. blessing. Forces trained at the U.S. Army's School of the Americas were found to be involved in the deaths of four American women missionaries in El Salvador, in the murder of six Jesuit priests and their housekeeper and her daughter at Central American University in El Salvador, and in the daylight shooting to death of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador as he presided at Mass.

Benitez grew up in Mexico and El Salvador, the daughter of an American-diplomat father and Puerto Rican mother. Though she had moved to the United States by the time the revolution began, she lost four friends because of it, and her brother-in-law was kidnapped, then fled El Salvador.

She uses the real-life massacre of defenseless mourners at Archbishop Romero's March 30, 1980, funeral as the jumping-off point for her work of fiction. But as in all good novels, the fiction in "The Weight of All Things" works because Benitez describes reality — from the pungent, sweet-yet-sour smell of the Salvadoran landscape to the strength-sapping heat of the climate to the deep, ingrained, unshakable spirituality of the Salvadoran peasants.

The people's love of Archbishop Romero is depicted as coming as easily as their belief that prayers are answered, that God and especially Mary the Mother of God play active roles in their lives. Trust and belief in Mary's comforting, watchful protection is not diminished but in fact grows despite the reality of death all around.

That is something Benitez never questions, never accuses, never puts on trial. Because, while the reality of the bullets through the head, the torture and the orphans is real and factual, the faith of the people is real, too.

Following the fictional journey of a 9-year-old boy orphaned by the bullets of the Romero funeral massacre will enlighten you at least at a literary level with the reality of this tiny Central American country's civil war. It may move your own heart. Like little Nicolas de la Virgen Veras in the story, you too may want to throw in the river every rifle that causes such pain, not just in El Salvador but in so many parts of the world.

But this beautifully written story will put you in touch with a dimension of religious belief that challenges even the most faithful of churchgoers and Gospel followers: In the face of such terrible evil, unable to control any facet of life, could you and I have such great faith?

Zyskowski is associate publisher and general manager of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Word to Life

July 8, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle B Readings:
1) Isaiah 66:10-14c
   Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20
2) Galatians 6:14-18
3) Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

BY BEVERLY CORZINE
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Late one summer evening the clanging of swordplay reverberated in the next room. Always a pushover for a good period movie, I asked my husband what he was watching. "Gladiator" was his answer. As I began to watch the ingeniously equipped legions prepare for battle with their catapults and other war machines, I thought of Miss Marjorie Davis, my high school Latin teacher.

Miss Davis was old in the '50s. Her finger-waved hairstyle was the reflection of a silent movie star of the 1920s. She wore gaudy gem-cluttered rings, big beautiful and ornate gold bracelets, and ankle-length dresses. However, it only took a few days of my sophomore year to learn that the image of a faded film star of long ago was an illusion because our Latin teacher's feet were firmly planted in the era of the Caesars.

Each year on the Ides of March we donned togas and black armbands and mourned the assassination of Julius Caesar. During our translating of Caesar's Gallic War commentaries, each of us in the class suspected that Miss Davis knew more about waging war and the organization of the Roman legions than Julius Caesar. Moreover, it became quite clear that our proficiency in the Latin language and the Roman military should be able to pass the scrutiny of the great general himself.

On the other hand, Miss Davis taught us more than the Latin language and Roman ingenuity; she believed that we should be keenly interested in one of history's great ironies: How Christianity changed the empire.

We soon discovered that not only did Miss Davis know the Caesars, she also knew St. Paul and expected that when we read his letters at church we should understand his world.

She taught us about the unseen characters who were generations removed from Sts. Peter and Paul. They were the citizens of the Roman world that met, prayed, broke bread, shared and preserved the teachings of Jesus,, and many times they themselves literally embraced his cross.

Miss Marjorie Davis was not a filmmaker, but she possessed the gift of making the Roman world and its language come alive for her students so that they would understand something of the world that shaped their faith and the faith that shaped the world.

QUESTION:

Though we often lament the secularism of our age, we often forget the temptations and trying circumstances of other ages in which the Gospel has prospered. What can we learn from the courage of the early church?

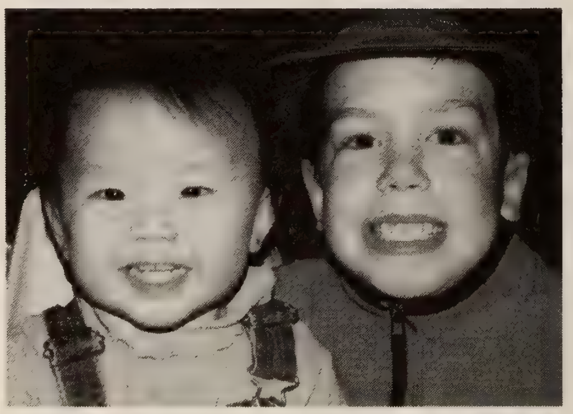
Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of July 8-14, 2001

Sunday, Isaiah 66:10-14c, Galatians 6:14-18, Luke 10:1-12, 17-20; **Monday,** Genesis 28:10-22a, Matthew 9:18-26; **Tuesday,** Genesis 32:23-33, Matthew 9:32-38; **Wednesday (St. Benedict),** Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a, Matthew 10:1-7; **Thursday,** Genesis 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Matthew 10:7-15; **Friday (St. Henry),** Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30, Matthew 10:16-23; **Saturday (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha),** Genesis 49:29-33; 50:15-24; Matthew 10:24-33

Readings for the week of July 15-21, 2001

Sunday, Deuteronomy 30:10-14, Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 10:25-37; **Monday (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel),** Exodus 1:8-14, 22, Matthew 10:34—11:1; **Tuesday,** Exodus 2:1-15a, Matthew 11:20-24; **Wednesday,** Exodus 3:1-6, 9-12, Matthew 11:25-27; **Thursday,** Exodus 3:11-20, Matthew 11:28-30; **Friday,** Exodus 11:10—12:14; Matthew 12:1-8; **Saturday (St. Lawrence of Brindisi),** Exodus 12:37-42, Matthew 12:14-21



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MOVIE REVIEW

"A.I. Artificial Intelligence" remarkable in many ways

By GERRI PARE
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Remarkable in many ways, Steven Spielberg's "A.I. Artificial Intelligence" (Warner Bros.) is a visual stunner. The provocative issues it raises, however, hover as a mist without being truly developed.

Perhaps the difficulty Spielberg had was in writing the screenplay, his first since 1977's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." He tries to meld his preference for warmth and sentiment with the chilly, cerebral sensibility of the late director Stanley Kubrick, who worked on the movie for years before asking Spielberg to direct it. And so we have a visual style reminiscent of many Kubrick movies and his dark foreboding tone, yet the story is drenched in Spielbergian childlike emotion and a would-be boy's search for love.

Nonetheless, it has the summer popcorn movies beat by miles as it takes viewers to a future after polar ice caps have melted and flooded coastal cities. Everything is rationed, especially having children, and the only child of Henry (Sam Robards) and Monica Swinton (Frances O'Connor) languishes in cryogenic suspension with a terminal illness.

Henry's boss (William Hurt) and his team, however, have come up with the first robot boy who can be programmed to actually love his adoptive parents. Named David (Haley Joel Osment), the robot is given to the Swintons and after initial reluctance, Monica opts to connect the emotional circuitry in David's interior that will make him love her unconditionally. The happy mother-"son" bonding is altered for the worse, however, when the Swintons' real son (Jake Thomas) recovers and returns home, sparking jealousy — and David is seen as a threat.

Abandoned in a forest, the distraught David remembers hearing the story of Pinocchio wanting to become a real boy and looks for the Blue Fairy so he, too, will be real and Mommy will take him back.

Now trying to survive in a nightmarish world where humans enjoy destroying robots, David meets robot Gigolo Joe (Jude Law) as they try to evade vicious robot killers and find the Blue Fairy that David is convinced exists. Their odyssey is harrowing — and only one survives — into the far distant future where dreams might come true, if only for a day.

Strange and surreal, "A.I." dangles the issues of humanity clashing with technology, men playing God and the problematic nature of love. But these are themes that float above rather than become ideas which take form and are given a solid direction in the narrative.

Both a heart-tugging fairy tale and a pitch-black fantasy, the film suffers from its mood swings and the ending is a wispy one indeed. One minute you question what Gigolo Joe adds to the story (plot holes, mostly) and the next minute you are touched by David's complete faith in the power of prayer (to a statue of the Blue Fairy) to make his wish come true. Tawdriness and innocence sure make an odd couple.

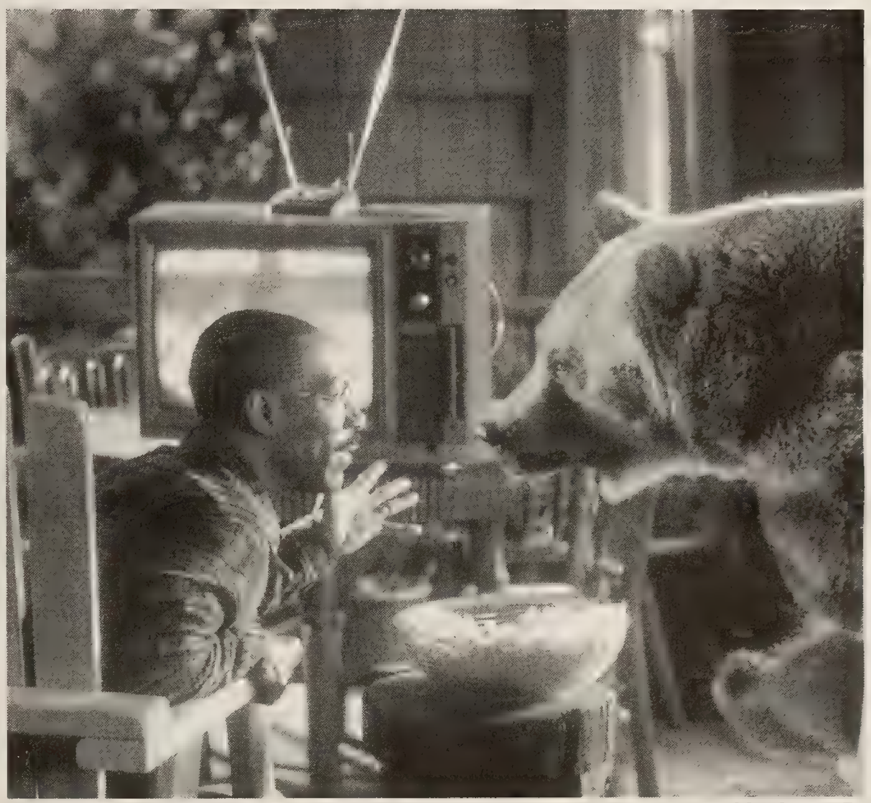
The exceptional imagery, however, holds the viewer, and it's hard to resist comparing scenes to other Kubrick and Spielberg films. The overlit modern settings and unusual angles seem to be a tribute to Kubrick's distinctive style while the movie's wide sentimental streak is true to Spielberg's penchant for films from the heart.

In the end, heightened expectations may leave audiences disappointed that "A.I." didn't deliver in every single respect, although Osment made a soulful David and the visuals were extraordinary.

"A.I." certainly offers food for thought as bioethicists become increasingly challenged by cloning, genetic engineering and super-sophisticated technology that mimics the human mind in sometimes disturbing ways.

Due to stylized violence to robots, some sexual innuendo and minimal profanity, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

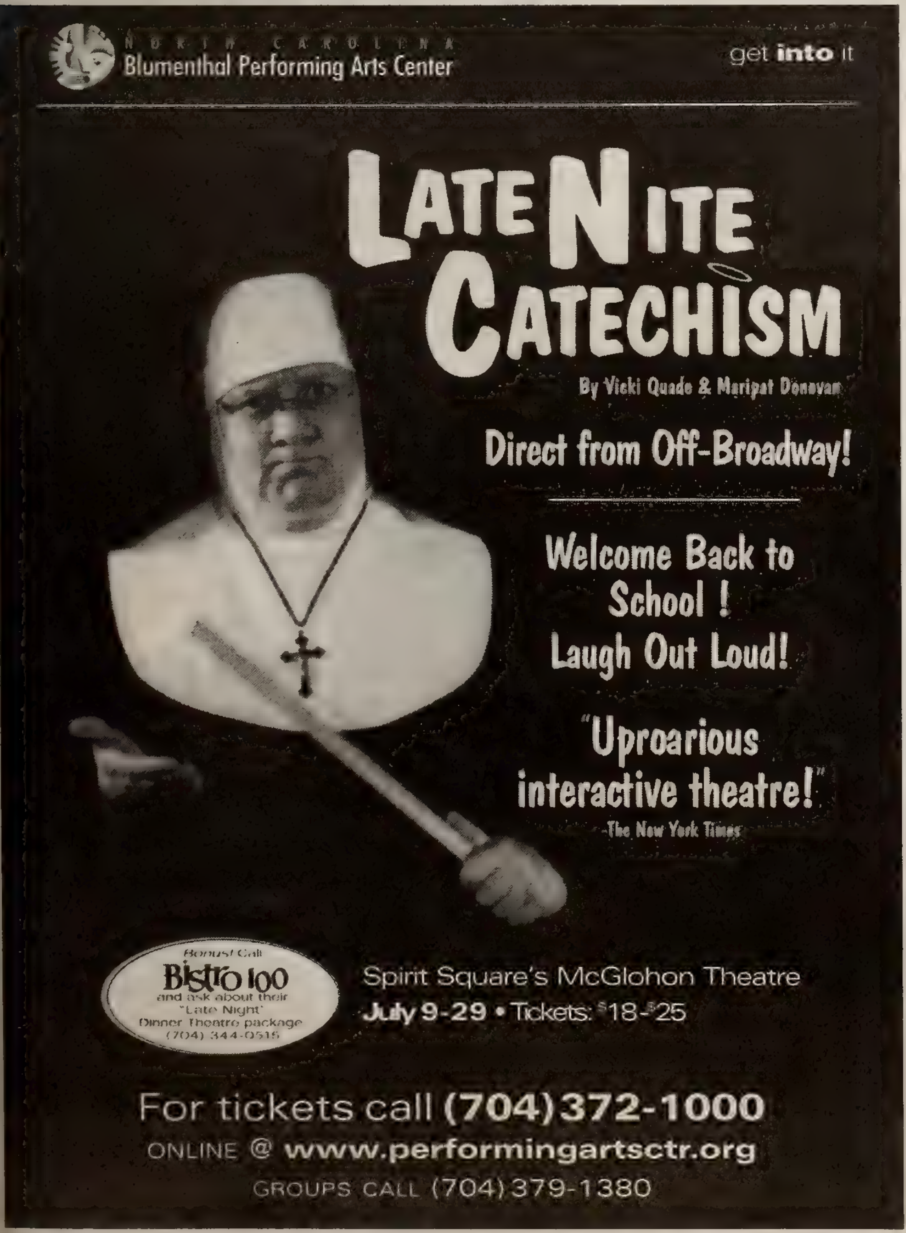
Pare is director of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.



CNS photo from 20th Century Fox

Scene from film 'Dr. Dolittle 2'

Eddie Murphy stars in a scene from the movie "Dr. Dolittle 2." The U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.



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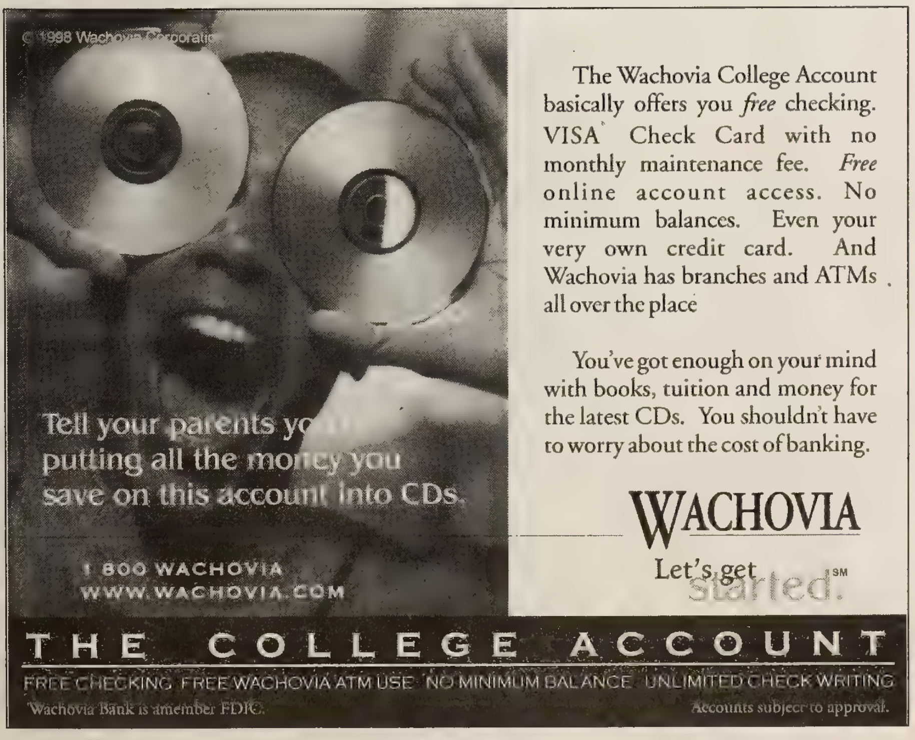

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says movements can enrich priests, must not alienate them

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While priests can be spiritually enriched by associating with one of the many new church movements, they must not alienate themselves from the broader church, Pope John Paul II said.

It is important that the participation of priests, deacons or seminarians in church movements does not result "in a closure that is as presumptuous as it is restricted," the pope said in a message to a June 26-29 meeting of church movements.

U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, read the message June 27 to some 1,300 priest participants in the gathering, organized by the Focolare Movement and held at the group's headquarters outside Rome. A copy of the pope's text was released at the Vatican.

The pope said participation in church movements can give priests the "heat and light" they need to grow as fervent Christians, "attentive to church discipline" and in "ever stronger faithfulness to their legitimate pastors."

Especially those who discover their priestly vocations in church movements will draw on the groups as a "source of assistance and support in their path of formation," he said.

But priests must guard against feeling their movement is an objectively superior path of Christian life, the pope said.

Priests' participation in movements "must open their spirit to acceptance, respect and appreciation of other ways of participation of the faithful in fellow church movements, pushing them to be always men of communion, 'pastors of the whole,'" he said.

Addressing another concern, he warned priests against allowing their distinctive priestly identity to be "obscured or progressively assimilated into a lay state" through their participation in movements.

The pope said priests have a unique ministerial contribution to make, which he said may even be decisive in helping the largely lay groups achieve "ecclesial maturity."

Organizers said meeting participants came from 44 countries and included Orthodox and Protestant clergy. In addition to members of the Focolare Movement, speakers included representatives of the Sant'Egidio Community, Communion and Liberation, the Neocatechumal Way, Schoenstatt and the Renewal in the Spirit movement.

Celebrating Mass for the meeting's opening and closing were, respectively, Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy, and Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Is Instant Messaging Real Communication?

We're really big on rapid communication these days: cell phones, e-mail and, quickest of all, the instant message or IM — a little bit of computer magic that lets two people pass notes back and forth on their computers.

Instant messages are a lot like the notes kids used to pass in the back of class. The only difference is that the two people don't need to be in the same room or even the same state or country.

The term "instant message" is bogus on two counts. First, it may be quick, but the communication is hardly instant. One person types six or eight words, and clicks "send." Then he waits, while the other participant types a reply. IM exchanges are unbearably slow.

Second, there often isn't much message inside the IM. You really can't share much real information in an IM. Besides which, frequently the participant in an IM conversation actually has three or more exchanges going on, each in a different window, while he works on his English homework. The pace makes reflection almost impossible.

Psychological research tells us some interesting things about how people communicate. It turns out that the words we speak only convey about 20 percent of the information that goes back and forth during a conversation. The tone of your voice, the expressions on your face and the body language that just pours out of you carry far more information than the words themselves.

Have you ever been with an obviously angry friend — her face red, breathing shallow and fast, her fists clenched — who said, "No, I'm not angry, it doesn't bother me at all." Did you believe her?

Actions speak louder than words. Most of us don't believe what people say if it doesn't fit with how they're acting.

With the IM all you have are the words. None of the other information is there.

A phenomenon takes place with IMs that I call "Internet hypnosis." Exchanging IMs over a period of hours, you can quickly develop a sense that you know this other person deeply and that the other person knows you better and more deeply than anyone you've ever met.

Next, you start imagining that you've found your perfect match, better than anybody in your real life.

The sense of intimacy comes because you "tell" things to strangers over IMs that you never would tell friends you had to see in school every day.

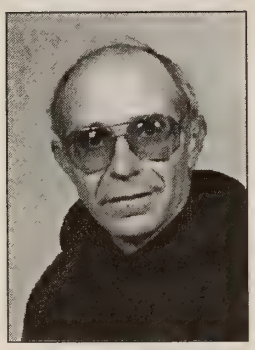
Because you share secrets, it feels as though you have formed a special bond.

When people "fall in love" over the Internet with someone they've never met, they're almost always in love with someone who doesn't exist.

Remember, all you have are the words, not the rest of the information about the person. The other 80 percent of the person you think is there is made up in your own mind.

When people finally meet these Internet heartthrobs face to face, they're often disappointed. The person they imagined was clever, kind and considerate may be all of those things — or none of them.

Never give your heart to somebody you've never met. It's a setup for a heartbreak.



Guest Column

FATHER JOHN AURILIA, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

Spiritual lifestyles

When we hear about spiritual life, we usually identify that as fuzzy, formless and amorphous. Not so. Spiritual lifestyle has a definite shape and form. As there is a variety of spiritual gifts, so there is a variety of spiritual lifestyles.

The Gospel points out very sharply the difference between Peter and John the Evangelist, Matthew and Luke. Definitely Isaiah's power differs from Jeremiah's struggle. The doubts of Thomas are in contrast, not in opposition, with John the Baptizer, "the wild man in the wilderness." John's spiritual lifestyle is flamboyant. As we might say in our slang, it is an "in your face" style. Jesus' spiritual lifestyle is that of the Good Shepherd. As we might say, "in your heart."

There are always two ways of looking at reality: my way and the wrong way. A businessman notorious for his ruthlessness announced to Mark Twain, "Before I die, I mean to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud at the top." Mark Twain replied: "I have a better idea. You could stay home in Boston and keep them."

How do we deal with sin in our spiritual journey? It all depends on our lifestyle. Two woebegone Talmudic students came to their rabbi and made a shameful confession. "Rabbi, we have committed a sin." A sin? What kind of sin? They replied: "We looked with lust upon a woman." "May God forgive you," cried the rabbi. "This is indeed a serious transgression."

The students humbly asked what can be done to atone. The rabbi said: "Well, if you sincerely seek penance, I order you to put peas into your shoes and walk about that way for 10 days. Perhaps that will teach you not to sin again."

The two young men went home and did as the rabbi had ordered them. A few days later, the penitents met on the street. One of hobbling painfully, but the other walked easily.

"Is this the way to obey the rabbi?" asked the first student reproachfully. "I see you ignored his injunction to put peas into your shoes."

The other replied, "I didn't ignore him at all. I just cooked them first."

Just a different lifestyle, is it not?

Now, let's see how different views and lifestyles can play real tricks on us. Here is a story which you may stop reading if you find it offensive.

Jack decided to go skiing with his rich buddy, Bob. They loaded up Jack's minivan and headed north. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. They pulled into a nearby farmhouse and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night. "I realize it's terrible weather out here, and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed," she explained, "and I'm afraid the neighbors will talk if I let you stay in my house."

"Don't worry," Jack said. "We'll be happy to sleep in the barn, and if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light." The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Morning came, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way and enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

About nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he met on the ski weekend. He dropped in on his friend Bob and asked, "Bob, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up north?" he asked. "Yes, I do." "Did you happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house, and pay her a visit?" "Yes," Bob said, a little embarrassed about being found out. "I have to admit that I did."

"And did you happen to use my name instead of telling her your name?" Bob's face turned red and he said, "Yeah, sorry buddy, I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?"

Jack replied: "She just died and left me everything."

And you thought you knew the ending. Did you not? What is your spiritual lifestyle? Do you have one?

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Win Ben Stein's Values

Ben Stein's public career and public service have spanned decades. As the gifted son of presidential counsel Herb Stein, Ben was a noted attorney (a graduate of Yale) who went to work as a speechwriter at the White House of President Richard Nixon.

Yet, his greatest public fame has not come from his legal skills or speechwriting abilities. No, he was "discovered" for his minor role as an actor in the film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." He was memorable playing a teacher attempting to instruct a bored group of teens. Thus began an acting career which continues, successfully, to this day. He went on to appear in "Ghostbusters II," "The Mask" and "Dave," among other films, and played another teacher as a regular on the delightful television series "The Wonder Years." His current television series, "Win Ben Stein's Money," is seen on Comedy Central. He is also a prolific writer of books and magazine pieces.

Ben Stein is a person who believes in speaking his truth plainly and directly. I interviewed him recently for our television program "Christopher Closeup." He acknowledges that he has been richly blessed in life. But he and his wife, Alexandra, had an emptiness that position, money and success couldn't fill. That's when they decided to adopt their son Tommy. The presence of this child in their lives has changed everything. Stein details the experience in his book "Tommy and Me — The Making of a Dad." He clearly finds the privilege of parenting as close as you get to experiencing a little bit of heaven right here on earth.

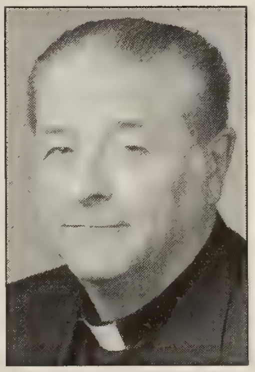
His love for Tommy, and children in general, is also expressed through his energetic opposition to abortion. He thanks God that his beloved son was given the chance to live and be loved. Ben admits that being an unapologetic pro-lifer in the Hollywood community has, at times, made him unpopular. But he doesn't seem to care. Not long ago he was asked to give a speech. To reward his entertaining presentation, he was offered an honorarium. Ben suggested they make a donation instead to the National Right to Life Committee. It was not a very welcome suggestion, but one which came from his heart and soul.

This man is deeply devoted to sharing his truth. His writing, his website, his speeches and his energies are uniformly devoted toward making the case that life should be treasured; that every abortion ends a unique life; and that as a civilized people we can do better.

As a Catholic priest, I found listening to this Jewish man share his ideas about the sanctity of all human life illuminating. His courage and conviction reminded me of a similar conversation I had with an actor friend who works on soap operas. He recently told me his convictions about life and many of his views echoed Ben Stein's. But, he said, he could never say these things publicly. It would, he was sure, ruin all his chances for greater success with the more liberal elements of the media.

Two public figures, both with solid thoughts about the need to protect innocent and defenseless human life. One speaks out without apology, the other remains publicly silent. Their different approaches reminded me of the statesman Edmund Burke and his noted insight that All that is necessary for evil to triumph in our world, is for good people to do nothing. However large or small the audience, each of us has an obligation to speak the truth. We owe it to ourselves, our neighbors and future generations. We owe it to God.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

How the Our Father Ends

Q. Why does the Catholic Church omit the last words of the Our Father, "For thine is the kingdom ..." and so on? I like to use the complete prayer when I say it privately. Is this wrong?

A. No, there's nothing wrong with that prayer. In fact, Catholics in many other parts of the world regularly include this conclusion to the Lord's Prayer in their public liturgies and devotions. If it helps, go ahead and use it.

The prayer to which you refer became part of the liturgy very early in the Christian era, probably because a similar prayer had been common in their Jewish heritage for centuries. We, of course, continue that tradition when we recite the same prayer together at Mass shortly after the Our Father.

Sometime during the centuries before the printing press, when the Scriptures still were copied by hand, some perhaps overzealous copier(s) added these words alongside the Lord's Prayer in Matthew (6:9-13).

They constitute what is called a "gloss" — a marginal interpretation or pious note inserted alongside the text, possibly just to break the monotony of a tedious job. Some such glosses, including this one, later found their way into the Gospel text itself.

This was the situation when the King James Authorized English version was published in 1611. Since Protestants used this translation of the Bible for more than 300 years, and since it included this one-sentence addition to the Lord's Prayer, the addition became part of what was sometimes called the Protestant Our Father.

As biblical scholarship advanced, it became clear that this final doxology was inserted later and was not an authentic part of the Scripture text.

Protestant Bibles since the King James version ordinarily eliminate the sentence, mentioning it at most in a footnote as an inauthentic addition to the biblical text or as a clause found in earlier or "some late manuscripts" (New International Version).

No Bible translations under Catholic auspices contain this conclusion to the Lord's Prayer.

Incense in church

Q. I am writing concerning your column on incense in church. I am another person who gets sick when I'm around it and was disappointed to learn from you that there is no nonallergic incense.

Many people find they cannot stay for Mass when the priest uses incense, causing them to miss even Easter and Christmas celebrations. I have two suggestions that might help my family and others who suffer from allergies.

—Would it be possible to list in the bulletin which Masses will have incense the following Sunday?

—Could a parish have an incense-free Mass early in the morning, before incense fills the church?

Thanks for letting me voice my suggestions.

A. The number of people who wrote to me after that column, all with similar problems, surprised me, even though I encountered it several times as pastor. Clearly, more than a few people are affected, some seriously, by heavy clouds of incense during the liturgy.

For most of us, of course, it's not a problem. For those who suffer from this allergy, however, it can be a major spiritual concern, depending, of course, on liturgical customs in their parishes.

I'm not sure what can be done about it, but your suggestions might help priests who are sensitive to the problem. Another reader recognized the value of incense, but asked: Is it necessary to cloud the whole church? It would much improve the situation, she suggested, if less incense were burned.

I'm grateful to the readers who brought this more fully to my attention. At least their thoughts are worth our pastoral consideration.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

A Priest Who Underscores Human Rights

In late spring we heard that the United States lost its position on the U.N. Human Rights Commission. That was disturbing news, and many people I spoke to expressed confusion and anger. After all, we consider ourselves one of the great leaders in human rights. Are we mistaken?

To get a clear picture of where we and other countries of the world stand when it comes to human rights, I strongly recommend a reflective reading of "The Mobilization of Shame" (Yale University Press), written by Jesuit Father Robert F. Drinan. This priest — a professor of law at Georgetown University and a former congressman from Massachusetts — now has put a spotlight on what he calls a "breathtaking" vision for the world that emerged from World War II: the formation of the United Nations, dedicated to working for "human rights and fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

Looking to the future, he presents an almost prophetic warning that if the self-interest of nations, which has eroded that 56-year-old dream, continues, abuses of human rights will worsen.

The first power of Father Drinan's book is to remind us of the language agreed upon when 48 nations of the world, mourning the 30 million-plus casualties of World War II, came together and pledged "to initiate a worldwide crusade" to protect human rights.

In forming a United Nations, which 152 more countries subsequently joined, these 48 founding nations agreed to be partners in achieving "international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character." Their goal would be "prompting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedom for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

The idea of human rights for all is a "seminal concept" of the U.N. charter, Father Drinan reminds us.

But in reading on, I felt shame at facing the facts about my own country: that U.S. backing of human rights has been spotty, that we have a track record of not cooperating in some major international human rights efforts. For example, only two nations have not ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: the United States and Somalia.

We are the only Western nation still maintaining a death penalty, and we are the world leader in executing those who were juveniles when they committed their crime. We also still refuse to ratify a statute for an international criminal court.

As Father Drinan points out, we have the blueprint for continuing to make progress in worldwide human rights, but so much work still has to be done. He points out the worldwide need to gain rights for children, women, prisoners; the need to recognize the right of all to food and religious freedom; and the need to end torture and cruel and inhuman treatment, anywhere and everywhere.

Father Drinan ends with a quote from Solon, the ancient Athenian jurist: "Justice will not come until those who are not hurt feel just as indignant as those who are." This book comforts and disturbs, and for this, I suggest, it must be read.

ABORTION,

from page 4

During pregnancies, he said, estrogen causes both cell growth and tissue changes in the breasts. When those changes in the tissue stop, cell growth stops as well. While estrogen levels increase 2,000 percent during the first trimester, other hormones turn off that growth during the third trimester.

In the case of an induced abortion, those hormones do not stop the continued estrogen increase, thus keeping women exposed to that prolonged hormonal increase for a longer period of time. In effect, estrogen becomes a carcinogen and increases the cancer risk in the breast tissue, Brind said.

"The effect of carcinogens is to mutate the DNA so that the cells now think that they're somebody else and are not really a part of your body," Brind said. "They're ready to go into business for themselves."

Brind said there is an important difference in cancer risk when comparing induced abortions to spontaneous abortions, or miscarriages.

"It's the nature of the pregnancy itself," he said. "There is something (biologically) wrong with the pregnancy that's going to abort spontaneously. Obviously, that's why it has to abort.

"The difference — that we know for sure and have known for decades now — in the hormones is mirrored in the difference that we see in epidemiological studies, where we compare women with breast cancer and women who don't have breast cancer and look for differences in their reproductive history."

Most miscarriages are the result of inadequate production of the hormone progesterone, which is created by estrogen. Because progesterone production is low, so is estrogen production.

In his research, Brind found data pointing to the abortion-breast cancer link dating back to 1957. He said while members the medical community have countered such research with "inappropriate statistics" refuting the link, he has also encountered physicians and others who are beginning to acknowledge the truth of the studies and let patients know of the long-term health risks involved following induced abortions.

After a visit to Greensboro in 1998 to address the North Carolina Right to Life Conference, Brind met a former classmate who lived in Greensboro and had heard about his address. A physician who performs abortions, the classmate told Brind that he had heard about the cancer report and was reconsidering his stance on the issue.

"Who would think that at a ... Right to Life convention, you would give a talk that the people who actually do the abortions are going to hear about and are going to care about," Brind said. "But they do. They are listening. Our hard work is paying off."

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Faith celebrated with Forty Hours Devotion

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

REIDSVILLE — During a prayerful period known as the Forty Hours Devotion, parishioners at Holy Infant Church had the opportunity to reflect on their love for Jesus and carry on a centuries-old tradition of the church.

The rudiments of the exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can be found in the early Middle Ages. The faithful began falling away from frequent reception of the Eucharist due to convictions of personal unworthiness. Confessions were often harsh and generally reserved for the dying. Then, too, the faithful felt alienated from the Mass due to an atmosphere of coldness expressed by the priest's back to the people and the separation by railings and barriers of language.

Feeling excluded from the eucharistic sacrifice, there arose a desire to focus eyes and hearts upon the host as a means of fostering interior communion with Jesus in the mystery of the "real presence." This stems from custom, originating in the 13th century, of the priest elevating the bread and the wine after consecration.

To fulfill their desire to "see" the Risen Lord, the faithful would run from church to church to look at the elevated consecrated host and cup during Mass in the belief that it would provide physical and spiritual benefits. Eventually, this led to the spread of simple devotions that used local language and included the warmth of hymns and prayers, which fulfilled the needs of the people while centering on the adoration and worship of the Blessed Sacrament.

The Forty Hours Devotion is a practice that continues the late medieval eucharistic devotions connected with the sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Devotions spread rapidly throughout Europe and, according to St. Augustine, represents the length of time that Jesus would have laid in his tomb.

Today, the faithful are encouraged by the church to "watch one hour" with Christ. This is to extend the communion with Christ whom the faithful have received in the Eucharist. The devotion itself should start with a gesture of profound adoration (genuflection or bow). Asking the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts with his gift of love and praise, the faithful invoke Mary, the angels or saints to assist in uniting their interior being with the divine. In the silence of their hearts they love, praise and thank God for being who he is — for God says: "Be still and know that I am God." (Ps 46)

The faithful can say the rosary, favorite prayers, or just repeat a mantra like "Jesus, I love you" over and over again to ready their hearts for the presence of the Risen Lord. Much like basking in the sun, it is a time to soak up the Word of God who speaks the language of silence.

Should one become distracted, a return to the mantra allows one to sink back into the divine presence. The hour ends with thanksgiving for all that God has done or will do on one's behalf. Closure is with a profound gesture of profound adoration.

According to Father Christopher Davis, parochial administrator at Holy Infant Church, the weekend of June 22-24 is the ideal time for a Forty Hours Devotion at the parish, because it incorporates the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Birth of John the Baptist, as well as the 39th anniversary of the dedication of Holy Infant.

At Mass, in honor of the Sacred Heart, which initiated these Forty Hours, Father Eric Kowalski from Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro, who concelebrated with Father Davis, told of how this type of devotion was a yearly observance but has since fallen into disuse. But he hopes that there will be a resurgence and the Forty Hours will once again become the norm for the church.

Of those offering an hour of adoration are Mary Faint, who says this particular devotion brings her a "closeness to Jesus" she cannot find anywhere else but in the Eucharist.

Carol Leech states: "I am here because the real presence of Jesus is here. Now I can give back an hour to honor and thank him for all he did for us."

Danny Briggs tells of how little time he really finds to appropriately reflect on life and the eternal. He is using this time to "find the meaning of things — like why my Mom is suffering with cancer."

In all, there are many parishioners who take the hour to reflect on God and his goodness. This is why the parish of Holy Infant has come together for these Forty Hours: "To kneel or sit still before the 'Real Presence of Jesus' in order to totally love Him in the silence of our hearts."

After Benediction and evening prayer, the parish was invited to Lufty Hall for an ice cream social. There, the celebration continued with music and dancing. There, the Body of Christ continued to grow in love and kindness toward one another.

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SYLVA — Eucharistic adoration takes place every first Saturday at St. Mary Church, 22 Bartlett St., following 9 a.m. Mass until 3 p.m. For more information, call Annette Leporis at (828) 497-7464.

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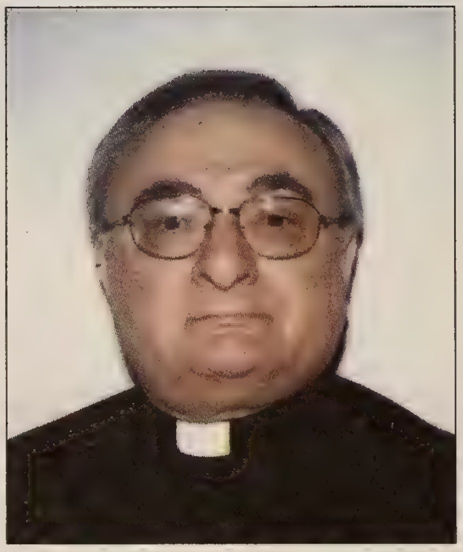
Lasting faith, spirituality lead faithful servant to diaconate

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Every time you look at a calculator, think of Rev. Mr. George Szalony. Why is he associated with an item that some people use every day? In the early 1970s, Rev. Mr. Szalony began working for Bowmar Instruments in Indiana as the head of purchasing and had a hand in developing and designing the first hand-held calculator, which sold for over $200 at that time.


Rev. Mr. George Szalony

"It was a rare experience to be a part of something that changes life. I marvel at how inexpensive calculators are nowadays," said Rev. Mr. Szalony.

From calculators to ice cream, electronic organs to dental equipment, Rev. Mr. Szalony has worked in a variety of professions all over the country. The sum total of his diverse life experiences have added to his ministry as a permanent deacon, something that he simply felt he needed to do.

"The permanent diaconate was the right thing to do at the right time, and I felt a calling to be more publicly active," explained Rev. Mr. Szalony, whose faith was instilled in him by his parents and his extended family.

He grew up during a time when less than 30 cents could provide public transportation anywhere in the heart of Chicago. The neighborhood church was within walking distance as were his relatives, so he and his brother and sister did not have to travel far for weekly reconciliation or for a treat and a hug and kiss from their grandmother or one of their aunts.

When he received Communion for the first time, he did not realize that his future wife was also receiving the sacrament in the same church. Even though the two did not officially meet until years later and had grown up near other, the youngsters' paths had crossed unbeknownst to them. A subway would be their next stop on their road to marriage.

After Catholic high school and after school jobs in his uncle's store and at a local dairy, he began taking night classes and worked as an engineering apprentice and later as a mechanical designer at an electronic organ company. During this time, he met his future wife, Chris, on a subway, and they recognized each other from the neighborhood. They were married in 1963, and Rev. Mr. Szalony received his bachelor's degree in sociology in 1969.

"Working in mechanical engineering introduced me to a different world and took me on a path very different from my father," said Rev. Mr. Szalony. "My father pushed me not to work in the factory where he worked."

The family moved to Indiana, where he helped bring the calculator to life and where he and his wife became involved in charismatic renewal and Cursillo. Keeping their spirituality at the forefront of their lives, they had also been a part of the Christian Family Movement. "It shaped our marriage and helped us to grow. We were associated with other married couples who came together to share their faith, much like small faith communities," said Rev. Mr. Szalony.

A promotion and a career change to sales and marketing with dental hand pieces sent the family back to Chicago. It was back in his home where he answered his call to the permanent diaconate, and he was ordained in 1982. He says that the support of his family and his wife's willingness to be involved with the formation offered the foundation that he needed.

"I knew that it was inevitable for him [to be involved with the permanent diaconate]. He had always been very committed to faith and was very idealistic about his faith, and it was one of the things that attracted me to him," said Mrs. Szalony. "I knew even as we courted that he would be involved in service."

Nearly a year later, he, his wife and three daughters relocated to Montana for Rev. Mr. Szalony to accept a position as a general manager of a company that manufactured dental hand pieces. His oldest daughter stayed behind to finish college in Illinois. He became involved with students the University of Montana through his work with their church, which served as the ministry center for the students and faculty of the college. He also performed other diaconate duties such as RCIA training, marriage preparation and adult education.

New Jersey was the next stop for the family, where Rev. Mr. Szalony continued with campus ministry and became involved with hospital ministry. Both Mr. and Mrs. Szalony say that they were able to move so many times and keep their family unit together through support and prayer. "We didn't let the moving overwhelm us. We just did things as a family and adjusted as best we could," said Rev. Mr. Szalony.

"Even though the house we lived in changed, we always brought home with us," added Mrs. Szalony.

The last stop for the family was Charlotte, and they have been living here since 1994. Rev. Mr. Szalony, now the manager of special markets for Pelton-Crane, is one of the permanent deacons at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and is the diocesan assistant director of formation for the permanent diaconate. He was asked to become assistant director after teaching in the program for several years, putting his master's degree in pastoral studies to use.

He is now preparing for the next class of aspirants in formation for the permanent diaconate in January 2002. Between his work and the permanent diaconate, he finds special time to have conversations with his five grandchildren.

"It has been an exciting time for us, and our children provide new insight into our faith and spirituality," said Mrs. Szalony. "The permanent diaconate has been an enriching experience in our lives."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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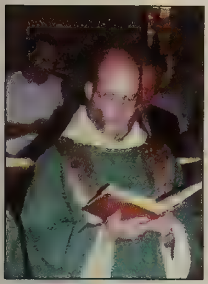
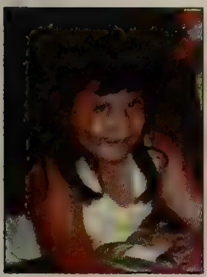
Inside

BMHS students journey to foreign exchange ... Page 4



Charlotte's oldest Catholic Church celebrates Benedictine influence ... Page 7

Local News



Camp Leo provides activities for summer slump ... Page 9

Preacher-musician to headline tent revival ... Page 16

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 10-11

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 12-13

> "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you."
>
> – Luke 11:9

Hispanic Ministry in Charlotte Diocese blossoms thanks to dedicated servants

By RICO De SILVA
Correspondent

Photo by Rico De Silva

Father Joe Waters prepares to baptize one of Holy Trinity Church's new parishioners in Taylorsville. Father Waters, who retires from active ministry this month, has been a fixture in Hispanic Ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte.

TAYLORSVILLE — The future of Hispanic ministry in the Hickory and Boone vicariates is now.

According to a Catholic News Service report from March 7, 2000, there has been an 84 percent increase in the number of Hispanics in the Charlotte Diocese over six years. The Hickory and Boone vicariates are no exception to this Hispanic population explosion.

The former administrator of Holy Trinity Church in Taylorsville, Father Joe Waters, is aware of this reality. Father Waters was appointed to Holy Trinity in 1988 by then-Bishop John F. Donoghue to do full-time Hispanic Ministry in the two vicariates.

Father Waters was ordained in 1956, and retired from active ministry this past July 9 after being a priest for 45 years.

Known as "Padre Jose" by the many Hispanics who populate this area, Father Waters is considered by laypeople, priests and religious as a pioneer in Hispanic Ministry in the Charlotte Diocese. According to Father Waters, the Hispanic presence in the vicariates has gone from mostly a few migrant workers in 1988 to a more stable community of mostly factory workers.

"In the beginning, you had to go out and find them in the farms; now, you have hundreds of people in church. In Hickory people are standing-room only," Father Waters said.

The rapid growth of the Hispanic community in this area has also created pastoral challenges for the church. Non-Catholic religions are actively pursuing Hispanic Catholics in this area of the Carolinas. According to Father Waters, these churches are being successful because their leaders are very active and well trained in their ministry, and he also recognized that large numbers of Hispanics are flocking to these churches.

"We're losing a lot of them," he said. "(Those of other faith traditions) are knocking on their doors, inviting and reaching out to them. That's something we all should be doing as Catholics," he said.

House visitation has been an integral part of Father Waters' success in bringing Hispanic Catholics back to church. "I find that people will come together if you invited them to come," he said. However, he added that house visitation on the part of the laity and not just the priest is crucial to attracting Hispanics to come to church.

The training of lay ministers and their involvement in Hispanic ministry are essential to meet the needs of this community. It is impossible for just the priest to reach out to everybody without any help from the lay community, he believes.

Franciscan Sister Andrea Inkrott is the coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the Hickory Vicariate, and works closely with Father Waters in the Hispanic community. She said there is not only a need to train lay ministers to work with the Hispanic community, but also "for them to work with the Anglo community to see how integration among both communities can take place."

Franciscan Sister Linda Scheckelhoff, coordinator of Hispanic Ministry for the Boone Vicariate, said there is a great need for priests to hear confessions in Spanish. She hopes to see more Hispanics and Spanish-speaking people answer the call to vocations.

Catechetical instruction among the Hispanic faithful in these vicariates is also essential to serve their present and future needs, Father Waters said. Generally, he believes, their religious instruction in their home countries is very poor and has usually ended after making their first Communion. Creating Bible study groups and prayer groups has helped the community get a better grasp on their faith, and has helped them become more integrated in the community.

However, Father Waters continues, the most important element for an effective Hispanic ministry is for clergy and religious leaders to be present to the people. "A big part of that is for them to feel like the Church is interested in them," he said.

This presence is what brought Evodio and Juana Rodriguez to the Sagrado Corazon de Jesus Mission in Dobson. Originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, and now living in Dobson, the Rodriguez family met Father Waters back in 1991, "when we had no water," Mr. Rodriguez said.

"Padre Jose asked us if we needed help; we said 'Yes.'"

Father Waters helped them get water, and after that he started picking them up every Sunday to go to Mass because "we didn't have a car then," Mr. and Mrs. Rodriguez said. Mr. Rodriguez is now an active lay minister in the Dobson mission.

When asked what was needed the most to meet the necessities of the Hispanic community in the Charlotte Diocese, Mrs. Rodriguez said with a smile, "For there to be many more Padres Joses."

Rico De Silva is a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte.

California tops all states in movie review line calls

WASHINGTON (CNS) — California topped all states in the number of calls placed last year to the toll-free movie review line sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign. Californians' 24,254 calls — and the 55,583 minutes they spent on the line — was more than double the calls placed in Pennsylvania and New York — the only other states with more than 10,000 calls. In all, according to a CCC announcement, 89,347 calls were placed last year to the movie line — (800) 311-4222 — and callers listened to 274,550 minutes of reviews and information about the CCC and its services.

Milwaukee archbishop says Curia official can't usurp his authority

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland, in a July 5 letter, vigorously defended his position on renovation of the Milwaukee cathedral and declared that the issues involved "touch the very nature of the church and how it functions." The letter, which was marked "personal" and sent to priests, parish directors and deacons of his archdiocese, became public when the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported on it July 11 and published the complete text on its Web site. The archbishop, in the letter, declared that Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, head of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, "has not proven that I broke any liturgical norms or canons in making the decisions that were rightfully mine to make as the local bishop of this church."

Latest news on embryo research said to show dangers ahead

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The news that a Virginia medical institute created and then destroyed dozens of embryos to obtain stem cells points up the need for the Bush administration to "step back from the brink" of funding any research involving the destruction of human embryos, an official of the U.S. bishops' conference said July 11. Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director for policy development at the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said it was "disturbing news" that the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine in Norfolk had created human embryos "solely to kill them for their stem cells." He said, "Those who have become accustomed to destroying 'spare' embryos for research now think nothing of taking the next horrible step — creating human life for the purpose of destroying it."

CNS photo from Reuters

Boys in north India work for less than $1 a day

Boys move bricks for less than $1 a day at a factory in the northern Indian city of Chandigarh, where many people live in poverty. Catholic groups were calling on leaders of the world's richest countries to listen to the voices of the poor ahead of the G-8 summit July 20-22 in Genoa, Italy.

Growers, farmworkers, organizers air concerns on agriculture

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — Growers, farmworkers, academics and organizers shared concerns and hopes about just wages, quality food, farm sustainability and the need for reliable labor with the U.S. bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Agricultural Issues during a two-day hearing in Sacramento. Participants told church leaders that the church has a role in bringing farmers and farmworkers together to work out contentious issues, and in educating policy-makers and consumers about alternatives to the dominant food production and marketing system in the United States. Sacramento Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Garcia, a member of the committee, and Stockton Bishop Stephen E. Blaire were among those at the conference, held in mid-June. The agricultural ad hoc committee has more hearings scheduled this year in Amarillo, Texas; Ames, Iowa; and Washington.

Indianapolis is focus of study on religion's impact

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — When scholars and clergy around the world want to study the impact of religion on a community, they likely will turn to Indianapolis. For the past six years, the Polis Center — a research center based on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis — has been studying religion in Indianapolis. "Because of what Polis has done over the last decade, there is absolutely no doubt that more is known about religion in Indianapolis than in any other city in the country," said Craig Dykstra, vice president of religion at the Lilly Endowment, which funded much of the research. Dykstra made the comments at a mid-June conference where some of the major findings of the Polis Project on Religious and Urban Culture were released.

Notre Dame center aims to reconnect 'good' and 'sport'

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (CNS) — A research and education center at the University of Notre Dame is trying to reconnect the word "good" with the word "sport." Parents fight each other over kids' hockey games, jocks bully nerds and nerds shoot back, and athletes skip college or don't graduate. No longer do people seem to think it's how you play the game — what matters is whether you win or lose. So David Light Shields and Brenda Light Bredemeier created the Mendelson Center for Sport, Character & Culture at the University of Notre Dame two years ago to help develop "a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good" in sports. They are trying to make sports a character-building experience for participants and offer cultural critiques of the role of sport in society.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

July 27 — 10:30 a.m.
Opening Mass of National Gathering for
Black Catholic Women
Adams' Mark Hotel, Charlotte

August 3 — 7:30 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte

August 5-9
International Knights of Columbus Convention
Toronto, Canada

August 12 — 4 p.m.
Celebrant and homilist at charismatic Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

August 15 — 7:30 p.m.
Feast of the Assumption Mass
and Conferral of Candidacy for diocesan seminarians
St. Patrick, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

July

29 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. Join other young adults for spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music provided by Kathy and David with Redeemed, fellowship and refreshments. For further information, group reservations and sponsorship opportunities, call Kathy Bartlett at (704) 614-9100.

31 MAGGIE VALLEY — Silence and quiet prayer will be the focus of a retreat that will be held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, beginning today through Aug. 6. Dominican Sisters Mary Pat Dewey and Mary Ann Ennis will discuss God's presence through centering prayer, meditation and simple listening. Morning prayer and daily Eucharist will include preaching on the daily readings. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

August

1 NATIONWIDE — There will be retreat opportunities with the Benedictines of Belmont Abbey in Belmont, N.C., the Trappists of the Gethsemani Trappist Abbey in Trappist, Ky. and at the Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, Ga. These vocational awareness retreats include work, prayer and conferences with the monks. The next retreats are taking place today through Aug. 15, Aug. 15-19 and Oct 17-21. Early registration is a must, and some restrictions may apply. Call toll free 1 (866)-548-3463 for more dates and further information.

2 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, will be meeting tonight and Aug. 16 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call Joanne Parcell at (336) 924-9478 or the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

Polish church leaders stay away from Jewish massacre commemoration

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Poland's bishops did not attend a public commemoration of a Polish villagers' massacre of Jews because they held an earlier private prayer meeting, said a spokesman for the Polish bishops' conference. "The bishops held their own prayer meeting, which served as a spiritual vigil and created a climate for this commemoration," said Jesuit Father Adam Szulc, the bishops' spokesman. "The church knows Poles were guilty and is waiting for the full truth. But it's also dealing with this matter more deeply and broadly," he said. Father Szulc spoke a day after July 10 ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of the wartime massacre in the town of Jedwabne.

Catholic, Muslim leaders agree to promote social responsibility

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic and Muslim leaders have promised to work together to educate their faithful on the responsibility each person bears for the good of society. "Religious values should be the basic starting point from which to direct humanity in such a way as to preserve human dignity and promote peaceful coexistence," said members of the Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee. The committee, led by Cardinal Francis Arinze, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, and Kamel al-Sharif, secretary general of the International Islamic Council for Da'wah and Relief, met at the Vatican in early July. A statement of agreements made during the committee's discussions on religion and dialogue in the age of globalization was released July 12.

Vatican says vacation is time to rest, learn about other cultures

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Vacations should be a time to rest, to learn about other cultures, to spend time with one's family and to appreciate God's creation, a Vatican office said. Tourism is a big business, with pastoral implications as well as an obvious economic impact, the Vatican said, noting that almost 700 million people vacationed outside their own country, and many more traveled domestically in 2000. The Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers published "Pastoral Orientations for Tourism" July 11. It encourages tourists to prepare for visits to other countries, be respectful of local cultures and religions, safeguard the environment and remember that a vacation should not mark a break from practicing one's faith.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Orangemen march toward barrier near Drumcree church
Protestant Orangemen march toward a security barrier near the Drumcree church in Portadown, Northern Ireland, July 8. A razor-wire blockade prevented the march from entering the mainly Catholic area along Garvaghy Road.

Tribunal could turn Milosevic into martyr, warns Jesuit in Serbia

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic could be "turned into a martyr" if tried for genocide by the U.N. war crimes tribunal, said the head of Serbia's Jesuit community. Jesuit Father Lorant Kilbertus, who has headed the Yugoslav republic of Serbia's small Jesuit community since 1991, spoke with Catholic News Service in a telephone interview from Yugoslavia. "It's in people's mentality here to create as many martyrs as possible," he said. "When Milosevic appeared before the tribunal, he spoke very clearly, without exaggerated emotions, as someone 100 percent certain of his own rightness. This has inspired people to rally around him again."

Pope urges astronomers to continue probing mysteries of the sky

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II encouraged astronomers to continue probing the mysteries of the nighttime sky, saying the study of stars could lead to the betterment of humanity. "Your astrophysical research is not a luxury remote from the daily concerns of people and irrelevant to the building of a more humane world," he said in a July 2 message to students and scientists at a summer astrophysics school hosted by the Vatican Observatory. "What you do as scientists is important for all of us, especially when your empirically grounded vision of reality leads to an understanding of the human person as an integral element in the created universe," he said. A copy of the pope's message was released at the Vatican July 6.

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Ecumenical institute in Jerusalem to close for reorganization

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Ratisbonne Institute, which eventually developed into an ecumenical center for Christian-Jewish relations, will be closing its doors for a two-year "reorganization" as of mid-July. "We are suspending the academic program for two years — we are not closing the institute and there will be other, nonacademic lectures and seminars taking place as there have been in the past," said acting rector Marianist Father Charles Miller, who took up the post at the end of June. He said the decision was made because of the institute's increasing debt. In addition, enrollment at the institute has dropped to 30 this year and is scheduled for 17 for the next academic year, from 50 two years ago.

5 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

5 CHARLOTTE — Christopher West, director of marriage and family life in the Archdiocese of Denver, Colo., will be the guest speaker at a program for teens and adults entitled "John Paul II's 'Theology of the Body.'" The session will be held at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., from 2-4 p.m., and West will discuss the pope's revolutionary teachings on marriage and sexuality. For details, call the church office at (704) 543-7677.

5 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

6 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Aug. 7 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

6 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass with Father Joseph Kelleher tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Sept. 3 with Father John Putnam. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

8 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-9592 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

9 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas and school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on Aug. 26 and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Aug. 26 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

12 CHARLOTTE — Bishop Curlin will be the celebrant and homilist at the charismatic Mass being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

22 CHARLOTTE — Just 1 Call is a service being made available to people in Mecklenburg County in order to find medical and related services in Charlotte and surrounding areas. Two sessions will be held for all senior adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., this morning from 10-11 a.m. and at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Aug. 23, from 10-11 a.m. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry, at (704) 370-3220.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

BMHS students journey to foreign exchange

By MICHAEL STREICH

Special to the Catholic News & Herald

COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: The group poses at St. Patrick's Rock in Cashel. Left: Corey Ketcham, Patrick Schoolmeester and Brad Shepherd, with Kylemore Abbey in the background.

WINSTON-SALEM — On a chilly, misty afternoon in late June, several Bishop McGuinness High School students stood in front of a 200-year-old Irish schoolhouse at the Ulster Cultural Park in Northern Ireland.

They were amazed at the simplicity of education two centuries ago, all the more since they were students themselves, benefiting from the opportunity to travel beyond their modern classrooms in order to experience history and foreign culture first hand.

As Bishop McGuinness High School prepares to move to a new facility this fall, the tradition of foreign exchange through summer travel abroad continues. In past years, student groups have visited almost every corner of Europe, as well as Australia.

This year, students and parents traveled to Ireland and Scotland for 15 days. Because student travel has become more affordable than ever, more students are able to enrich their classroom experiences by actually traveling to the places they read about.

"I will never forget the trip to Ireland," said student Jessica Enos. "It was a unique experience in which I was able to experience places — the Giant Causeway, the Cliffs of Moher, the city of Dublin — that I had only heard about or seen in books."

Enos said the journey involved more than just the sights, though. "Our group was lucky enough to experience Irish culture first hand," she said. " ... On the first night that we stayed in Kerry, we were given the opportunity to watch Irish singing and dancing, which was performed by local teen-age girls. Their talent was amazing."

On the second day in Dublin, the group journeyed south to the old sixth-century monastic ruin at Glendalough. Here, almost 1,500 years ago, St. Kevin established one of the first learning centers in Ireland. Students walked among the old tombstones, stopping briefly in the old stone chapel which was the only permanent structure when St. Kevin's monks first established their community.

In addition to the castles, cathedrals and Druidic stone circles, the group experienced breathtaking natural wonders from the Giant's Causeway in Donegal to the Ring of Kerry. In Killarney, they made the arduous trek to the top of Blarney Castle to kiss the stone.

But beyond the sites were the people and the warm Irish hospitality.

In Londonderry, students spoke briefly with local teens about the ongoing tensions. While in Derrydane the tour director organized a game of kickball, which attracted adults and children from the locality. Such activities showed the group that everyone can work together and play together.

After a final day in Dublin, 17 members of the group continued the journey to Scotland, crossing the Irish Sea and landing in Wales. One of the first stops was historic Conway Castle, an overwhelming relic of Edward I's attempt to pacify the Welsh peoples during the late-13th century. After a day in the Lake District — which included a tour of William Wordsworth's home, Dove Cottage — the group entered Scotland.

In Edinburgh, students toured the imposing castle, site of the largest military parade in the world, the Edinburgh Tattoo. Following an afternoon at St. Andrew's, the group continued into the Highlands, spending two days at Fort William and driving into the Hebrides to the Isle of the Skye. The return to Edinburgh was enlivened with a visit to the William Wallace memorial and Stirling Castle.

Students experienced more than just the sites: They ate unfamiliar foods such as haggis and local seafood; they watched a parade of Orangemen; they met people with different cultural experiences.

For the McCurry family, the Ireland part of the tour was a dream come true. The parents had visited Ireland after they were married. This was an opportunity to share those earlier experiences with their five children.

"What a treat it was to share Ireland with our five children," said Darcy McCurry. "It was a trip of a lifetime that will be remembered by all of us.

"We were lucky enough to have a wonderful bus driver from County Cork. His twinkling eyes and charming sense of humor made the journey all the more special. He shared the Irish music and his local wisdom to make the trip extraordinary. As we passed 'Ladies' View,' a gorgeous area in the Ring of Kerry, he suddenly stopped the bus in the middle of the road, opened the bus door, and went barrelling out to catch two leprechauns that he had seen.

"Such excitement was to the liking of our 10-year-old twins. He made believers out of all of us."

Two other families on the tour also returned home with many memories of sharing a wonderful 15 days with their children.

Although the foreign tours are not school sponsored, teachers at Bishop McGuinness have made such tours available to the school community for many years. Both the language and history departments have enabled students and adults to travel to distant lands.

Upcoming tours include Australia and Fiji and the summer of 2002, a summer 2002 tour to London, Paris and Rome, and a 13-day German tour with a focus on the Holocaust in 2003.

The goal of the tours is to take the classroom abroad, to create academic as well as fun adventures that seek to increase understanding.

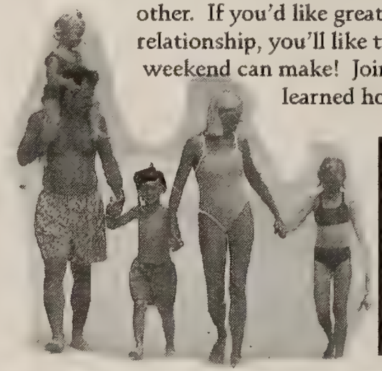
Summer foreign tours are an integration of the general curriculum. They are a way for students to touch the Rosetta Stone or see first hand the Code of Hammurabi. They take students to remote corners of the world and challenge participants to create a world of understanding and harmony.

Foreign exchanges direct lives, something Catholic education does very well. Summer tours are open to everyone in the BMHS community — students, parents and friends.

Led by professionals — teachers who are experts in their fields — these tours are both enriching and challenging. They are a tribute to the ongoing focus of Bishop McGuinness High School.

"Ireland for me was peaceful place rich with history ... truly a classroom abroad. The short nine days that my family and I spent there will certainly stick in my mind for the rest of my life," said Charlie McCurry Jr. "I was very fortunate to be allowed the opportunity to travel. You could not put a price on the chance to delve into the history of your ancestors' country."

Michael Streich teaches history at Bishop McGuinness High School.



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Sisters of Mercy of N.C. Foundation announces $1.36 million in grants

CHARLOTTE — Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation announces grant awards totaling $1,367,045 to 28 nonprofit organizations located in 13 North Carolina counties.

The grant funds will be used for a wide variety of purposes by the organizations. Supported programs include affordable housing, children's services, crisis assistance, environmental issues, health care, immigration assistance, job training, legal assistance, services to the elderly and social services.

The organizations are as follows.

A Child's Place, Charlotte, will receive a grant of $110,000 over three years for salary support for a Spanish-speaking social worker. **Adoption Options, Inc.**, Charlotte, will receive $25,000 to provide start-up support for staff salaries. **Adult Life Programs**, Hickory, will receive $50,000 to provide furnishings and equipment for a new adult day care facility. **Bakersville Community Medical Clinic**, Bakersville, will receive a three-year grant of $63,000 to support a part-time coordinator for the Mitchell Community Health Partnership.

BRIDGE Jobs Program, Inc., Charlotte, will receive $22,011 to be used in the purchase of a 15-passenger van. **Cabarrus Cooperative Christian Ministry**, Concord, will receive a $55,000 grant over two years to provide salary support for the addition of a night shelter case manager. **Catawba County Hispanic Ministry**, Hickory, will receive $15,000 to help provide for start-up costs. **Cherokee Boys Club for the Cherokee Center for Family Services**, Cherokee, will receive a grant of $23,895 to help fund the salary for a "floating" staff teacher for the Agelink Childcare Center.

Child Care Resources, Inc., Charlotte, will receive a three-year grant of $75,000 for salary support for an early childhood specialist. **Children & Family Resource Center**, Hendersonville, will receive $25,000 for general operating expenses. **Community Progress Association of Union Mills**, Union Mills, will receive $25,000 for start-up expenses for a computer laboratory and tutoring services. **Crisis Assistance Ministry of Christians and Jews of Greater Gastonia**, Gastonia, will receive a two-year grant of $60,000 for general operating support.

Dilworth Center for Chemical Dependency, Charlotte, will receive $25,000 to help provide for start-up costs for an adolescent treatment program. **Doctors Care, Inc.**, Winston-Salem, will receive $40,000 for operating support and to help fund the purchase of equipment and exam-room modifications. **Exodus Outreach Foundation, Inc.**, Hickory, will receive $25,000 for general operating support. **Family Visitation Center Group, Inc.**,

See MERCY GRANTS, page 14

Youth Rally expected to draw thousands

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

FORT MILL, S.C. — Organizers of a youth and young adult faith rally hope thousands of people will attend the Catholic evangelical event in September to celebrate their faith.

Good News Ministries of North Carolina — Charlotte is organizing the High School / Young Adult Youth Power Rally for Sept. 8 from 12:30-8:30 p.m. at the Charlotte Hornets Training Center in Fort Mill, S.C. Music, talks, testimonies, skits, food and liturgy will highlight the day.

Good News Ministries is working on the event in cooperation with the youth and young adult ministries of the Atlanta Province: the Archdiocese of Atlanta, and the dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah.

Interest in the event was sparked following the well-attended FIRE Rally at Belmont Abbey College in September 1999. More than 500 young people came to the youth rally that was part of that evangelical event.

The Youth Power Rally will focus on four themes, taken from the pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "faith power," focusing on the creed; "Gospel power," focusing on morality; "Mass power," focusing on the sacraments; and "prayer power," focusing on prayer.

Featured speakers and musicians include Bishop William G. Curlin of Charlotte, who will preside at the liturgy; Diocese of Charlotte priests Fathers Matthew Leonard and Matthew Kauth; Franciscan Father Paul Williams, who serves in the Charleston Diocese; EWTN's "Life on the Rock" co-hosts Jeff Cavins and Catherine Rumore; Matt Pinto, author of "Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?"; Kathy and David with the band Redeemed; and Christian recording artist Steve Angrisano, who will serve as master of ceremonies.

Scott Walters, spokesperson for Good News Ministries, said people's interest in being part of the event has been inspiring.

"Doors kept on opening and opening, and here we are, having an event," he said. "We're really pumped up to be able to bring this. This is truly the work of the Lord. We're just the messengers here; we're just the hands and the feet."

Walters said the event is designed not only to invite young people to celebrate their faith on that day, but to inspire them to be an active part of their parishes back home, too.

"This is a significant event in that we are trying to bring young people from across five dioceses together to celebrate their Catholicity," Walters added. "They need to know that there is a real Catholic presence in the South, and coming together like this and having some good talks, praise and worship will help with that.

"This will be a day when they can enjoy themselves and meet other youth who are also Catholic and share the same beliefs. Hopefully, the people who attend this event will bring back a feeling of 'wow.' What we really want to bring home is that Jesus does love them very, very, very much."

To register online, visit the Web site at www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews. Registration deadline is Aug. 25. Youth under age 18 must include a consent form from their home parish.

For further information, call (704) 521-9949.

The Elephant in the Courtroom

An adult education curriculum exploring issues of race and justice in the state of North Carolina and touching on themes of community, forgiveness and action.

Based on a report by the North Carolina Council of Churches' Task Group on Racism and Restorative Justice. A Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation grant makes this curriculum available free of charge by contacting the Council at 919-828-6501.

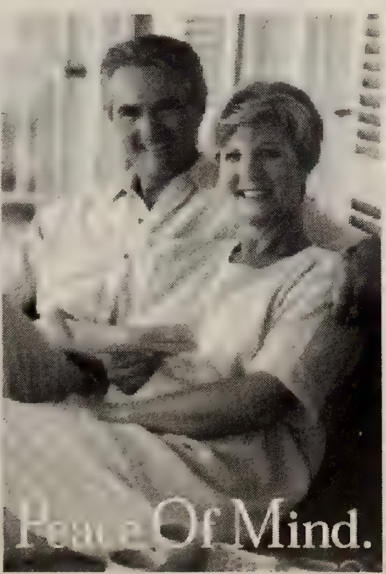
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PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Service with HEART

Bishop William G. Curlin presided at the closing Mass of the Catholic HEART Work Camp at Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School in Charlotte July 6. The service and evangelization projects are hosted at sites throughout the nation each summer. The Charlotte group comprised 310 participants from many states. In his homily, Bishop Curlin urged the group to take their faith-filled experiences back to their own communities to more fully experience God's living presence today.

NBA assist leader gets big assist from his faith

HAMMOND, Ind. (CNS) — At 6-foot-1 and 175 pounds, wearing a Polo shirt and shorts, John Stockton looks more like a dad ready for a barbecue than a perennial National Basketball Association all-star and two-time Olympian. During 17 seasons with the Utah Jazz, the Catholic Stockton has learned several things about sports and life, including: Hang in there. "Find something you enjoy. If you enjoy it, play every minute you can," Stockton told 130 youths at a basketball camp July 7 at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond. The camp was run by his former coach, Kerry Pickett, a northwest Indiana native. Since being drafted in 1984 out of Gonzaga University in Washington state, Stockton has carved an NBA career marked by unselfish yet aggressive play.

Congressional medal for Cardinal O'Connor awarded to his family

NEW YORK (CNS) — The sister of the late New York Cardinal John J. O'Connor accepted a Congressional Gold Medal in her brother's name during a July 10 ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral. President Bush, in presenting the medal, said future generations would know Cardinal O'Connor, who died last year, as a man who left a mark on his time as a defender of the faith, a cheerful giver and a good person. Bush joined House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Rep. Vito Fossella, R-N.Y., in talking about Cardinal O'Connor's impact before giving the specially designed gold medal to the late cardinal's sister, Mary Ward, and his successor in New York, Cardinal Edward M. Egan.

Jesuit evangelizes through novels, poetry, song

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jesuit Father Jesus Juan Diaz Vilar is a one-man multimedia operation. To evangelize Hispanic youths he pens novels, composes music, rhymes poetry and gives concert/conferences. "The new evangelization needs new methods and a new ardor," he said of his Spanish-language endeavors. The aim is to reach Hispanics who don't go to church and have to face life's dramatic turning points such as drug addiction, AIDS, divorce and alcoholism, he told Catholic News Service in an early July telephone interview. Through music, rhyme and story line "you can give indirect messages: how God heals our hearts; how Jesus can give strength to live through drug addiction," said Father Diaz, who lives in Jersey City, N.J., at St. Peter's College but spends most of his time on the road.

She's 99 and still makes pies for a living

LEECHBURG, Pa. (CNS) — Around town Domenica Roppolo is known as "Nota" or "the pie lady" for baking pies for a Leechburg restaurant. Roppolo turned 99 on June 29 and still works part time. She also remains active in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and is the last surviving charter member of the group's local court, or chapter, founded 75 years ago. She works three half-days a week, baking an average of 12 pies a day. She tried retiring two years ago, but returned to work within a week. The 99-year-old baker attributes her longevity to the fact she does work. "I'm not happy if I'm not working," she said. "I get up in the morning, say my prayers and the rosary. Then I'm ready to go to work."

Niece of beatified Ukrainian priest recalls his unselfish acts

WEBSTER, N.Y. (CNS) — When the Nazis imprisoned Father Emilian Kowcz in the Majdanek concentration camp in Poland, he spurned all attempts to get him released. "Don't waste your efforts," he wrote his bishop. "I cannot leave here because I am needed. These unfortunate people — thousands of them — need me." On June 27, Father Kowcz (sometimes spelled Kovch) was among the 27 martyrs of Ukraine's Eastern Catholic churches beatified by Pope John Paul II in Lviv, Ukraine. "From what I've read about him, he must have been a marvelous man," said Father Kowcz's niece, Christina Kowcz, of Webster. She is a parishioner at St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Irondequoit, which is part of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, Conn. "He was always putting others before himself," added Kowcz.

God expects us to sing, liturgical music composer says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite some people's dismissive comments about others' singing ability, God expects us to sing, Scottish liturgical music composer John Bell said at a July 3 workshop at the National Association of Pastoral Musicians' convention in Washington. "We sing because we can," Bell said in answer to the workshop's title, "Why Do People Sing?" He recounted a story about being told at age 17 "in front of the whole school" that he could not sing. He guessed that his teacher was 22 years old at the time. "I am much older than she was when she told me — more than twice as old," said Bell, now 51. "I will not let her dominate my life any longer."

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Charlotte's oldest Catholic church celebrates Benedictine influence

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — As Jean Mueller walked to the rectory of St. Peter Church in Charlotte, she did not know what to expect. It was winter in 1955, and she wanted to ask the pastor about joining the parish. The door opened, and Benedictine Father Edward Biss answered. Mueller remembered that the "gruff, old priest" welcomed her wholeheartedly into the parish with comforting words and an arm around the shoulder. That was her first experience with the Benedictine order who staffed the parish for nearly 80 years.

"He [Father Biss] is the one that most of us remember. He was an Army sergeant-type who took his religion very seriously, but he was gentle and kind," said Mrs. Mueller about the last Benedictine priest to be pastor of the church. "The Benedictines are such large part of our history."

Father Biss and other Benedictines who served the church were honored and remembered at a liturgy on July 8. Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, spiritual and administrative leader of Belmont Abbey and chancellor of Belmont Abbey College, as representative of the Benedictine community, joined Jesuit Father Joe Sobierajski, pastor, for the first of three liturgies in honor of the church's sesquicentennial anniversary year.

Father Sobierajski told his congregation about the significance of the Benedictines at the 150-year-old parish. "We're very pleased and honored to have Abbot Placid with us today as a representative of the men of Belmont Abbey who served this parish with so much love for so many years. The Benedictines are significant for us here and through North Carolina; moreover, they were the primary presence in this area. St. Peter has a 77-year history of being shepherded by the Benedictines, and that influence is important."

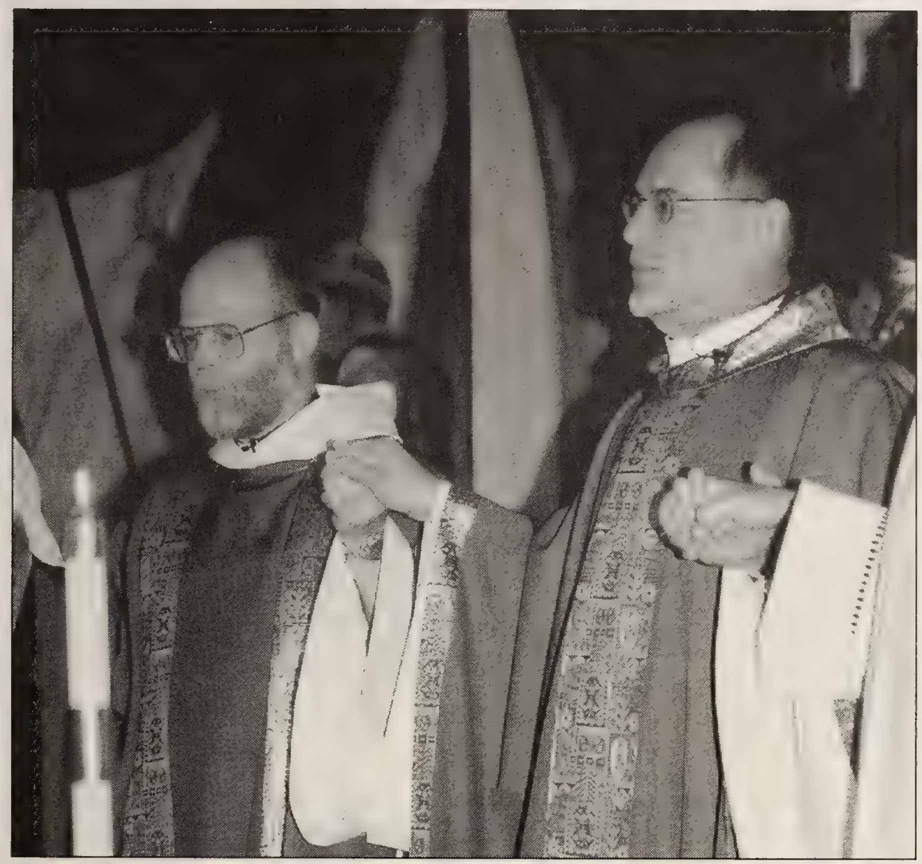

Photo by Alesha M. Price

From left to right, Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, and Jesuit Father Joe Sobierajski join hands to pray the Our Father at a Mass at St. Peter Church in honor of the Benedictine Fathers who served as pastors from 1892 through 1969.

In his homily, Abbot Placid expressed his "gratitude and appreciation to the entire church community for this celebration by inviting me here today in recognition of those monks, my confreres, who, in years past, served this community."

The abbot told the parishioners that he felt he was coming full circle because Father Jeremiah J. O'Connell, church founder and the priest who laid the church cornerstone on St. Patrick's Day in 1851, also donated property purchased in Belmont to the Benedictine monks to establish Belmont Abbey in 1876.

Other longtime parishioners, whose memories of St. Peter Church span over 70 years, agreed that the Benedictines left their mark in the church in various ways. Rachel O'Daniel came to Charlotte in 1945 for nurses' training and said that she wanted to come back to the parish for Mass and other activities because she was always welcomed.

"The Benedictines were so friendly and caring. They made me feel at home, and I seemed to belong here," said Mrs. O'Daniel, whose husband converted to Catholicism under Benedictine Father Tim Flaherty, Father Biss's assistant. "They had a large influence on our lives, and I am very grateful for what they have done for my family."

Joe Salem attended O'Donoghue School, named after Dr. Dennis O'Donoghue, a church benefactor, in the late 1930s and early 1940s and remembers the Benedictines as being strict disciplinarians along with the Sisters of Mercy who staffed the school. The school was once located on the church grounds and is now St. Patrick School nearby. Salem recalls Benedictine Father Maurice McDonnell who was pastor from 1936 to 1949.

"It seemed like Father McDonnell was 6 feet and 9 inches tall with four feet of shoulders when I was a youngster. I remember that the priest and nuns were very strict and serious about religion but were very friendly. Father Biss was frequently at our home for dinner when I was growing up."

The Mass in honor of the Benedictines is the first of three liturgies during a year filled with historical exhibits compiled by Steven "Chip" Long, church historian, and social activities to celebrate 150 years of Catholicism in uptown Charlotte. In October, a Mass will be celebrated in honor of the Jesuits who have served the parish since 1986. Bishop William G. Curlin will preside at a Mass on January 2002 in honor of the consecration and first liturgy celebrated in the church 150 years ago, said Father Sobierajski.

"We consider those three things a part of our spiritual roots as a diocesan parish that has continued to grow, and we are trying to celebrate those roots throughout this 150th year," said Father Sobierajski. "St. Peter is a wonderfully involved parish, one that people are a part of because they want to be. People come from all over to be here because they like the liturgy and the spirit of the congregation."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Mercy Sister Mary Patricia Doyle dies at age 86

GASTONIA — Mercy Sister Mary Patricia Doyle, who was in her 67th year as a Sister of Mercy, died Tuesday, July 10, 2001, at Gaston Memorial Hospital. She was 86.

Sister Patricia was born Dec. 9, 1914, in Savannah, Ga. Her secular name was Teresa Ann Doyle. She took the name Sister Mary Patricia upon entering the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy on June 7, 1933.

She was received as a Sister of Mercy on Jan. 2, 1934.

Upon her entrance with the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Patricia served as a substitute teacher at the parochial schools in Newton Grove, N.C. In August 1935 she entered Mercy School of Nursing in Charlotte, and graduated as a registered nurse in 1938. From 1939-1948, she served at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville, as a nursing supervisor in several departments.

In 1948, Sister Patricia retuned to school. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing education in 1949 from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and in 1953 earned her master's degree from that same institution.

In the period between her graduate student years, she managed to serve as supervisor of the obstetrics/gynecology unit and as a clinical instructor in anatomy and physiology at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte. In 1956, she was asked to return to St. Joseph's Hospital where she served as supervisor of numerous departments, including the pediatric and medical/surgical units. She also ministered as assistant director, and later as director of nursing services, at that facility.

It was not until 1966 that she returned to Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, where she was named director of nursing services. In 1970, she returned to school, this time as clinical coordinator in surgical nursing at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During her last year in Chapel Hill, she served as triage nurse representing the surgical department.

Upon her return to Belmont in 1974 and until the college closed in 1987, she served as a nurse consultant for Sacred Heart College as well as at the college's Testing and Diagnostic Center. In 1978, Sister Patricia was appointed administrative assistant and nurse consultant to the Mary Dore Center for Human Potential, Inc., in Charlotte.

In spite of her busy schedule, Sister Patricia remained active in the Kappa chapter of Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society of Nursing; the American Nursing Association; the Mental Health Association; and the North Carolina Counseling and Guidance Association.

As a member of the American Society for Hospital Nursing Service Administrators, she served on the board of directors as well as serving as chairperson for the group's Nominating Committee, its Executive Committee, the Committee on Membership Promotion and the Committee on Legislation. In addition, she served on the board of directors of the North Carolina State Nurses' Association. She was actively involved in the Medical Advisory Board of Educational Films, the American Red Cross, and the Planning Council of Mecklenburg's Technical Advisory Committee.

Sister Patricia was a member of the board of directors of Mercy Hospital in Charlotte; was chairperson for the Community Education Development Committee of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina; and was a visiting lecturer on health concerns in diocesan secondary schools. In addition, she conducted a five-year study of the correlation of Nursing State Board examination scores with the admissions policies at a school of nursing. Following the list of accomplishments, it comes as no surprise that in 1978 she was named to "Who's Who in the Southwest."

Sister Patricia's quick wit and sense of humor were her hallmark.

Sister Patricia was the daughter of the late James Patrick Doyle and Mary Teresa Haverty Doyle. She is survived by a brother, William J. Doyle, and a sister, Clara Doyle McDonough, both of Savannah; several nieces and nephews; and numerous grandnieces and grandnephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Fred A. Doyle Sr.

A wake service was held Thursday, July 12, 2001, at the Sisters of Mercy Marian Center, adjacent to Mercy Administration Center in Belmont. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Friday, July 13, 2001, at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Belmont Abbey. Burial followed at the Belmont Abbey Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, Sacred Heart Convent, 100 Mercy Drive, Belmont, N.C. 28012-4805.

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Camp Leo provides activities for summertime slump

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

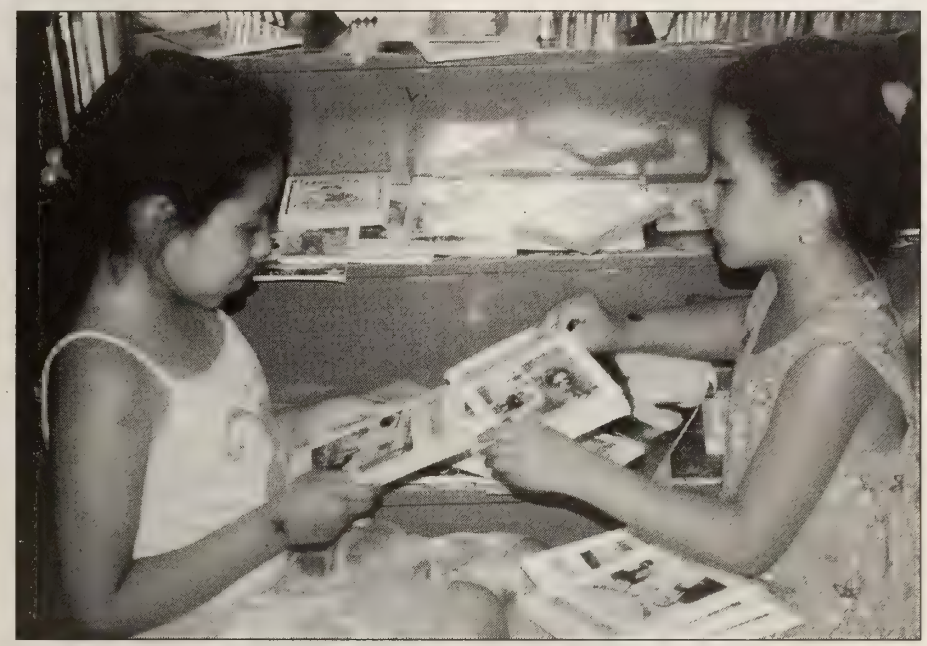
WINSTON-SALEM — Hispanic students in the Piedmont-Triad area are taking advantage of a church camp that is providing education, fun and fellowship during a time when kids find themselves complaining of boredom. Sister of St. Joseph Joan Pearson is running the fifth-annual Camp Leo at St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem for five weeks this summer, and children ages 5-12 are taking part in reading with books donated by the local library, Bible study, physical activities, arts and crafts and other educational, spiritual and social activities.

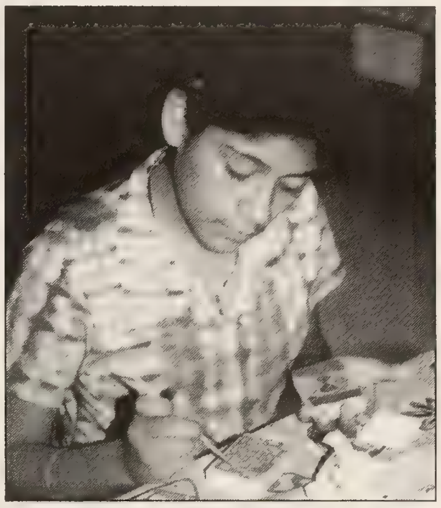
Sister Joan says that she has been overwhelmed by the support and donations she has received and is grateful to the church and all of the volunteers who have helped to make the camp a success including the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School District, the Forsyth County Library, the YMCA of Greater Winston-Salem, local 4-H volunteers, Scout Troops and various church groups. Over 160 children participated last year, and she expects this year's attendance to be similar.

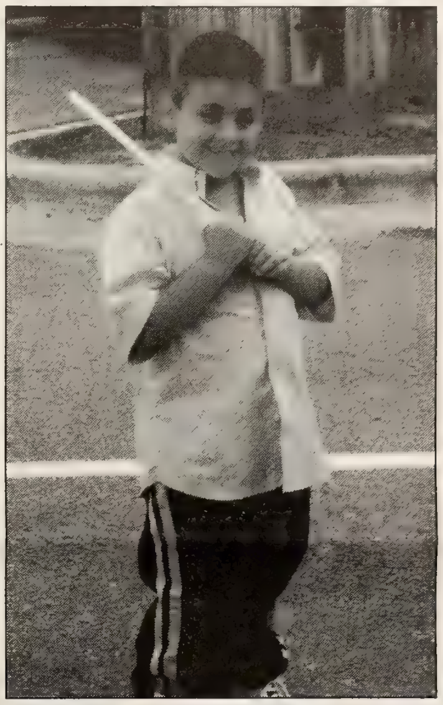
The children are placed into age groups, and their teen volunteer counselors help rotate them through the activities from relay races and neighborhood walks outside and reading from bilingual books in the library corner to breakfast, snacks and lunch to painting and drawing in one of the church's annex buildings.

"I am stunned at the cooperation that people have given. It started out as a wonderful little idea that has grown tremendously. I know from the parents that they feel their kids are being cared for," said Sister Joan. "This helps the kids bridge their summer, and the teachers have told me that they have seen a difference when they go back to school."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.







Photos by Alesha M. Price

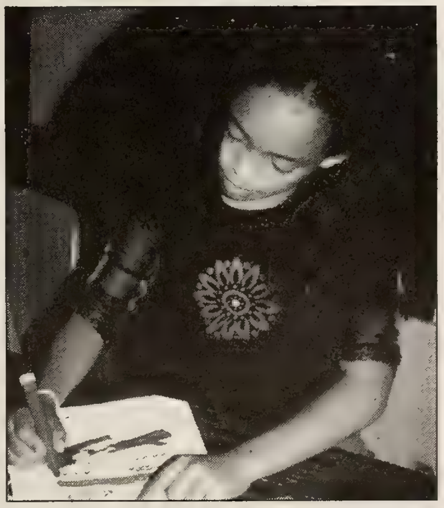
Above, Perla Cortez and Viviana Montes, both age 7, trade books during library time.

Above left, Esmerelda Nuñez, 12, paints the rose she drew onto a block of wood to be placed into old cigarette machines across the country as part of an arts initiative.

At right, 6-year-old Fenix Expirrou smiles while playing stick ball with a friend during free time after lunch.

Bottom right, 9-year-old Iris Mendoza concentrates on her drawing during the 4-H activity.

Below, from left to right, Joel Shacon, Cesár Leon and Alex Moreno, all age 7, collectively try to solve a puzzle during library time.



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Book Review

Grisham's latest is authentic tale of rural life in the '50s

By JOSEPH R. THOMAS
Catholic News Service

Frankly, I had been avoiding John Grisham's "A Painted House" (Doubleday, $27.95) because his last couple of offerings, while popular (the man has a devoted following), were pot-boilers at best, and "A Painted House," being a cotton-field saga far removed from the courthouse venues he favors, I was fearful of terminal ennui.

"A Painted House" does move at the pace of an aging hound dog searching for shade, but it is Grisham doing what he does quite well when he puts his mind to it: presenting a character the reader can relate to while telling a straightforward story.

In this case the character is the narrator, 7-year-old Luke Chandler, and Grisham nicely evokes rural Arkansas in the early 1950s. The action takes place on the Chandler farm and in the nearby village of Black Oak (population 300) as the Chandlers, after hiring Mexican migrants and the downtrodden Spruill family from the Ozark hill country, set out to harvest their cotton in a race against the expected autumnal rains.

Heavy rains come early, however, and with them, flooding, which short-circuits the harvest. To some extent this justifies the interminable talk about the weather, the talk often enough holding up the pace of the story, which is not so much about the vagaries of farming as about Luke's emergence into the ambiguities of the adult world around him.

Luke at this time is buoyed by Baptist certainties about what is right and what is wrong, sustained by dreams of playing baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals and buffeted by nightly fears for the safety of his heroic-sized uncle, who has been more like a big brother and is now under fire with American troops in Korea.

Into this world, also inhabited by Luke's parents and grandparents, step the Spruills, including a seductive teen-age daughter, a thuggish son, another son who "ain't quite right," two Spruill nephews, and the Mexicans, among them one with a surly attitude and a nasty switchblade knife.

Once the principals are in place, Luke is poised to see and hear more than he should and suddenly finds himself burdened with secrets and anxieties he's not prepared for. He is witness to a brutal Saturday afternoon fight in which one man is stomped to death, is set acquiver by Tally Spruill's nakedness, learns that his uncle is being identified as the father of a child born during the obligatory birthing drama that is a fixture of farm epics, and sees one man kill another.

The more secrets he learns, the more isolated he feels because the moral absolutes to which he is tethered have become nuanced and the nuances pose choices he's ill-equipped to contend with because the secrets are not really his alone and to talk about them would seemingly involve risk to himself or others, most especially his mother.

While some of the characters are stereotypical, most are nicely sketched and Grisham makes us care about all but a few as he weaves a few subplots — the painting of the farmhouse is one — into the main tale. His depiction of the era's insular small-town life — church socials, the division of labor, Saturday go-to-town rituals, the escapism of the baseball season — rings with an authenticity that Grisham sometimes has ignored in the past in a quest for nonstop tension.

Word to Life

July 22, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15:2-5
2) Colossians 1:24-28
3) Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

The local Refugee and Immigration Services staff told me my first assignment as a volunteer English tutor would be "a real challenge." They said Maria, who had come to the United States from northern Iraq with her husband and six children, wasn't motivated to learn English and had the added limitation of not being able to read or write even her native language.

We've been together for a year and a half, and Maria still has only a rudimentary grasp of the English language. However, now she is motivated to learn and doesn't shy away from trying to make herself understood or ask questions in English. But it seems that she should have better conversation skills by this time.

I've tried to make our sessions more structured so Maria will learn the language better. I want her to gain skills in English so she can confidently make her way in her new American community. I remind myself that this is my most important role with her. Or is it?

My relationship with Maria has helped me understand this week's Gospel and what Jesus wanted Martha to understand: the importance of being present to one another and to him.

When Maria and I began our sessions, we simply spent time getting to know each other, looking at family albums and speaking our own languages. Then I included "lessons" to cover basic concepts and vocabulary.

But once Maria felt comfortable talking with me, it became hard to keep her "on task." She wanted to learn more English, but mostly she wanted to visit, to talk about her home and taking care of her children. She wanted to tell me about their progress in school and about her husband's job and about discipline problems with a teen-age daughter.

I realized that, more than the occasional food or household items I bring, or even the alphabet and English lessons, the valuable element of our visits is our growing relationship. When I go to her home each week to speak English, we are friends being together — laughing, worrying, caring about each other's lives and sharing a mutual love.

Maria is a wife and mother far from her homeland — uprooted three times over the last 10 years. She needs a friend more than she needs proper syntax. So do I.

QUESTION:

What tasks, even those serving others, have stifled or crowded out a developing relationship with someone — or with God?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of July 22-28

Sunday, Genesis 18:1-10a, Colossians 1:24-28, Luke 10:38-42; **Monday (St. Bridget of Sweden),** Exodus 14:5-18, Matthew 12:38-42, **Tuesday,** Exodus 14:21 - 15:1, Matthew 12:46-50; **Wednesday (St. James),** 2 Corinthians 4:7-15, Matthew 20: 20-28; **Thursday (Sts. Joachim and Anne),** Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b, Matthew 13:10-17; **Friday,** Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 13:18-23; **Saturday,** Exodus 24:3-8, Matthew 13:24-30

Readings for the week of July 29-August 4

Sunday, Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13; **Monday (St. Peter Chrysologus),** Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34, Matthew 13:31-35; **Tuesday (Ignatius of Loyola),** Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28, Matthew 13:35-43; **Wednesday (St. Alphonsus Liguori),** Exodus 34:29-35, Matthew 13:44-46; **Thursday (St. Eusebius of Vercelli, St. Peter Julian Eymard),** Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38, Matthew 13:47-53; **Friday,** Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37, Matthew 13:54-58; **Saturday (St. John Mary Vianney),** Leviticus 25:1, 8-17, Matthew 14:1-12

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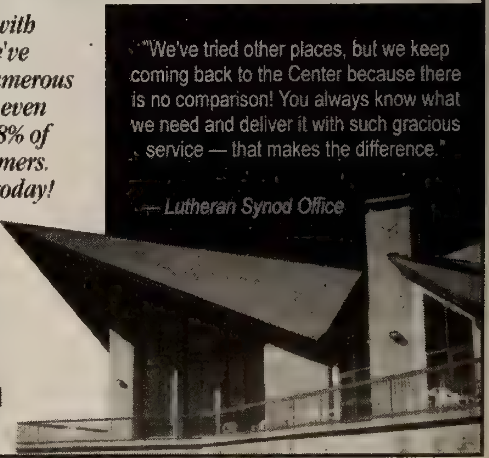

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Black Mountain singer-songwriter celebrates good life with new CD

JIMMY LANDRY
LIFE IS GOOD

LIFE IS GOOD, by Jimmy Landry. ISG Records (Black Mountain, N.C., 2001). www.jimmylandry.com, (888) 495-6575

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

"Now there's no time for me to brood / I've got too much gratitude / It's just a happy attitude / Life is good," sings Black Mountain singer-songwriter Jimmy Landry during the title track of his new album, "Life is Good."

Over the course of 10 songs, Landry echoes that sentiment in tunes about the examined life — a life where hope, peace and faith take center stage. Landry's latest is a celebration of appreciating things that not only enrich the human condition, but bring great happiness if we simply make the choice to seek it.

Landry's fifth album comprises some of his most inspired work to date. The collection reflects influences of folk, bluegrass and pop music, as Landry and his acoustic guitar lead listeners on a musical voyage enhanced by fiddle and dobro, piano and percussion, banjo and bass.

His voice and songwriting have reached new heights of sophistication, while the supporting cast of musicians punctuates a collection of tunes that enlightens.

Co-producing with Asheville luminary Chris Rosser, Landry makes sure that his latest is a group effort.

The a cappella "Speck of Dust" and the horn-driven "What" bring together a small choir of North Carolina singer-songwriters who share in singing duties.

Musically, Rosser and Puryear's David Johnson contribute with nearly a dozen instruments between them throughout the recording. Bruce Hornsby band lead guitarist Doug Derryberry plays on the title track, the contemplative "Come Here, Go Away" and on "Me & Brian," a heartwarming tribute to friendship and one of Landry's older tunes re-recorded here with a fresh vitality.

In songs such as "Do What You Can" and "Rhythm of Life," the album certainly embraces a "seize the day" sentiment. But these songs see with eyes focused on a spiritual path, too.

Consider this verse from "Rhythm of Life," a prayerful waltz celebrating God's creation in nature:

"So I will cherish my time by the river / And the peace that I find in its flow / Like I cherish each breath / With its birth and its death / On the journey that leads me back home."

In "Do What You Can," Landry weaves his way through the hectic pace of life and makes a point of taking the time to appreciate each day as a gift:

"Do what you can, take as long as you need / This is not a race, it's not about your speed / It's the magic in the way you work that makes it all worthwhile," he sings.

The positive reigns on this album. Even in the end-of-relationship songs "Temporarily" and "Come Here, Go Away," Landry conveys a positive sense of learning from experience. And he has a downright good time on a rollicking, bluegrassy cover of Neil Diamond's "I'm a Believer," while "The Saga of the Chickens" offers an ode about rural living while including a witty, Landry-esque moral to peck on.

Landry began singing and playing guitar at folk Masses as a youth in suburban Washington, D.C. He has pursued music both as a profession and a calling as an adult. In October 1994 he settled in the Asheville area, where he founded Independent Songwriters Group, a record label that nurtures local musicians.

In a 1997 interview with The Catholic News & Herald, Landry recalled a homily he heard as a youth about finding God not only in church, but in all aspects of everyday life.

"What he was talking about is not just on Sunday, but every part of every day," Landry said. "I may not always do it right, but that's my goal, and it seems like that comes through in the songs I write, in performances and in the music that means the most to me by others. That's the way I'd like my life to be."

Landry radiates that same sense of devotion on his latest album as he reminds listeners that, indeed, life is good.

Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar's 1997 story on Jimmy Landry, "Singer-songwriter sees music as God's gift," won a Catholic Press Association Journalism Award in the best personality profile category.

Seeking Byzantine Catholics

Father Rick Rohger of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Church in Cary, N.C., and several families in the area are looking for Byzantine Rite Catholics. If you are interested in possibly forming a Byzantine Rite mission or would like more information, please call:

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope urges believers to reject violence, respect dignity of all

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — All who believe in God are called to reject violence and place their faith at the service of building a society that respects the God-given dignity of each person, Pope John Paul II said.

While a review of his late-June trip to Ukraine was the focus of his remarks at his July 4 general audience, the pope also offered special prayers for peace in Northern Ireland, where political leaders are trying to solidify the peace process.

Greeting members of a choir from Londonderry, Northern Ireland, the pope said, "In these days I am praying more intensely for peace in Northern Ireland."

In his main talk, as is customary after a foreign trip, Pope John Paul shared his impressions of his June 23-27 visit to Ukraine.

"This was a visit which I had long wanted to make in order to pay homage to Ukraine's long and glorious history of faith and Christian fidelity," he said in his English remarks.

The pope said it was an "unforgettable experience" to preside over the Eastern- and Latin-rite liturgies in Ukraine, expressions of the unity of the church, which he said embraces and is enriched by diversity.

As he did throughout his trip, in his audience talk the pope offered special greetings to Ukraine's Orthodox majority, despite the fact that the leader of the nation's largest Orthodox community refused to meet him after claiming Catholics were engaged in a campaign to steal believers and property from the Orthodox.

The pope praised the work of the government-sponsored council of churches and religious organizations with whom he met in Kiev, Ukraine's capital.

The council, he said, "promotes spiritual values, favoring a climate of understanding among different religious communities. This is even more important in a country which experienced very heavy constraints on religious freedom."

Over the past 100 years, he said, Christians, Jews and Muslims in Ukraine all experienced repression and even death at the hands of the communists and the Nazis.

Now that they can live and worship freely, he said, religious leaders must help the nation build its social and democratic institutions.

"All believers in God, rejecting every form of violence, are called to strengthen the essential religious roots of every authentic humanism," the pope said.

Pope John Paul said a highlight of his trip was the beatification of 30 Ukrainians, including 27 martyrs from the Eastern Catholic churches.

"May Ukraine draw renewed apostolic enthusiasm from the patrimony of holiness left by these exemplary disciples of Christ and by the many others whom they represent," he said.

The pope also prayed that God would bless and strengthen all Ukrainians who "dedicate themselves to the service of the Gospel and to the search for the true good of each and every human person."

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Do not judge, so that you may not be judged

Very often married couples lose sight of their purpose to complement (and frequently complement) each other and co-create for themselves a new identity. Instead, we sometimes try to recreate each other into our likeliness. Our differences become our insecurities rather opportunities to grow.

Marriage thrives and lives in happiness when we continually ready ourselves for it. It's about self-improvement. When I am bored with the relationship, it is because I am boring. It is a signal to do something that will make my life (and all in my life) more exciting, more interesting. It may be time to take a class, read a book, develop a new hobby, or begin a new project around the home.

Do something different and new together. Go to an ethnic restaurant — a culture completely foreign to you both. Don't order from the "American Food" menu! Experience yourselves and each other in a new setting from time to time.

Measure your criticism with a double dose of kindness. Listen twice as much as you speak (God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason). When kind words are hard to find, work harder to find them.

There is mutuality in marriage. What you dish out you get in return. Make sure that what you give is from God. What you get in return will also be.

Once we have developed this kind of relationship between us, having healthy, loving relationships with our children comes naturally. They model our communicating style. They reflect our peaceability. As we emulate Christ, so do they.

Questions for reflection:
How has marriage challenged me to be a better person?
How do I criticize my spouse?
Do I listen twice as much as I speak?
Do our children and others see Christ in my marriage?

"Family Reflections" presents a continuing theology of family life. Andrew and Terri report, from their experiences as married partners, parents and members of extended families, their observations of God's presence in family life. As active members in the Catholic community, they share their perspectives on the church in society. Through the prism of their African American heritage, they share their unique spirituality.

Economy of Faith

FATHER JOHN S. RAUSCH, Glenmary
Guest Columnist

No Bills Over $20

After more than 30 years, the rural Appalachian community of Paint Lick, Ky., has a doctor. One hundred volunteers helping Dr. John Belanger, a board-certified family practitioner, descended on the town's old red brick warehouse and transformed it by hammers and sweat into the Paint Lick Family Clinic (paintlickmd.hotmail.com) with three exam rooms, a lab and administrative offices. The clinic provides acute and chronic care minor surgical procedures, health maintenance and dietary counseling.

Currently about 20 farmers, low-wage workers and area residents of modest means pass through the waiting room each day. What turns this feel-good story into one of inspiration and instruction flows from Dr. John's philosophy. For 11 years, he worked in a clinic that targeted an under-served population. Noticing the stratospheric rise of health care costs, he looked for an alternative. His solution: Cut the paperwork, lower the overhead and work for a reasonable salary.

His cost-cutting formula avoids the paperwork of dealing with private insurance companies and Medicare. The Paint Lick Family Clinic does not take insurance cards, but instead charges $20 per visit. If needed, patients can make $5 weekly payments or whatever they can afford.

Nationally, about one-fourth of health care employees do nothing but paperwork. The Paint Lick Clinic runs with one office manager and one nurse.

Lowering the overhead suggests some creative approaches. With a small grant of $35,000 and local donations, the non-profit clinic bought the building and had scores of community volunteers remodel it. And unlike a medical specialty, primary-care medicine does not require a large capital investment in sophisticated equipment. Dr. John, with low-tech tools like a stethoscope and flashlight, monitors heart conditions and a patient's general health. With lab work he checks cholesterol and possible infections. With generic drugs — "a good therapeutic alternative that can save a significant amount of money for patients" — he can treat the common stress-related illnesses of hypertension, depression and back pain. When necessary, he offers referrals to other doctors and hospital services.

Finally, an essential cost-cutting measure faced the question of the physician's salary. The clinic could not afford the usual six-figure earnings of doctors. Putting service above salary, Dr. John works for what economists call a psychic income and what theologians might label Gospel wages. Motivated by his Catholic faith, he earns a much-below doctor's salary in his dedication to serving the uninsured and under-served.

Currently, over 40 million U.S. residents lack any medical coverage. For some, their employers do not provide health insurance; for others, their income cannot afford the high premiums. Still, the U.S. health care system cures by market forces, and increased pressure to compete is forcing hospitals to treat fewer charity patients. In regards health care there are simply limits to the market system.

The church sees health care as a basic human right, not simply a commodity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that society must help all its citizens attain essential living conditions: "food and clothing, housing, healthcare, basic education, employment and social assistance."

To live a dignified and secure life in our society requires universal health coverage, nothing less.

Dr. John Belanger spends about 20 minutes with his patients each visit, twice the national average. He heals by understanding and encouragement as much as by any medical procedure. His dedication leaves no one excluded from health care. His common sense can spark creativity for others with a healing ministry. One doctor of faith responded to the invitation of local people, gathered a dedicated staff and made Paint Lick a healthier community.

Glenmary Father John Rausch writes, teaches and organizes in Appalachia.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

A Matter of Honor

Matthew is a good guy. By that I mean he's a person of honor and integrity. Now that may seem a bit biased. I mean, he's only 17 and he is my nephew. But there are in him signs of quality that make me proud to know him. An example: Matthew attends a Catholic high school. Recently, he slammed his desk loudly in class. It annoyed the teacher who whirled around from his blackboard and gave detention to the student in front of Matthew. The other student protested his innocence, but the punishment stood.

On reflection, Matt realized that he couldn't let the other fellow take the rap for him. So Matthew showed up to take the detention himself. Not a monumental action, granted, but a sign of a working conscience and a character that considers consequences and responsibilities. I would like to think that it's not unusual for a young person — or any person — to make a morally correct choice, but we live in an age and society that appears almost startled when someone does the right thing.

Which brings me to "Survivor II." This amazingly popular CBS television series has been fodder for millions of discussions about what Colby did. Now, if you don't know who Colby Donaldson is, let me give some background. One of the show's 16 contestants, the custom auto designer from Dallas was highly skilled at surviving. Friends and foes agreed, he was the one to beat. Colby headed into the final eliminations against Tina Wesson, a mother of two from Knoxville, Tenn. Their only other competition was Keith Famie, a chef from West Bloomfield, Mich., who did not seem especially talented at the game. In addition, Keith seemed to annoy just about everyone. As the "strategists" saw it, Keith had survived the game almost as a fluke. The assumption was that he'd be cut by the final elimination.

So we get to the finals and Colby once again scores a victory. His reward: He gets to eliminate either Keith or Tina — in other words, to select his final competitor. Now, logic would suggest that he eliminate his strongest opponent. That would leave him with a huge advantage over the last person standing between him and the million-dollar prize. Smart money says Colby should eliminate the popular and talented Tina. He doesn't. He chooses Keith, setting himself up for a final match against Tina who, in fact, beats him by one vote.

Now lots of analysts will castigate Colby as a fool who blew a million dollars. I see it another way. I think he made an honorable choice. That's not to say that he didn't want to win. But he and Tina had become friends. And friends don't betray friends. In an earlier moment in the show, Tina had revealed that except for her present job, she'd never worked for anything but a minimum wage. The thought that she was inching toward the big prize was exciting. At that moment, I began to hope she'd get her wish. Maybe Colby did, too.

The "why" of his decision to take on the tougher competition will probably remain in the mind and heart of this gifted competitor. For me, the reason lies in his character. Throughout his defeat, Colby acted with honor, dignity and genuine grace. The smile and embrace he offered Tina at her moment of victory rang true. In his moment of defeat, Colby seemed to be a true gentleman. That's not behavior we've come to expect either from the media or daily life, but it's great stuff nonetheless.

So Matthew and Colby, congratulations. We're not here to succeed all the time. But we are here to be persons of honor and character who respect others. The world may think you crazy for these choices. I rejoice in your goodness. And so do the people watching — on the TV set or from across the room.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

When Sisters Are Close

My sister Jeannette and I went out for breakfast at the beginning of summer to celebrate her birthday and the end of the college year. My feelings were mixed, that combination we often have, of joy and sadness.

This past year, Jeannette has lived most of each week with me because she was teaching at a university within driving distance of my home. But on this day she was going to her own home about 120 miles away for the summer.

I was trying to adjust to the fact that I wouldn't have her with me to share coffee in the morning and dinner at night, when we would recount our day's happenings, always with empathy and often with laughter.

I'm one of the really blessed people of this world because I have sisters, four of them in fact. Rosemary is two years older than I am. We were teenagers when Jeannette and Loretta were born, and in our early 20s when Nancy arrived.

Rosemary and I were mothers to our three "little" sisters, until they grew to adulthood. Then we related as grown sisters who share a very special closeness. Because we have each other, we are never alone and are, thus, among the very fortunate people of this world.

Far too little has been written about the beauty of the sister relationship. If you find an article about sisters, it usually begins with the assumption that sibling rivalry dominates the relationship. Glossed over is the positive, special something you share.

For sisters come from the same beginnings. Having parents in common, we share our origins and our very genes.

I look at Loretta and see my own eyes; at Jeannette and view aspects of my personality; at Rosemary and see my sensitivities played out in another person; at Nancy and see her energetic motherhood as a playback of my own some 20 years ago.

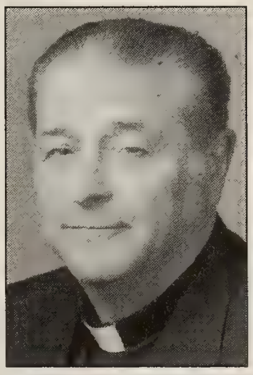
Sisters share memories: the good ones like so many Thanksgivings, Christmases and graduations; the bad ones, like Dad's occasional temper, Mom's constant nerves and our brother Joe's permanent battle with hairy cell leukemia.

We share secrets past — and countless dreams: the romantic ones, the ambitious ones, the ones we lost, the ones that came true. We share our goods, our advice, our concern and our labor, such as the time Loretta, in her teens, moved in with me to get away from a parental problem that had turned sour for her or the summers when Jeannette would take in my six children for a couple of weeks to give me a much-needed break from single parenting.

We have been, and I believe always will be, there for each other. Maybe that's because we have shared more than a fair dose of hard times. Maybe instinct tells us that our survival stands a better chance if we're united. Maybe it's our spiritual unity or bounce-back optimism. Maybe it's all of those that have brought me and my sisters to an extraordinary closeness.

But — no maybe about it — we love each other increasingly as the years go on. Having sisters is a special gift, one that makes us count ourselves as the most blessed people in the world.

Question Corner



FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Could the Pope Resign?

Q. Recent rumors that the pope has Parkinson's disease make us wonder what happens if he becomes incapacitated mentally or physically. Does any church law govern this contingency?

If he could no longer offer Mass or fulfill other responsibilities, who would substitute for him? Also, must the College of Cardinals elect one of its own to the papacy? Or could it choose someone else, even a layperson?

A. According to the Code of Canon Law (332), if the Roman pontiff resigns his office it is necessary for validity that the resignation be made freely and be properly manifested. It is not required, however, that the resignation be accepted by anyone.

The first and most obvious requirement, therefore, is that the decision be made by the pope himself, no one else. Furthermore, that decision must be clearly disclosed, in writing, for example, or perhaps by declaring his intention to the College of Cardinals.

Once the pope makes that choice manifest, it takes effect automatically; it is not necessary for the decision to be accepted or approved by anyone else.

With modern medical advances bringing increased longevity, said one Vatican official last year, it is more likely the church will sooner or later need to face such problems. Until now, however, resignation has not been a major concern.

In 1294, a saintly Benedictine monk was elected pope against his will. After a tumultuous few months of reign as Celestine V, he resigned his office, the first and apparently only pope to do so. The church thus has little experience with papacies ending in any way except death.

Two years ago, some Vatican sources indicated that the pope may have already made provisions for his eventual incapacity. He might even stipulate that if his physical condition were to deteriorate to a certain point, it be considered equivalent to resignation.

Whatever the future holds, Pope John Paul II continues to demonstrate a stamina, determination and mental acuity that seem nearly beyond human. As one of his theologians remarked at the beginning of the new millennium, "I don't think the hypothesis of resigning has been considered."

Anyone, even a layman, may be elected pope. He would immediately be ordained bishop, however. When elected, a pope by definition becomes the bishop of Rome.

When widows remarry

Q. You recently responded to a question about widows desiring to remarry but afraid of losing Social Security checks from their deceased husband's account.

Additional information I received from the Social Security Administration is interesting. If a widow remarries before age 60, she cannot receive widow's benefits as long as that new marriage is in effect.

However, if she remarries after reaching age 60, she will continue to receive benefits on her deceased husband's record.

The Social Security Administration regrets there is much misinformation about this provision and thanked me for asking.

A. I'm grateful to this Oklahoma City reader for writing. Judging from the mail I receive, my sense is that thousands of widows are not familiar with this provision of the Social Security code.

While benefits from the husband's income are customarily more than from the wife's, that is not always true. The same rule described above applies to widowers as well.

Mercy Grants, from page 5

Asheville, will receive $25,000 for start-up expenses for a family visitation center.

Helping Hands Clinic of Caldwell County, Lenoir, will receive $30,000 for operating expenses. **HOPE Worldwide-NC**, Charlotte, will receive $26,250 for salary support and materials. **Jacob's Ladder**, Charlotte, will receive $25,000 to provide salary support for an employment coordinator. **McAuley Institute**, Silver Spring, Md., will receive a three-year grant 0f $225,000 to provide salary support for staff in the institute's regional network office in Raleigh.

Mending Hearts, Inc., Pineville, will receive $20,000 to provide for general operating support. **Monroe-Union County Community Development Corporation**, Monroe, will receive $20,000 for general operating support for salary and workshops. **Pisgah Legal Services**, Asheville, will receive a three-year grant for $180,000 to help fund general operating expenses of the Homelessness Prevention Project. **REACH of Jackson County**, Sylva, will receive $25,000 to help fund general operating expenses for a new transitional housing program.

UNC-Asheville Environmental Quality Institute, Asheville, will receive $13,564 to purchase equipment. **United Cerebral Palsy of NC, Inc.**, Charlotte, will receive $31,200 for salary support. **Vanderbilt Apartments**, Asheville, will receive a three-year grant of $82,125 for salary support for an occupational therapist. **With Friends, Inc., Belmont**, will receive $25,000 to provide support for its counseling program.

Since announcing in October 1996 that it was ready to begin receiving grant applications, the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation has awarded 287 grants totaling more than $12.6 million to organizations serving unserved or underserved populations. The foundation's next grant application deadline is Aug. 1. For details, call (704) 366-0087.

Ingersoll Foundation announces 2001 Richard M. Weaver Prize

BELMONT — A political science professor at Loyola College in Maryland has been named the recipient of the 2001 Richard M. Weaver Award for Scholarly Letters.

The award, presented by the Ingersoll Foundation of Rockford, Ill., is administered by the Bradley Institute for the Study of Christian Culture at Belmont Abbey College. The prize was established in 1982.

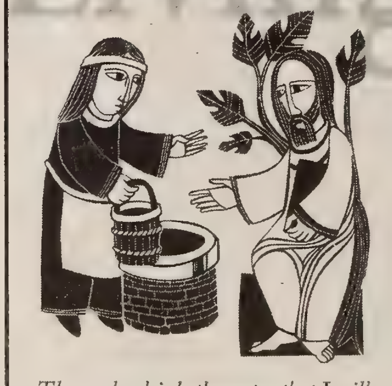
Dr. Diana J. Schaub, associate professor of political science, will be the first woman to receive the award and its $25,000 prize during a symposium in October at Belmont Abbey College. She has written extensively about declining morality in society and will address symposium participants at the conclusion of the event.

Schaub earned her bachelor's degree with highest honors from Kenyon College in 1981. Her master's degree and doctorate are from the University of Chicago. Prior to entering academe she was assistant editor of The National Interest magazine in Washington, D.C.

She is a member of the American Political Science Association, the Society for Greek Political Thought, The Montesquieu Society, and the National Association of Scholars.

Previous winners of the Weaver Award include James Burnham, Russell Kirk, Shelby Foote, and most recently, Robert Conquest in 1999.

The Bradley Institute of the Study of Christian Culture presents timely issues from ethical, theological and philosophical views to the wider community.



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— John 4:14

For more information, contact Gina Rhodes, Director of Planned Giving, (704) 370-3320, at the Diocese of Charlotte.

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Joe Vagnone
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Classifieds

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Campus Ministry Intern: Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. The Diocese of Charlotte seeks Catholics who are committed to their faith and are seeking education and training in ministry. In this 3-year program, intern will work with local parish and Catholic students, staff and faculty to develop campus ministry program at Appalachian State University. Compensation includes housing, health insurance, $2,000 yearly tuition grant, and $800 monthly stipend. Requirements: bachelor's degree, strong organizational skills, excellent communication skills, ability to take initiative and assume leadership. Send cover letter, resume, three letters of reference to: Colleen McDermott, Diocese of Charlotte, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte NC 28203.

Organist: 1,200-member parish seeks experienced organist for two Masses each Sunday and one Wednesday night choir rehearsal. Must demonstrate ability to lead congregational singing, accompany choral anthems and soloist, and play prelude/postlude. Familiarity with Roman Catholic liturgy is not a requirement. Organist will report directly to the Director of Music Ministries. Starting date is August 26. Deadline for application is July 20. To apply, send letter of application, resume, and contact information for 3 references to: Organist Search Committee, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4 Brian Berg Lane, Brevard, NC 28712.

Parish Music Minister: St. Joseph, Kannapolis, seeking dedicated, spiritual leader for music ministry program. Would like to have music teacher/instructor with church experience and music degree. Knowledge and familiarity with choral and instrumental programs desirable. Beginning hours, part-time (5-10 hours per week). Send resume and salary requirements to: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Attn: Music Ministry Position, 108 St. Joseph St., Kannapolis, NC 28203. For information, (704)932-4607 or fax:(704)932-0566.

Teachers: Immaculate Heart of Mary School has openings for the following positions for the 2001-2001 school year: middle school science teacher (part-time position is possible), and middle school art teacher/teacher assistant. Interested certified teachers may contact Ned Forney, principal, 605 Barbee Avenue, High Point, NC 27262; call 336-887-2613, or fax 336-884-1849.

Teachers: 4th Grade; MS Language Arts; MS Social Studies/Religion; part-time PE (K-5); part-time Athletic Director beginning August 9, 2001. Applications available: Our Lady of Grace School, 2205 W. Market Street, Greensboro, NC 27403. Call (336) 275-1522 or FAX (336) 279-8824.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, Augusta, GA 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706)722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop Middle/High School and Young Adult Ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

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Bowlings Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Jane and Charlie Bowling celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 16th. They have been members of Charlotte's St. Matthew Parish from its beginning. Charlie was on the original parish council for the first three years and served as Chairman.

A large buffet was hosted at their home, "Heather Hill Farm," in Ballantyne over the weekend.

An earlier dinner celebration at Ballantyne Country Club was attended by their three children: Charles B. "Buz" and his wife Nancy came from Lancaster, S.C.; daughter Laure Taylor came in from Charlottesville, Va.; and Patrick flew in from Chicago.

Charlie has been very active in the Charlotte community and, in his first year here, was named "Man of the Year." He was a vice president of First Union National Bank and later, assistant to the president. While City Executive of the Bank in Chapel Hill, he was president of the Sertoma Club, the Heart Association, the Cancer Society, and the Mental Health Association. In 1974, he was the founder and president of Metrolina National Bank and started his consulting business in the early 1980s.

He has been Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator of the Charlotte Knights of Columbus and was named "Knight of the Year" by the state last year.

Jane has been a real estate broker for over 20 years, the past 15 years with Allen Tate Realty. Just recently she published her first 1,000 prints of a painting she did in Charleston, S.C.

Monsignor John J. McSweeney, their pastor at St. Matthew Church, announced the celebration of their anniversary to a standing ovation at their church recently.

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Frank LaPointe, President, Member of St. Gabriel Church

Antoinette Bellow, mother of St. Gabriel pastor, dies at 89

CHARLOTTE — Antoinette Bellow, 89, of Charlotte, died Sunday, July 8, 2001, in the Wesley Care Center.

A Mass of the Resurrection was offered on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, at 8 p.m. at St. Gabriel Catholic Church, with her son, Father Richard Bellow, celebrating the Mass. Visitation took place in the family center at the church. Interment took place on Thursday, July 8, in Hopewell, N.J.

Born and raised in New York City, Mrs. Bellow was the last of 11 children born to Jerome and Josephine Vavatta Bica. She moved to Charlotte in 1995 and had resided at the Presbyterian Wesley Care Center. Mrs. Bellow has also been a member at St. John Neumann Catholic Church.

A faithful wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she loved life and was a woman of great faith and devotion. Mrs. Bellow leaves behind many family members and great and loyal friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Samuel.

Mrs. Bellow is survived by her sons, Robert, Jerome and Father Richard Bellow, as well as her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

It has been requested that memorials be made to the Baptismal Fount Fund c/o St. Gabriel Catholic Church, 3016 Providence Road, Charlotte, N.C. 28211.

Greensboro Catholic school starts basketball league

GREENSBORO — St. Pius X Catholic School is providing a unique opportunity for young women who are interested in basketball.

Under the direction of Father Anthony Marcaccio, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, Principal Mark Akerman, and Carmel Kessler, assistant principal and athletic director, the school has tipped off a basketball league for girls aged 11 to 15.

The league is unique in that it offers a format where these athletes are given an opportunity to learn from various experienced coaches and community and church leaders from throughout Guilford County.

The mini-camp component has created an atmosphere where fundamentals and advanced skills of basketball are being taught by male and female coaches who have coached at all school levels, including elementary school, middle school, high school, and college — both public and private institutions.

Participants receive further instruction from their team coaches as they are expected to learn how to play within a team concept.

Organizers have integrated a devotional into the schedule on each night that the teams are together.

"Our speakers share with them their own relationship with Jesus Christ and encourage and challenge these young women in their walks with the Lord," said David Dupont, a St. Pius X Church parishioner.

Parishioners, community leaders, youth leaders, educators, business leaders and others from the community are invited to address the league participants and parents.

Organizers said families from around the Greensboro area are enthusiastic about the format.

"Many of our participants are multi-sport athletes and are pressured throughout the year to excel and win at almost any cost by their coaches, teammates and especially parents," Dupont said. "It has been so refreshing to see these young women being motivated by Christ and by those who know him."

For more information on the new league, call David Dupont at (336) 299-7119.

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Preacher-musician to headline tent revival

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — "Climbin' a Higher Mountain!" is the theme of the second annual Diocese of Charlotte African American Affairs Ministry old-fashioned tent revival Aug. 24-26.

The revival made its debut last summer, drawing more than 1,200 who came to sing, hear preaching, learn about African-American Catholic worship and, perhaps, be inspired to return to church themselves.

The event will take place at the corner of Statesville and Oaklawn avenues.

The event was designed as a tool of evangelization and a way to offer people a first-hand experience of black Catholic worship, said Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vicar for African-American Affairs.

"Hopefully, we'll be getting more and more people involved in church and in returning to Jesus," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "We hope to reach out to the unchurched and the fallen away, Catholic and otherwise."

Preaching, music and liturgy highlight the gathering.

This year's revival leader is Father John T. Judie, a parish priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky. Ordained in 1987, Father Judie has preached to various congregations of different faith traditions in the United States, Mexico, Europe and East Africa.

In addition to preaching, he has served as a keynote speaker at a wide assortment of celebrations, including revivals, parish missions, youth retreats and charismatic gatherings. He also teaches courses in Scripture, church history and spirituality for ministry formation and diocesan catechesis programs.

An accomplished musician, Father Judie has served as a music minister, developed and directed choirs, and worked with vocalists for more than 30 years. He contributed to developing "Lead Me, Guide Me," the first African-American Catholic hymnal, and he served on the committee that developed a pastoral letter on liturgy for the Louisville Archdiocese.

His writing has appeared in The Catholic Review, newspaper of the Baltimore Archdiocese; The Record, newspaper of the Louisville Archdiocese; and newsletters of the Louisville Archdiocese.

"What we try to get in the revivalists we invite to preach is twofold," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "One, they certainly must have a visible relationship with Jesus and a love for him and his church. Secondly, their preaching style should be in the style of the old-fashioned revival preaching."

The Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte will begin the revival with a concert Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. Father Judie will preach at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. John T. Judie

During the day on Aug. 25, people can receive free health screenings at a health fair, where doctors and nurses will be on hand to answer questions. At 5:30 p.m., the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Choir from Philadelphia will perform a concert, followed by preaching from Father Judie at 7 p.m.

A closing Mass, with music by the Our Lady of Consolation and Pinn Memorial choirs, will be celebrated Aug. 26 at 9:30 a.m.

For further information on the tent revival, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd at (704) 370-3339.

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Bostonian's life surrounded by spirituality

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — Rev. Mr. Dennis O'Madigan says that his life has come full circle. He entered the seminary after high school and decided to leave because he felt there was something else in store for his life. Years later, that call to ordained ministry was answered. He was ordained into the first class of the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Charlotte in 1983. He is now back where he began.

Being ordained a permanent deacon was a proud moment for a first-generation, American-born, Irish Catholic man who had spent his life in the church surrounded by family and friends. Immigrants into the United States, his parents sought refuge in Boston along with other native Irish families who provided support and a piece of home in a strange land. Dennis O'Madigan grew up with his two sisters in a church and school that was comprised of an entirely Irish population.

"I remember only one family that wasn't Catholic," said Rev. Mr. O'Madigan who attended the neighborhood Catholic school and church. "Catholicism was like putting on a pair of socks that you never took off. The church was the center of everything, school, social events, etc."

Rev. Mr. Dennis O'Madigan

After moving to another section of the city, he began attending a boys' seminary at the age of 13. "At that time, it was common for a lot of orders to have elementary preparatory seminary high schools." However, after eight years of being associated with the Columban Fathers, including college classes, he could not remain.

"I went in so early and didn't know anything about life. It was much like monastic life and was too confining," he said. "My parents were upset when I left because for Irish parents to have a son who was becoming a priest was the 'be-all-and-end-all' of life. But, I had to go."

He left the seminary and went straight into the Army via the draft. He was lucky, however, in that he was assigned to remain in Boston in the Counter Intelligence Corps and was not sent to Vietnam. "There wasn't much difference between the Army and seminary," joked Rev. Mr. O'Madigan. "Except, I went from praying for people's salvation to investigating them."

His life changed when he met his future wife on New Year's Eve in 1956. Cupid's arrow struck his heart, and he fell in love at first sight with Diane. They were married in 1958.

He remained in the same investigative and research field as he was while in the Army and became director of security for Northeast Airlines, later purchased by Delta Airlines, while he obtained his bachelor of arts degree in history and government from Boston College. Because of an interest he developed while in the service, he then attended law school and graduated in 1972.

"While in the military, I would perform investigations and go to court, so I decided to learn the other side of law. I was told that there were few people in security who were lawyers, and I wanted to be unique."

He had no idea how unique he would become. In 1972, the federal government decreed that all U.S. airlines would install screening processes as a means of enforcing security measures. Rev. Mr. O'Madigan was one of seven who traveled to Washington, D.C., to create what travelers must endure before boarding airplanes today — security checkpoints.

Piedmont Airlines, which was headquartered in Winston-Salem and later acquired by US Airlines, presented Rev. Mr. O'Madigan an interesting offer. He would be allowed to practice law while working as director of security for the airline. It was an opportunity he could not pass up, so he moved his family to North Carolina and joined St. Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem.

For three years, things worked well. He was doing two things that he loved and was being paid handsomely for it. However, the lure of the airlines overshadowed his law practice. He was asked to become assistant general counsel, an in-house attorney, for the airline.

In 1981, the urge to apply for the permanent diaconate overwhelmed his mind and soul. He did not originally have an interest in becoming a deacon, but he felt God tell him to apply. After prayer and discussions with his wife, he was accepted into the class. "I went back into an environment that was totally Catholic. It was wonderful because we were united to achieve something which was being what God wanted us to be."

He works in prison ministry, works with the schools and visits the sick and shut-ins. "I have worked with the forgotten and the 'throwaways.' It brings them so much joy to see you and to know that someone cares."

Several months ago, Mrs. O'Madigan lost her battle with cancer, but Rev. Mr. O'Madigan does not speak with any sorrow or regret, only happiness that retirement allowed him to spend time with his wife before her death. "I had 43 wonderful years with her. I look back at the great times, and I am extremely grateful to God for everything he gave me including six years when doctors said she wouldn't make it."

The father of four and grandfather of six says that the permanant diaconate has brought him closer to his family and to Jesus. "Having worked with so much lying, cheating and stealing through my profession, I have found that the permanent diaconate has kept me in focus of our main purpose in life — to save our souls."

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The Catholic NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 3, 2001
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Inside

Pope asks Bush to reject stem-cell funding ... PAGE 7

Maryfield announces $50 million expansion ... PAGE 11

Local News

Enthronement equals evangelization for Sacred Heart devotee ... PAGE 18

Deacon fulfills lifelong call to serve ... PAGE 20

Every Week

Entertainment ... PAGES 10-11

Editorials & Columns ... PAGES 12-13

PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Clockwise from left, Jacquiline Johnson from St. Edward Church in Baltimore, Md., sheds tears. Daughters of the Heart of Mary Sister Anita Baird, one of the plenary speakers, told the crowd that prayer is the most powerful weapon against problems. Ella Pitre from Seattle, Wash., prays intently.

Women of color, women of faith

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — For Franciscan Sister of Mary Antona Ebo, it has been a long time coming but well-worth the wait. The "double-digit" sister, as she calls herself, has been a woman religious for 55 of her 77 years and is a founding member of the 33-year-old National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC), based in Washington D.C.

She has lived through racism from all sides including professing vows segregated from the sisters in her community and being denied entry in her hometown hospital to study to become a nurse. So, to be a witness to over 800 African-American women, laity and religious, from all walks of life and from over 85 dioceses, who gathered in Charlotte for the first-ever National Gathering of Black Catholic Women, was a dream come true for her and countless others who traveled from all areas of the country and beyond.

This gathering, held the weekend of July 27, was the culmination of 10 years of planning, praying and perseverance on the part of the NBSC to bring African-American women together in the spirit of sisterhood and solidarity to meet each other, discuss the major issues that concern the community and church, and bond as a people united in their Catholicism to enact change.

"I wanted to attend because I needed to see other black Catholic women that are like me, and I've never seen this many black Catholic women before in my life. This is something that I can tell my child about," said Stephanie Fisher from St. Paul Church in New Bern, N.C. "A lot of young adults my age are leaving the church, and I think we need to address that in the coming years."

It was a fusion of the old and the new, laity and religious, the past and the present. Women religious, some donned in their habits, seemed to float through the gathering rooms, while women wearing African-inspired garb and headdresses in remembrance of Africa, the Caribbean and other countries of origin reconnected with old friends and met new ones during the weekend. Spirituals and songs of praise, both spontaneous and planned, fell from the lips of women in celebration of the event. Through their interpretations of gospel and Christian songs, liturgical dancers, the Nia Dance Troupe from the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., wrested shouts of joy and caused participants' outstretched hands to wave.

"How can I not be excited about this, when black women, black women of faith, get together, we almost intuitively know one another's stories. My story is like someone else's story," said Sister of the Blessed Sacrament Mary Roland Lagarde from Chicago, one of the most vocal women at the event and a founding member of the NBSC. "This reminds me so much of 1968 when we (the NBSC) first came together. We have brought in 800 women to join us to get them to tap into their untapped treasures and to continue to magnify the Lord."

Sponsored by the NBSC, an organization which includes African-American women religious and lay male and female associates from across the United States, and supported and hosted by the Diocese of Charlotte, the National Gathering consisted

SEE WOMEN, PAGE 8

Vatican ruling on Mormon baptism clarifies Catholic practice

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two U.S. church officials said the Vatican ruling on the invalidity of baptism in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is intended to clarify Catholic practice, not make a judgment on Latter-day Saints, more widely known as Mormons. A canon law expert called the ruling a significant one for church courts dealing with marriage cases. Msgr. J. Terrence Fitzgerald, vicar general of the Salt Lake City Diocese, said in a telephone interview that, before the ruling, priests in Utah had been giving conditional baptism to Latter-day Saints who become Catholic. "What's important is that the Vatican ruling is focused on Catholic practice, and it is not a judgment about LDS people," he said.

Helping poor countries worthy goal of globalization, says Vatican

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Social justice, solidarity and working for the common good are the basic values of Catholic social teaching and should be the values underlying decisions made by the world's richest nations, Vatican officials said. In interviews prior to the July 20-22 Group of Eight summit in northern Italy, the Vatican secretary of state and the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace spoke about Catholic efforts to influence globalization. Cardinal Angelo Sodano, secretary of state, said the Vatican's hopes for the G-8 summit "are very concrete: that there will be new initiatives on behalf of the poorest countries," especially in the areas of poverty, health and the environment. Cardinal Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, president of the justice and peace council, said that, in discussions about globalization, efforts must be made to listen to the poor, become aware of their situation and take action to bring them into the global marketplace.

Vatican ratifies U.N. treaty banning nuclear testing

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The Vatican ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty July 18. Archbishop Renato R. Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, presented a ratifying document signed by Pope John Paul II to Palitha T.B. Kohona, chief of the treaty section at the U.N. Secretariat in New York. Governments ratifying the treaty pledge that they will "refrain from causing, encouraging or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion." Acknowledging the Vatican role as a moral example in such actions, Kohona said he hoped its decision would encourage more governments to ratify the treaty.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Young victims of coffee industry slowdown await food

Denis Diaz, left, waits for food July 23 in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, one of an estimated 12,000 homeless people seeking aid from the World Food Program. Drought and economic debt have crippled the coffee industry and left more than 7,000 coffee workers jobless.

Virginia parish plans lawsuit over Beltway bridge construction

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — A years-long construction project to replace a Potomac River bridge that is a key thoroughfare in the Washington metro area promises to be quite disruptive to a Catholic parish school and cemetery adjacent to it. So, the Arlington Diocese and the affected parish, St. Mary in Alexandria, are planning to file suit against the Virginia Department of Transportation and the City of Alexandria to recover $10 million in funds to compensate for the project's deleterious effects. Construction began this summer on a new 12-lane bridge to replace the current six-lane Woodrow Wilson Bridge, which takes I-95 traffic and the Capital Beltway over the river and abuts historic St. Mary Cemetery, founded in the late 1700s. The cemetery is the only buffer between the interstate and St. Mary's elementary and junior high school buildings.

Faith-based bill passes House; Senate action soon unlikely

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House passed the first piece of President Bush's faith-based initiative July 19 after a contentious debate about whether the bill should exempt church charities from local civil rights laws. Both supporters and opponents of the bill peppered their remarks on the House floor with glowing tributes to faith-based community services in their hometowns. They credited Catholic Charities agencies, Lutheran social services, synagogue-based soup kitchens and their teachers in Catholic grade school with shaping their opinions about whether the disputed exemption is necessary or not. The House vote of 233-198 moved the Community Solutions Act of 2001 on to the Senate, where its future is more cloudy. In a statement from London, Bush said the House action was "an important step toward building stronger and more caring communities."

Immigrant advocates hopeful about amnesty, other proposals

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and other immigrant advocates are sounding downright optimistic about the chances for new laws and regulations that they hope will make immigration more legal, orderly and safe, including amnesty for some people in the United States illegally. Mexican President Vicente Fox has made it clear that he would like the U.S. border with his country to become more open. President Bush seems to be supporting some of Fox's proposals, and immigrant advocates in church and private organizations are cheering the efforts on. At a July 18 press conference at the Capitol, a handful of senators and a spokesman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voiced their support for a legalization program. "We are heartened by reports that the administration is considering legalization," said Kevin Appleby, director of migration and refugee policy for the bishops' Migration and Refugee Services. He urged that a general legalization be a component of any U.S.-Mexico agreement.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 5-9
International Knights of Columbus Convention
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August 12 — 4 p.m.
Celebrant and homilist at charismatic Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

August 15 — 7:30 p.m.
Feast of the Assumption Mass
with Transitional Diaconate Ordination and Conferral of Candidacy for diocesan seminarians
St. Patrick, Charlotte

August 18 — 11 a.m.
Groundbreaking for St. Francis Springs Prayer Center
Stoneville/Wentworth border, N.C.

August 25 — 4:30 p.m.
Principal celebrant and homilist
10th anniversary Mass for Redemptorist Priests
Redemptorist Retreat House
Long Branch, N.J.

Diocesan planner

August

8 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting and having an indoor picnic this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-9592 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

9 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be hosting ultreyas and schools of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Vincent de Paul Church, 6828 Old Reid Rd., from 7-8 p.m. tonight for adults only with shared snacks; St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-2 p.m. on Aug. 26 and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. on Aug. 26 with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

11 HIGH POINT — Christ the King Church, 1505 E. Kivett Dr., will be celebrating a Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite in Malayalam at 6:30 p.m. tonight. For details, call the church office at (336) 884-0244 or (336) 884-5858.

12 CHARLOTTE — Bishop Willian G. Curlin will be the celebrant and homilist at the charismatic Mass being held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

13 MAGGIE VALLEY — Freeman Owie, a member of the Eastern Band Cherokee Nation, and Charity Sister Fran Grady, an artist and spiritual director, will present "The Wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the Great Spirit" during a retreat being held at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, beginning today through Aug. 17. Participants will be able to explore the connection

Opponents, supporters air views on Mexico City policy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Opponents of an administration policy forbidding U.S. funding of organizations that promote abortions overseas call the policy an abuse of free speech, but supporters say it is the "most significant policy initiative on abortion" in the area of foreign aid in 20 years. Both sides aired their views on the so-called Mexico City policy at a July 19 hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. Boxer is sponsoring a bill to overturn the policy, which she says, among other things, causes more illegal, unsafe abortions because it discourages some organizations from offering family planning services. But supporters of the policy say it would be a conflict of interest for the United States to fund international family planning programs in the interest of reducing abortion rates but also permit U.S. funding to go to organizations that lobby on behalf of legal abortion.

Nuns return land to South Africans removed during apartheid

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Families removed from land belonging to the Oakford Dominicans under apartheid laws in the 1960s will be making their homes there again. Helped by the Church Land Program, which has the backing of the southern African bishops' conference, the nuns are donating part of their land to 304 families, who will get about five acres each. "I grew up listening to my father and his mother constantly discussing their hope of returning to Oakford," said Jabulani Gumede, 39, who will move to the land in Verulam, in the Durban Archdiocese, with his wife and four children. Among those returning to the land are families of people who work for the Dominicans, people who currently live on the land and some of those who were removed under the apartheid Groups Areas Act, which separated residential areas according to race.

G-8 summit's outcome on debt 'disappointing,' says aid official

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The outcome of the G-8 summit in Genoa, Italy, was disappointing on the issue of Third World debt, said a British Catholic aid official who attended the July 20-22 summit. The criticism came from Julian Filochowski, director of CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, official aid and development agency of the Catholic bishops of England and Wales. Filochowski, who accompanied Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue of Lancaster, England, to Genoa, said in a telephone interview, "It was disappointing that the summit did not go beyond previous promises and offer new hope of robust, sustainable debt cancellation." He said summit leaders offered superficial statements on debt cancellation, health care, AIDS and education.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

G-8 protesters launch gas bombs in Genoa

Anti-globalization protesters throw gas bombs at police as widespread fighting erupted throughout Genoa, Italy, July 20. Some 150,000 protesters took to the streets of Genoa during the G-8 summit there.

Refugee policy has wrong priority, cardinal says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States needs to move away from refugee policy that considers humanitarian principles to be secondary to strategic interests, said Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick in a Washington Post op-ed column. Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop of Washington, said in a July 22 column that there was little to celebrate when the world marked the 50th anniversary of the U.N. treaty on refugee protection earlier in the month. The number of refugees worldwide has increased by 6 million in the past 20 years, to a total of more than 14 million, he said. "Most languish in tented camps around the globe, with little hope for return to their homes and no prospect for a new future in another country," he wrote. "Approximately 80 percent are women and children."

Hungarian church increases outreach to country's drug addicts

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — The church in Hungary is stepping up its pastoral work among drug addicts in an effort to curb spiraling narcotics abuse in the post-communist country, said a spokesman for the Hungarian bishops' conference. A number of Hungarian parishes already operate shelters for recovering addicts, said Father Tamas Szabo, secretary-general of Hungarian bishops' conference. "We now need to work on a wider front," he added. Father Szabo said earlier reports of drug abuse among the clergy were unfounded.

Survey shows strong Latino abortion opposition, voucher support

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Latinos overwhelmingly favor the pro-life position on abortion and tax-funded educational vouchers for low-income children, according to a national survey. The survey also reported that three-fourths of the respondents think the aim of bilingual education should be to teach their children English. When asked what is the most important issue facing Latinos, discrimination received the most votes with the quality of education coming in second. Almost 72 percent of the respondents identified themselves as Catholic and 18 percent said they were Protestant. The survey was sponsored by the Latino Coalition, a Washington-based nonpartisan and nonprofit organization studying Hispanic policy issues. It was released July 24 at a Washington news conference.

House committee passes ban on human cloning in 18-11 vote

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines July 24 to approve a bill that would ban the creation of human embryos by cloning. The vote on H.R. 2505, sponsored by Reps. Dave Weldon, D-Fla., and Bart Stupak, D-Mich., was 18-11. The full House was expected to take up the bill by the beginning of August. "The Democrats on the Judiciary Committee voted to allow human embryo farms in the United States, but many of their Democratic colleagues will not follow them over that cliff," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee. He pointed to a June 2001 poll by International Communications Research in which 86 percent of adult Americans said scientists should not be allowed "to create a supply of human embryos to be destroyed in medical research."

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between various faith traditions and spirituality among people of all races and nationalities. For further details, call the center at (828) 926-3833 or e-mail lwcrc@main.nc.us.

15 NATIONWIDE — Retreat opportunities are available with the Benedictines of Belmont Abbey in Belmont, N.C., the Trappists of the Gethsemani Trappist Abbey in Trappist, Ky., and at the Holy Spirit Monastery in Conyers, Ga. These vocational awareness retreats include work, prayer and conferences with the monks. The next retreats will be taking place Aug. 15-19 and Oct 17-21. Early registration is a must, and some restrictions may apply. Call toll free 1 (866)-548-3463 for more dates and further information.

16 CHARLOTTE — The next men's Cursillo weekend will begin today through Aug. 19 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. The women's Cursillo weekend will take place Sept. 20-23, also at St. Matthew. For more information, call Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696 or Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

19 CHARLOTTE — The men's Cursillo closing will take place at 4:45 p.m. this afternoon at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. The women's Cursillo closing will take place Sept. 23 at 4:30 p.m., also at St. Matthew. For more information, call Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696 or Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

22 CHARLOTTE — Just 1 Call is a service for people in Mecklenburg County which helps in finding medical and related services in Charlotte and surrounding areas. Two sessions will be held for all senior adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., this morning from 10-11 a.m. and at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., Aug. 23, from 10-11 a.m. For reservations and other information, call Sandra Breakfield, CSS Elder Ministry, at (704) 370-3220.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The Aug. and Sept. hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call (828) 250-9690 or e-mail nazarethhouse@juno.com.

Upcoming

FORT MILL, S.C. — Power Rally 2001, presented by Good News Ministries in cooperation with the Dioceses of Charlotte, Raleigh, Charleston and Savannah and the Archdiocese of Atlanta, will take place Sept. 8 from 12:30-8:30 p.m. in the Charlotte Hornets Training Center. The event, targeted for high school students and young adults in their 20s and 30s, will feature Bishop William G. Curlin and Fathers Matt Leonard and Matt Kauth from St. Gabriel and St. Matthew Churches. Joining the bishop are Steve Angrisano, Christian contemporary singer; Jeff Cavins, EWTN show host; Catherine Rumore, author; Franciscan Father Paul Williams and Matt Pinto. Praise and worship music will be provided by Charlotte's own Kathy and David with Redeemed. For further details and to register by the Aug. 25 deadline, call (704) 521-9949 or visit www.ntrnet.net/~goodnews.

RALEIGH — Father Thomas Keating, one of the proponents of centering prayer and contemplative outreach, will be speaking at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 11401 Leesville Rd., on Sept. 8. from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. with 8:30 a.m. registration. Sponsored by Triangle Contemplative Outreach, Father Keating will give two presentations before and after lunch. For those interested in more information about the seminar, Aug. 8 registration or other questions about centering prayer, call Flo Hartye at (919) 876-8935, Jim Biggins at (919) 969-9604 or e-mail Jkelsey@bellsouth.net.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Bishop Curlin installs new Knights of Columbus state officers

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Amid all the pomp and circumstance they could muster, members of the Knights of Columbus gathered for Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro July 21 for the installation of state and district officers for North Carolina.

Bishop Curlin installed the state officers for one-year terms. The evening started out with Bishop Curlin processing to the altar to the music of the Knights Choral, through various colored plumes and swords drawn and raised in salute to honor the bishop as a prince of the church of Jesus Christ.

He was accompanied by concelebrants Father Anthony J. Marcaccio, new state chaplain, and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales Fathers James W. O'Neill and Anthony Gilborges, who serve at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

During the homily at Mass, Bishop Curlin explained how each of these candidates for his respective office should avoid being too busy for a simple prayer life.

All the wonderful things the individual Knights do lose importance if they are done for the wrong reasons, especially if those reasons be pride, power or personal gain, he said. In whatever they do, said Bishop Curlin, "Try to connect yourselves to the Risen Lord ... through a deep-seated love for the Eucharist."

Bishop Curlin explained that no matter what these Knights do, be it supplying food for the poor, giving comfort to the sick or offering any of the many gifts they provide, that it cannot be done as "just cold, harsh duty. Everything must be done from the heart" and all for the greater honor and glory of God and living totally for Jesus Christ himself.

The Knights — and all people — need a spiritual life to survive in the harsh realities of the world, he said. In his conclusion, he challenged the candidates: "If you do not see Jesus in others, then this is just another job. But when you see Jesus, what a wonderful life you will have," he said.

The Knights of Columbus is an international fraternal service organization founded by Father Michael J. McGivney in 1882 in New Haven, Conn. Its main goal then, as it is today, is the support and welfare of strong marriages and families.

To this end, the Knights of Columbus organization is extensively involved in the pro-life movement. It also supplies relatively inexpensive life insurance benefits to its members. Membership itself is open to all males 18 years of age or older who are faithful and practicing Catholics.

Activities of the Knights of Columbus include, but are not limited to, camps and schools for underprivileged children and aid to the handicapped and orphaned, the sick and disabled. The Knights of Columbus are also well-known for efforts in the arena of evangelization.

Pictured first row: Marge Singer, Past State Deputy Charles Singer, Bishop William G. Curlin, State Deputy Anthony M. Petite, Candy Petite, Maryann Grabasky, State Warden Robert J. Grabasky. Second row: State Treasurer Philip Lamendola, Lois Lamendola, State Advocate Robert J. Taylor, Eileen Taylor, State Secretary David L. Onofrio, Anne Onofrio, and state chaplain Father Anthony Marcaccio.

On June 7, 1903, the first Knights of Columbus Council, #770, was formed in Charlotte. There were no state officers in existence in North Carolina at this time. A territorial deputy was assigned who had authority over both North and South Carolina until 1913. At this juncture in time, there were a grand total of three councils in existence in North Carolina.

In 1913, Warren V. Hall was appointed state deputy. Yet, even with their own state deputy, the Knights' progress in setting up new councils was very slow. This was due in part because of the lack of Catholic population and the fear of the non-Catholic organizations that the Knights of Columbus would take away from their membership. Yet the organization did grow — slowly at first, but progress picked up rapidly after the Korean War.

By the year 2001, North Carolina claimed 101 active councils.

At the completion of his homily July 21, Bishop Curlin installed Father Anthony J. Marcaccio as state chaplain; Anthony M. Petite as state deputy; David L. Onofrio as state secretary; Philip Lamendola Jr. as state treasurer; Robert J. Taylor as state advocate; and Robert J. Grabasky as state warden.

In addition, he installed 26 district deputies: Tony Santino, Pat Wojciechowski, Gene Tortone; David Jelinek, Carl Dappen, Juan Garcia, James Snyder, John Gouldie, Jim Logue, Bill Taylor, Richard Meyer, Tom Fabyjanski, Dave Jones, Ron Dangelo, Dan Lange, Dave Smith, Al Jordan, Greg Kent, Marty Moylan, Fred Myers, John Stefura, Wayne Kleven, Matt Reilly, Dale Rascoe, Jack Pegoni and Bob Winiarski.

Also installed were two regional district deputies, Lee Heavlin and Jack Snyder.

State Chaplain Father Anthony J. Marcaccio, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1991, is the former priest secretary to Bishop Curlin. He is presently the pastor of St. Pius X Church in Greensboro. Father Marcaccio is a fourth-degree Knight and the chaplain of Council 11101.

State Deputy Anthony M. Petite has progressed through the positions of warden, advocate, treasurer and secretary on the state level. Prior to that he was a district deputy for four years. He has also held every position in the local council. Petite is a fourth-degree Knight and a fourth-degree past Faithful Navigator who lives with his wife, Candy, in Jamestown. He is a member of Council 939.

State Secretary David L. Onofrio was a former district deputy for five years and the state youth director for four years. Rising through the ranks of the local council over the years, Onofrio has also held the state offices of warden, advocate and treasurer for periods of two years each. David is a fourth-degree Knight and a past Faithful Navigator who lives with his wife, Anne, in Fuquay-Varina. He is a member of Council 12119.

State Treasurer Philip Lamendola Jr. was a former district deputy for four years. He has held the state offices of warden and advocate prior to being elected treasurer. Lamendola has also progressed up the ranks in the local Council 8509. He is a fourth-degree Knight and a past Faithful Navigator who lives with his wife, Eileen, in Kernersville.

State Advocate Robert J. Taylor was a district deputy for four years and held the position of new council development chairman on the state level for two years. Taylor was the state warden for the two previous years prior to his election to state advocate. He is a fourth-degree Knight and a past Faithful Navigator who resides with his wife, Eileen, in Hope Mills. Taylor is a member of Council 8857.

State Warden Robert J. Grabasky was formerly a district deputy for four years and state membership director for two years. This is his first position on the state level. Grabasky, who is a fourth-degree Knight and past Faithful Navigator, lives in Greensboro with his wife, Maryann. He is a member of Council 939.

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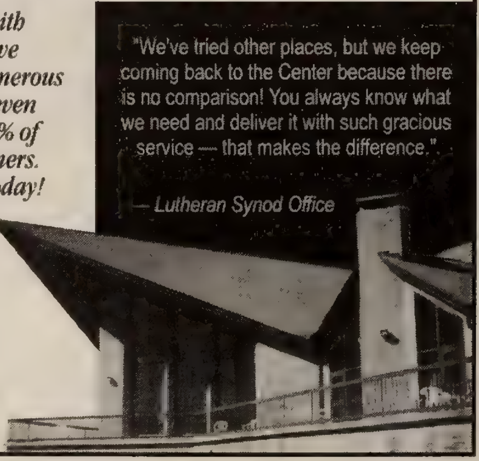

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COURTESY PHOTO

Faith in action

Sixty-five teens and 12 adult leaders from St. Hickory Church in Hickory recently returned from a week of service on a youth mission trip to South Bend, Ind. For the third year, the youth participated in the Catholic Heart Workcamp, a national faith-based service project. The youth joined 350 people from across the country, including a group from St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte.

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DSA 2001: Parishioners answer call of "Whom shall I send?"

By JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHARLOTTE — Taking the 2001 Diocesan Support Appeal to heart, parishioners answered the call "Whom shall I send?" in record-breaking fashion, said the annual appeal's director.

Barbara Gaddy, associate director of development for the Diocese of Charlotte, announced last week that as of July 26, parishioners had pledged $4,109,445 toward the appeal. The pledges far exceed the appeal's goal of $3,333,000.

The Diocesan Support Appeal partially or fully funds 35 educational, Catholic social service, vocations and multicultural ministries throughout the 46 counties comprising the Diocese of Charlotte.

Gaddy said the all-time high for pledges is a loving example of the many ways people are sharing their own gifts.

"More and more people are embracing stewardship as a way of life, and the DSA is one way of living out that commitment and expressing gratitude to God," she said.

"One of the secrets to real happiness comes in giving to others — freely, with no strings attached, without seeking a reward or counting the cost. Some of us are sent by God to use our talents directly in service to others as catechists, counselors, seminarians, deacons, campus ministers or youth ministers. Others may participate in these important ministries of the church through contributions to the Diocesan Support Appeal. Still others may find that the only way they can serve the Body of Christ is through prayer.

"Regardless of our own individual needs, we can all share with other members of our 'family' a portion of the time gifted to us, the talent given to us, and the treasure allotted to us."

Gaddy reported that 65 parishes had exceeded their individual goals for the appeal, and another five parishes were within 10 percent of their goal. Several parishes in the Boone, Smoky Mountain and Asheville vicariates with traditionally larger summer-season congregations are currently in the midst of their appeal campaign.

The diocese is now halfway into its six-month pledge-collection phase of the appeal, and Gaddy expects 95 percent of the pledges will be paid by October.

In addition to DSA contributions, nearly 6,000 prayer intentions were included in parishioners' pledge card envelopes sent to the diocese. Bishop William G. Curlin remembers those intentions at daily Mass celebrated in the pastoral center's chapel.

"I depend on the thousands of people in this diocese who have responded to the question, "Whom shall I send?" with an enthusiastic, "Here I am, send me!" Bishop Curlin said.

"When I consider the rapid growth of this diocese and the tremendous task of providing for the increasing needs of the people, I know that I need help. I am ever so grateful for those who are eager to go forth and serve in the name of the Lord."

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Indian priest ends fast; government agrees to fishermen's rights

MUMBAI, India (CNS) — A Catholic priest fasting to push for the rights of fishermen in western India ended his protest July 14 after the federal government agreed to the people's demands. Redemptorist Father Thomas Xavier Kocherry, who began the hunger strike July 10 at Umergaon coastal town, said he ended it after the government agreed "in writing to implement most of our demands," reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. However, "we need to further pressure" the government, he said. The priest said he fasted to push the federal government to implement a charter of fishermen's rights to which it had agreed earlier.

Pope to visit genocide site during Armenia trip in September

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II will visit a genocide memorial in Armenia and a shrine venerated as the birthplace of Christianity in the country during his September visit to the former Soviet republic, the Vatican said. The pope's visit on the same trip to the mostly Muslim and Orthodox former Soviet republic of Kazakstan will be limited to the capital, Astana. The Vatican released a skeletal outline July 24 of the pope's Sept. 22-27 travel itinerary. The pope is due to spend three days in Kazakstan before flying Sept. 25 to Armenia. In both countries, he is expected to meet with political and religious leaders as well as local Catholics.

Bishop Myers appointed to head Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope John Paul II has named Bishop John J. Myers of Peoria, Ill., as the new archbishop of Newark, N.J. The appointment was announced in Washington July 24 by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States. The announcement came two days before the new archbishop's 60th birthday. Archbishop Myers succeeds Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, who was archbishop of Newark from 1986 until he was named to head the Washington Archdiocese in November 2000. Archbishop Myers, ordained a priest for Peoria in 1966, has headed the Peoria Diocese since Jan. 23, 1990. He has been active in the Canon Law Society of America.

CNS PHOTO BY TOM DERMODY, CATHOLIC POST

Elderly Franciscan begins prison sentence

Two fellow Franciscan sisters help 88-year-old Sister Dorothy M. Hennessey (center) toward the federal prison in Pekin, Ill, following a prayer service July 17. The nun, her sibling, Sister Gwen Hennessey, 68, and seven other woman began six-month sentences at the minimum-security facility for their part in protests last November at the Army's School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Ga.

Power of prayer seen in progress of boy attacked by shark

PENSACOLA, Fla. (CNS) — It is miraculous how everyone had responded selflessly and worked together so well in the wake of the shark attack on Jessie Arbogast, according to a nun at the Florida Catholic hospital where the 8-year-old continued to recover. Sister Jean Rhoads, a Daughter of Charity and vice president of mission services at Sacred Heart Health System in Pensacola, praised the actions of all involved, from the aunt and uncle who efficiently and quickly administered CPR and tied off Jessie's wounds, to the medical professionals who treated Jessie. "It is truly a miracle that he is alive and doing so well," she said. Jessie was attacked by a 200-pound shark while swimming in shallow water at a state park off Pensacola Beach July 6. His condition has been upgraded from critical to serious, and as of July 24 he remained in a light coma.

Priest's testimony leads to man's release after years in jail

NEW YORK (CNS) — In a case that raised questions about what constituted a sacramental confession, a man imprisoned for murder 13 years ago was freed July 24 after a priest testified that another man had confessed to the crime years ago. U.S. District Judge Denny Chin released Jose Morales without bail, saying that if Jesuit Father Joseph Towle had testified in a trial, "it is difficult to imagine that any reasonable jury could find Morales guilty beyond a reasonable doubt." Morales, 31, was found guilty in 1988 of stabbing to death Jose Antonio Rivera in New York the year before. But Father Towle testified before Chin July 16 that Jesus Fornes told him in 1988 that he, not Morales, committed the crime. Fornes himself was killed in 1997.

Two Sisters of St. Joseph congregations reunited

HOLYOKE, Mass. (CNS) — Two congregations of the Sisters of St. Joseph with roots in Flushing, N.Y., celebrated their "reunification" with a special Mass July 1 in Holyoke. The 39-member Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, Vt., in the Burlington Diocese, merged with the larger congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Mass., bringing total membership to about 400. The merger was official as of April 30. Both congregations trace their foundations to Mother Teresa Mullen, the congregation's third superior in Flushing who established foundations in Boston, Rutland and Springfield. Sister Jane Morrissey, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, called the reuniting of the two congregations a blessing.

Bush meets briefly with U.S. cardinals, other Catholics

ROME (CNS) — During a visit to Rome, U.S. President George W. Bush met briefly with two American cardinals who work at the Vatican and separately with a small group of U.S. Catholics. The July 23 meetings at the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See on Aventine Hill followed Bush's audience with Pope John Paul II at the pontiff's summer residence outside Rome. The U.S. leader chatted and posed for photos with Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, chief administrator of Vatican City; Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity; Msgr. Joseph Marino, a Balkans expert at the Vatican Secretariat of State; and Father Todd J. Lajiness, Cardinal Szoka's personal secretary. Bush then met with a group of American Catholics who included Carl A. Anderson, head of the Knights of Columbus, and Bishop Thomas V. Daily of Brooklyn, N.Y., the Knights' chaplain.

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Pope asks Bush to reject funding for embryonic stem-cell research

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II asked President George W. Bush to oppose research on stem cells from embryos, as the U.S. leader deliberated over releasing federal funds for the practice.

Meeting July 23 with Bush for the first time, the pope said the United States had a "special responsibility" to the rest of the world and could point the way to a "truly humane future" by defending human life and dignity through legislation.

Bush, accompanied by his wife, Laura, and 19-year-old daughter Barbara, arrived at the papal summer residence southwest of Rome in a motorcade of black Cadillac limousines flying American flags.

The president met with the pope behind closed doors for 30 minutes. Afterward, joined by Vatican officials and Bush's entourage, the leaders exchanged speeches and small gifts.

In his speech, the pope told Bush that political decisions regarding human life "have the gravest consequences for the future of civilization."

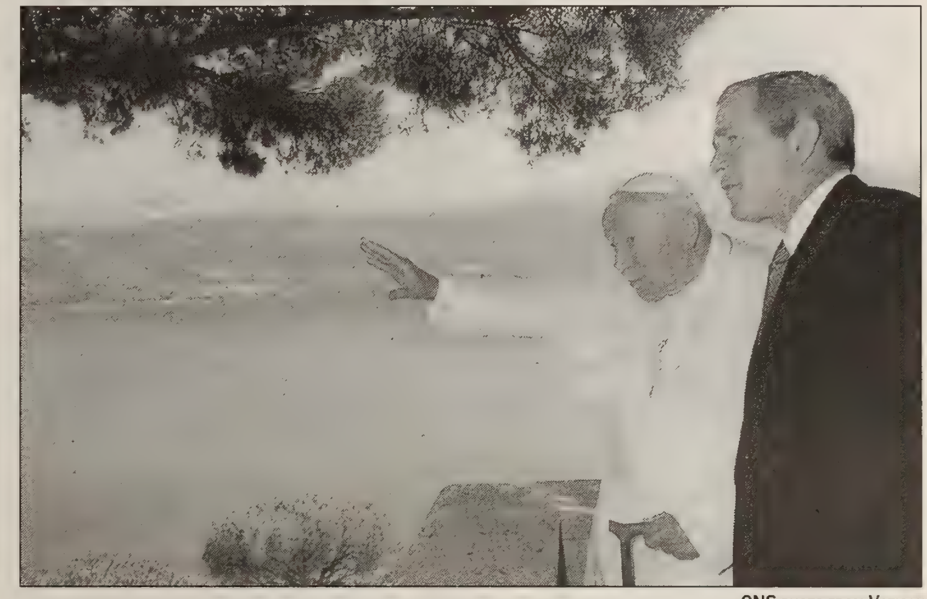
The widespread legalization of abortion has led to "a tragic coarsening of consciences," opening the way to acceptance of euthanasia, infanticide and "proposals for the creation for research purposes of human embryos, destined to destruction in the process," the pope said.

"A free and virtuous society, which America aspires to be, must reject practices that devalue and violate human life at any stage from conception until natural death," he said.

Bush was due to decide whether to allow federal funds for research on stem cells from embryos, which are killed in the process. The Catholic Church supports only harvesting stem cells from other tissues, like livers, placentas and umbilical cords, a process that does not threaten human life.

At a Rome press conference later in the day, Bush said he would take the pope's "point of view into consideration."

He said the question was particularly thorny and involved "the need to balance value and respect for life with the promise of science and the hope of saving life."



CNS photo from Vatican

Pope shows president view from Castel Gandolfo

Pope John Paul II shows U.S. President George W. Bush the view from the pontiff's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, July 23. In his first meeting with Bush, the pope spoke of the ``special responsibility'' the United States has to promote freedom and defend human dignity throughout the world.

Maggi Nadol, Respect Life coordinator for the Diocese of Charlotte, noted the important relationship between morality and science.

"We are fortunate to be living at a time when scientific discoveries, including stem cell research, offer so much promise," she said. "But while expectations to improve lives are promising, we cannot cross the line and disregard one life in exchange for the hope of a better life for another."

"Faith and science need not be enemies," she said, "but we must never reduce faith to a science."

According to Bush and an informed Vatican source, the pope did not raise the issue of embryonic stem-cell research in the leaders' private discussion.

The Vatican said the pope and Bush talked about the violence-torn Middle East, religious freedom and assistance to developing countries.

Bush was in Italy for a July 20-22 meeting of the leaders of the world's most industrialized countries.

The pope told Bush that wealthy nations must ensure that all the world's inhabitants enjoy the economic benefits of globalization. He said the church was deeply concerned by the "tragic fault line between those who can benefit from these opportunities and those who seem cut off from them."

During the ceremony, Bush sat straight in his chair, hands folded in his lap. His wife and daughter wore dark business suits and black lace veils.

Bush, a Methodist, thanked the pope for reminding Americans of their "special calling to promote justice and to defend the weak and suffering of the world."

"You remind us that wealth must be matched with compassion and moral purpose," he said.

He gave the pope a two-volume leather-bound anthology of American poetry, a first edition printed in 1849.

The U.S. leader also met for 15 minutes with Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state.

A Vatican source said that during his meetings, Bush seemed well prepared on foreign affairs topics and took charge of the discussions. He was accompanied by Condoleezza Rice, his national security adviser.

The source said Cardinal Sodano asked Bush to use U.S. influence to promote closer ties between the Vatican and communist China, where Catholics are forbidden to profess loyalty to the pope. Vatican officials also thanked Bush for American defense of religious freedom around the world.

Bush told reporters he was honored to have met the pope, "an extraordinary man" whose leadership "has not only affected political systems, but affected the hearts and souls of thousands of people around the world."

Contributing to this story were Nancy Frazier O'Brien and Patricia Zapor in Washington.

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Rev. John F. Parsons 1993
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Women, from page 1

of three days of plenary sessions, workshops, liturgies and social activities which aimed at the heart of many of the common concerns of African-American Catholic women. Using the theme "Black Catholic Women...Untapped Treasures...Magnify the Lord," the sessions and workshops were geared toward empowering women to recognize their own worth and to use their gifts in uplifting the church through ministry, vocations and growth.

"There are some serious issues that we need to look at, issues that pertain to us as black women, issues that pertain to us with respect to our role as black women in the Catholic Church, and issues that pertain to us in terms of how do we continue to be in solidarity with our people," said Sister of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia J. Chappell, NBSC president. "We have come together to look at what we need to do as black Catholic women to be heard within a church that we love and within a church we founded."

The four speakers brought the women on a journey from their past, rooted in slavery and shaped by a religion that African-Americans were oftentimes not allowed to fully practice, to the present, mired with modern problems of drugs and disease and a turning away from tradition and customs, to the future, a fight to save the next generation from the problems of today while training them to remember their pasts and to focus on their own destinies.

Sister Antona, with a twinkle in her eye and a spryness that contradicts her age, inspired the group to "catch on fire for the Lord" and to focus on individuality in order to work for the greater good. "This weekend, 33 years later (after the first NBSC meeting), you are invited to reflect on our responsibility to the rest of our community. This is our church, and Black women, when we speak of the genius and gift of black women, we are talking about focusing on who we are as black women and whose we are, what are our gifts and what gifts has God given you. We all have to use those gifts ... in the name of Jesus," said the NBSC secretary and civil rights activist.

Using her own supportive and spiritual relationship with her mother as part of the foundation, Dr. Diana Hayes spoke about the history of African-American Catholic women, which must be remembered and honored, the contributions they have made to society and to the Catholic Church and the rift between many Catholics that can be bridged with communication and a mutual understanding.

"...What is not acknowledged is the many numbers of people of African descent and throughout the world who are cradle Catholics with a foundation in the church going back countless generations. We must address this ignorance by addressing our own lack of knowledge of the 2000-plus-year history of people of African descent in the Roman Catholic Church," said Dr. Hayes, associate professor of theology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and the first African-American woman to receive a doctor of sacred theology degree from the Catholic University in Louvain in Belgium.

"We are simply stating what is fact, that racism, sexism and, to a certain extent, classism, exist in our church, and we have to recognize that they exist because our church is made up of human beings. We are a fallible people. We need to be talking with each other, dialoguing with each other and learning about each other, sharing our stories to make this a better church."

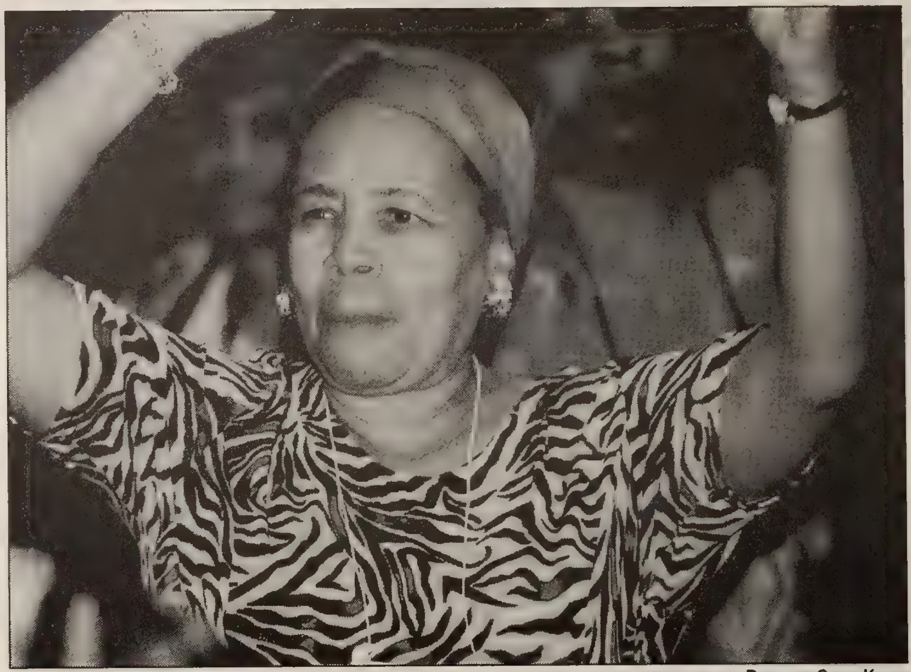
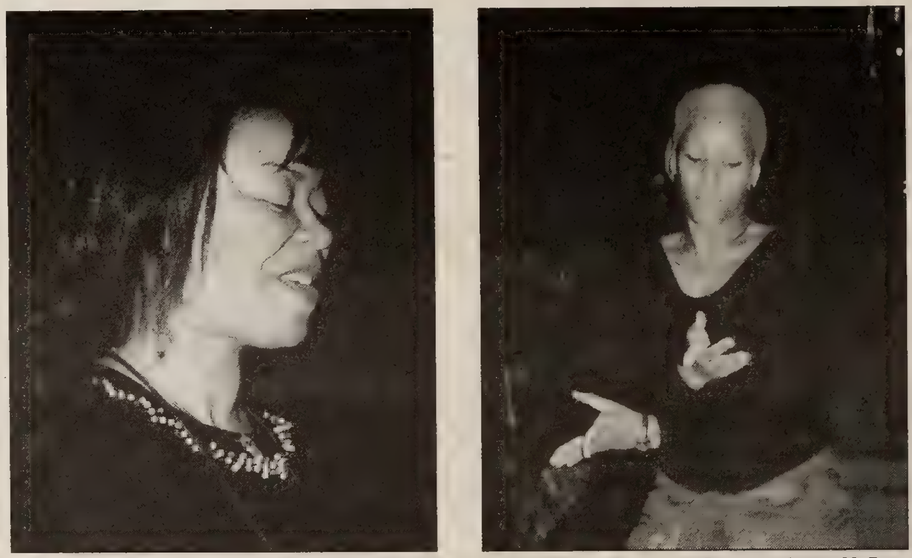


PHOTO BY CHRIS KEANE



PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Pictured top, Nessa Baskerviler Johnson of Richmond, Va., sings "Oh, Freedom" during the opening plenary at the National Gathering. Johnson is the author of "Black Catholic History of Richmond." Below from left to right, Natalie Hinton from St. Benedict the Moor Church in Winston-Salem listens intently to praise music, and Sharla Hill, one of the dancers from the Nia Dance Troupe from the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., performs for the crowd.

Dominican Sister Jamie Phelps, Ph.D., addressed various problems that plague African-American women and the community as a whole. Apathy, self-involvement and ignorance of the problems and issues of African-Americans must make room for the implementation of more African-American women in church roles, the recognition of self-worth and the power to change one's situation.

"What we need is the Spirit; what we need is to emerge, and it takes all of us working collaboratively to accomplish it. We can bring this church alive if we breathe deeply of the Spirit and work in the context of the community and use our gifts according to the community's needs. As we begin to think about what it is we need to do as black Catholic women in the church, we need to be looking beyond ourselves to who among us are the black Catholic men and women who will accept the call to leadership," said Sister Jamie, founding director of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and a visiting professor of theology at Loyola University in Chicago.

Almost peeking from over the podium, Daughters of the Heart of Mary Sister Anita Baird, the first African-American woman to serve as executive assistant to Cardinal Francis George and founding director of the Archdiocese of Chicago Office for Racial Justice, roused and excited the crowd with her booming voice and soul-stirring words of support, recognition and hope for the future. She compared the life of Harriet Tubman, called the Moses of her people, to the lives of women today.

"In our African-American Catholic communities around this nation, black women must become the Catholic Harriet Tubmans of our day. We must deliver our people from the bondage of Eurocentric Catholicism and lead them into the freedom of a pragmatic, universal...church. We cannot afford to lose another used-to-be Catholic. We have to go back into our communities and help our brothers and sisters find their way to redeem their identity as black Catholics, an identity that will not compromise their blackness or their Catholicity."

Bishop William G. Curlin of the Diocese of Charlotte, Father Mauricio W. West, vicar general and chancellor and Bishop John H. Ricard of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee concelebrated the closing liturgy. Father West, homilist, spoke to the group about being soldiers of Christ and arming themselves with the power of God. "(We must) use our strength and influence to clearly name and to boldly challenge injustice wherever we see it, whatever its form. Walking with Christ means letting the cross be a transfiguring experience in our lives."

The only African-American woman religious in North Carolina, Mercy Sister Larretta Rivera-Williams, said that she was inspired to go back to her parish to implement some fresh ideas into her predominantly African-American parish in Winston-Salem, St. Benedict the Moor. "It was great to see that Catholicism is alive and well in so many of our black Catholic women. This is the first time in the history of the church that we have gathered women together to listen to our own issues. The church is still seen as a male hierarchal structure, but I think some movements have been made and some continue to materialize in a positive fashion.

"I think coming together in this way in one body gives each individual more support and the knowledge that we are not alone, and together, we can change things with the power of the Holy Spirit."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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Holy year facts, figures provided in 1,478-page Vatican yearbook

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican, despite budget-tightening measures, used 10 percent more electricity in 2000 than in 1999 — and blamed it on the jubilee.

The Vatican's 1,478-page yearbook for 2000 is filled with reports on Holy Year celebrations, on the extra work the events required from Vatican employees and on projects which were postponed so as not to inconvenience pilgrims.

Unfortunately, according to the recently released volume, the pilgrims did not always reciprocate.

The report from the "technical services" office of Vatican City State said Vatican garbage collectors were assisted by "all available personnel," including gardeners, in cleaning up St. Peter's Square after Holy Year ceremonies.

They collected more than 7,700 tons of trash.

The yearbook, formally called "L'Attivita della Santa Sede" ("The Activity of the Holy See"), opens with a 719-page, day-by-day summary of Pope John Paul II's activity.

The papal section is followed by reports of widely varying detail from Vatican congregations, councils, commissions, tribunals and offices.

The book includes big picture items — such as explaining that the task of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is "to promote and safeguard the doctrine of the faith" — as well as minutiae.

For example, the Vatican telephone system installed 361 new phone lines in 2000, 212 of which were ISDN lines for high-speed computer connections.

The telephone service registered more than 3 million calls within Vatican City, 3.8 million from Vatican City to Rome and almost 1.5 million long-distance calls.

The service sold 192,000 pre-paid Vatican telephone cards, more than one-third of which were sold by mail, probably to collectors.

The massive influx of pilgrims meant a major beefing up of Vatican security, tourist services and first-aid stations.

The Vatican health service said that its staff and volunteer medical personnel, including the Knights of Malta and the Italian military, provided a total of 82,614 hours of service at Holy Year events.

The report said 15,109 pilgrims from 114 nations were treated.

The prefect of the Papal Household, U.S. Bishop James M. Harvey, reported a total of more than 8.5 million people at the pope's weekly general audiences, special Holy Year audiences, ceremonies and the Sunday recitation of the Angelus.

His report for 1999 counted up just over 1.5 million visitors at papal events.

The Vatican security department's report detailed more than 200 papal audiences, liturgies, ceremonies and visits at which its agents served during 2000.

Surprisingly, the security office reported finding only 1,157 objects left behind by visitors and said most of them were returned to their owners.

The report mentioned the officers' work in enforcing Vatican parking and traffic laws, but did not say how many tickets were issued, nor did it mention anyone stopped or turned over to Italian police for more serious infractions.

The Vatican fire department had a good year. No fires were reported.

The firefighters did regular checks and maintenance on Vatican City State's 1,000 fire extinguishers and twice a day walked a 12-mile circuit of Vatican buildings, offices, churches and chapels.

As of Dec. 31, 2000, the yearbook said, 524 people held Vatican citizenship, including 49 cardinals, 271 members of the Vatican diplomatic corps, 63 other prelates, 88 members of the Swiss Guard and 53 "other lay people."

The Vatican's construction office said it, "like all other offices and departments," dedicated its energy throughout the year to jubilee-related events and services.

Normal construction and restoration work, it said, was greatly reduced, particularly to avoid blocking or tearing up "places where the presence of the faithful, pilgrims and tourists was expected to be consistently high."

Even work on restoring and reinforcing the ancient walls around the Vatican was interrupted for the year, because the project would have blocked part of the sidewalk between St. Peter's Square and the entrance to the Vatican Museums — a major tourist thoroughfare.

While the yearbook dedicated hundreds of thousands of words to describing Vatican jubilee-year activities, the Vatican's photographers used celluloid.

The yearbook said Arturo Mari, the official photographer, and his two assistants snapped 307,000 photographs during the year. More than 5,000 of the pictures were taken by Mari during Pope John Paul's 7-day trip to the Holy Land.

And the Vatican Television Center got it all on videotape as well, broadcasting more than 1,000 hours of Holy Year events.

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Class in session with nighttime nun

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — The key to Kathy Cogan's current professional endeavor can be found in her childhood.

Halloween was a time when she could dress up like a woman religious with her mother's bathrobe and a towel and an oatmeal canister to hold the towel in place on her head. Dressed in her "habit," she would walk around her neighborhood as if she were a sister. She was emulating the Sisters of St. Joseph who staffed her school in New Jersey. Now, as one of the stars of "Late Nite Catechism," a one-act play about the "good old days" of Catholic school, instead of a breakfast cereal box, she wears a habit similar to the ones worn by sisters from her childhood.

"I was so enamored of the nuns, and when I got this role, I was thinking to myself 'I've always wanted to wear one of these,'" said Cogan, who has been playing the role of "Sister" for nearly four years.

Two Catholic women, Maripat Donovan and Vickie Quade, co-wrote the one-woman show, intended to be a celebration of their Catholicism and their experiences with Catholic school. Cogan has traveled across the country sharing Catholicism and scholastic memories through the character of "Sister."

Cogan, an actress for over 15 years, was discovered while doing her own one-woman show "The Nail Room," which was based on her experience as a manicurist and her talent as a singer and comedienne. She had worked previously with musicals, the cabaret circuit, radio and other musical and comedic performances. One of the producers of "Late Nite Catechism" saw her show and asked her if she wanted to tour with the play. She could not pass up the opportunity.

The show, which ran in Charlotte at the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center from July 9 through July 29, consists of interactive dialogue and a monologue performance from the actress. Latecomers, stragglers, gum-chewers and talkers are the targets of Cogan's shtick which incorporates comments and responses from the audience. Cogan said that her improvisational and comedic skills have to be sharp in order to keep up with the audience.

"The script is like a skeleton; there's a story, and anything that happens with the audience is the meat," said Cogan. "What helps is knowing the script in your sleep and lots of improvisational work and training."

Courtesy photo

Kathy Cogan stars as "Sister" in the one-woman show "Late Night Catechism." The show ended a Charlotte run July 29.

Because the audience responses to Sister's questions vary with each performance, the show can be vastly different from night to night. The set includes a blackboard with Catholic keywords written, desk, chair and a podium, resembling the front of a classroom. The audience or "students" are bombarded with questions about Catholic faith including the standard "what is your confirmation name?" People are called on at random, and some even volunteer to have a dialogue with Sister, which evokes a spur-of-the-moment and conversational comedic style all its own.

"I watch everything that goes on and keep the house lights up a bit to see the audience. I wait for an opportunity to step off the script, and I am prepared and educated to make the script seamless," explained Cogan. "If someone says that they didn't know what was scripted and what wasn't, then I've done my job."

The play is a combination of discussions, questions, memories of Catholic school and women religious from almost 50 years ago. Cogan spends time researching the Catholic faith in order to speak with knowledge during the play. She says that some of the people she has met — clergy, religious and laity — have supplied her with support, information and prayer.

"It (the show) has actually helped me get more in touch with my faith because if I didn't believe in what I was talking about, it would be really hard to sell," said Cogan. "People in church communities have counseled me, been good friends and have given me great inspiration."

Cogan says she wants people's experience to be positive and fulfilling, and she wants the audience to reflect on the warmth of their faith and spirituality.

"My Catholic school experience was beautiful, and my aim is those who had a good Catholic school experience," said Cogan. "I try to put more emphasis on reminiscing about the good aspects of the church and the culture. I think it's important for the health of the show for my performance to be truer, more clear and endearing to audiences."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

In Brief ...

Sister Florence O'Connor dies at age 92

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — Sister Florence O'Connor, whose many assignments included service in North Carolina, died July 11, 2001, in Karcher Hall of the Sisters of Providence residence in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

The former Helen Catherine O'Connor was born in New Albany, Ind., on April 22, 1909, to John William O'Connor and Florence Isabel Drury O'Connor.

Sister Florence entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on Sept. 24, 1926, professed first vows Feb. 26, 1929, and made final vows Aug. 15, 1934.

In addition to schools staffed by the Sisters of Providence, Indiana, Illinois and California, Sister Florence served at St. Therese School in Wilson, N.C., and at Blessed Sacrament School in Burlington, N.C. Both of those schools are in the Diocese of Raleigh.

The wake was July 17, 2001, in Providence Hall, with the wake service held in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass of Christian burial was celebrated July 18 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception with Father Lawrence Richardt presiding.

Burial was in the cemetery of the Sisters of Providence in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sister Florence is survived by two sisters, Lillian O'Connor Kirby of Paris, Ill., and Kathleen O'Connor Stovall of Williamsport, Ind., as well as several nieces and nephews.

Parish youth receive evangelization grant

ASHEVILLE — The St. Joan of Arc Church youth ministry recently received a youth evangelization grant from the Foundation of the Diocese of Charlotte for training in the Life Teen program.

Paul Kotlowski, diocesan youth ministry director, and former St. Joan of Arc parishioner and youth catechist Bonnie Skulley presented the grant to Father John Pagel, pastor.

Kotlowski encouraged the parish to continue its support of the youth, and said youth ministry is the responsibility of the entire parish.

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Father Canice Connors re-elected minister provincial of friars' province

RENSSELAER, N.Y. — Conventual Franciscan Friar Father Canice Connors, who has served as the minister provincial of Immaculate Conception Province since 1997, has been re-elected to that position by his fellow friars.

Father Connors, who has served in pastoral roles in the Diocese of Charlotte, earned his doctorate in psychology at the University of Pittsburgh. Since then, he has had a distinguished record of administrative service, including as secretary of planning and management for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, executive director of Southdown Treatment Center in Ontario, Canada, and as president and chief executive officer of St. Luke Institute, a treatment center in Silver Spring, Md., for clergy battling substance abuse, as well as psychological and sexual disorders.

> **"We look to a new vision of service to the people and continue to seek innovative evangelization methods for the century."**

He has served on the chair of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops subcommittee on child sexual abuse. In April 1997, he was presented the President's Award from the National Federation of Priests Councils. The same year, he was elected minister provincial of Immaculate Conception Province.

Father Connors also currently serves as president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

Voted to assist Father Connors with province leadership are Father Justin Biase as vicar provincial and Father Denis Hackett as secretary of the province. Together with Father Curt Kreml and Brother Jim Moore, they will serve a four-year term on the provincial definitory, the province's governing board.

"This administration will continue to strive to follow the specific Franciscan model of fraternal life and ministry that was taught to us by our brother Francis, despite the ever-present challenges facing our province, order and the church in general," Father Connors said. "We look to a new vision of service to the people and continue to seek innovative evangelization methods for the century."

The Immaculate Conception Province was established in 1852 when five friars left Europe under the direction of their father general to minister to immigrants in the United States. Today, the province extends from Canada to North Carolina, with missions in Central America and Brazil.

Following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, the friars strive to spend a proportional time in prayer, fraternity and service to others.

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Maryfield announces $50 million expansion

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

HIGH POINT — In the convent where Maryfield began more than 50 years ago, the senior-care facility's administrator announced plans for a $50 million expansion that will advance the institution's mission of illustrating God's love for senior citizens.

Sister Lucy Hennessy, president and administrator of Maryfield, announced the plans July 19. The institution's board of directors approved the expansion June 22.

The project includes "Pennybyrn at Maryfield," an independent residential living community of 131 apartments. Additionally, seven residential cottages will be built, along with 48 assisted-living apartments, a 36-room Alzheimer's community, a wellness center, adult and child daycare centers and expanded dining and community facilities.

Amenities such as a gift shop, hair salon, banking services, library and meditation chapel and garden are in the plans.

The assisted-living community will be built in an Irish-English ambiance to reflect the founding sisters' heritage. An informal dining area will resemble an Irish pub as well.

The expansion is the latest local project advancing the mission of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God, the congregation of sisters founded in 1869 in London that today serves the poor and the elderly in need throughout the world.

In 1947, a group of the congregation's sisters came from Europe at the request of Bishop Vincent Waters of Raleigh. They opened a nursing home in a High Point mansion that today serves as the sisters' convent.

Several expansion projects through the decades led to a bustling continuing-care retirement community with 115 beds, 10 assisted-living homes and 29 residential-living cottages.

"The mission of Maryfield from the time that the sisters started in 1947 right up to now has been to demonstrate God's love for seniors," said Sister Lucy.

Maryfield keeps Gospel values — dignity, compassion, kindness, respect — at the core of its mission, Sister Lucy said. The facility ensures a home to any elderly person in need, regardless of race, religious belief or economic status. The institution accepts people on Medicare and Medicaid.

"The focus here is on wellness — keeping well, living life to the fullest," Sister Lucy said.

The expansion is planned for 11 of Maryfield's 65 acres and will we be set in the plush natural landscape of the area, including some of City Lake's shoreline.

The project could create 100 new jobs, Sister Lucy said.

The expansion is scheduled to break ground in the fall of 2003, following a marketing stage starting in January 2002. Occupancy is expected by the summer of 2005.

Current Maryfield residents and operations will not be impacted financially by the expansion, said Sister Lucy. Funding for the project will come from tax-exempt bonds, fundraising and monies future residents will pay for new homes.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

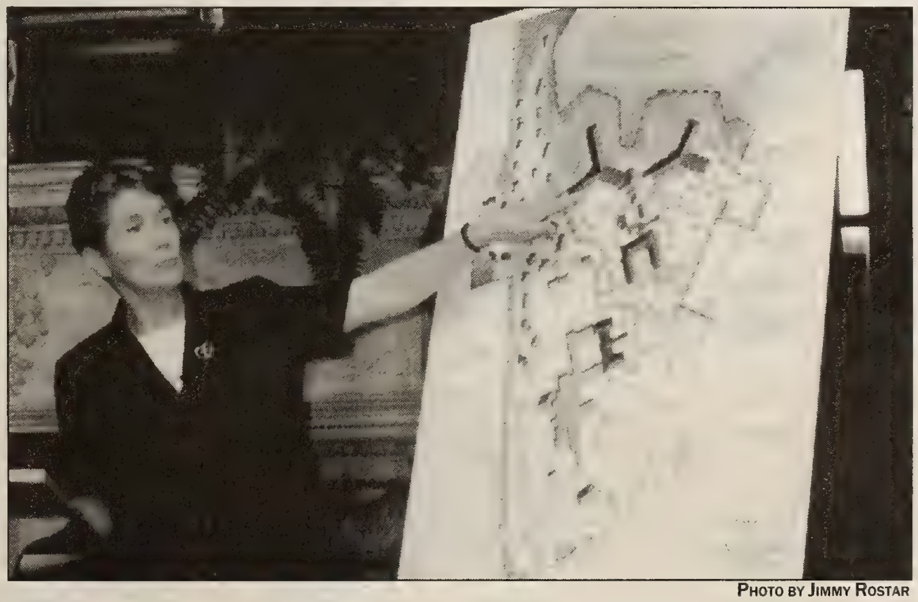

PHOTO BY JIMMY ROSTAR

Sister Lucy Hennessy unveils Maryfield's $50 million expansion plans July 19.

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Father Mulholland, 'Father Justice,' dies at 80

By JOHN STRANGE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — Father H. Charles Mulholland, a longtime leader for social justice in the Diocese of Raleigh, died Saturday, July 21. He was 80.

"Father Mulholland had a tremendous dedication to the church, and spent his life striving to lead us to live in the fullness of the Gospels," said Msgr. Gerald L. Lewis, vicar general of the Raleigh Diocese.

Msgr. Lewis said that Father Mulholland was one of the most loved and admired priests in the diocese.

"He was kind, and patient, and understanding, even with those who disagreed with him," he said. "He never held any kind of rancor, even with his most ardent opposition. He would embrace them with the love of Jesus."

The editor of the North Carolina Catholic from May 1966 to May 1967, Father Mulholland was perhaps best known for being an activist priest, marching and speaking out for civil rights, Right to Life, peace, and against the death penalty.

Writing in the North Carolina Catholic on Feb. 26, 1967, Father Mulholland praised the protesters of the Vietnam War. "We should be proud of the resiliency and vitality of the American political system that permits public protests against administration policies, even when this involves criticism of its own armies.... Surely all men of Faith can join in the public, dignified witness for the abolition of war."

And in a call to Catholics to vote, Nov. 6, 1966, Father Mulholland wrote, "The failings of Catholics in what may be the trivial matter of 'off-year elections' is an indication of the more profound failure 'to put on Christ,' to carry Him to the market place and live Him 'in season and out of season.'"

Father J. Paul Byron, who was "the closest of friends" with Father Mulholland, said that his friend's calling to social justice came early. As a young man, he said, "Father Charlie" would volunteer and work with Dorothy Day at her Catholic Worker House on Mott Street in New York City.

"That is where his whole intent for the needs of the people came from," Father Byron said.

"His prophetic voice called us all to realize what our faith meant in very painful ways," Father Byron said. "Most of us did not go out and stand on the courthouse steps every Wednesday, but Charlie did."

Father Byron said that Father Mulholland's weekly trips to the courthouse in Raleigh began during the Vietnam War, but they continued for 25 years as he and others demonstrated for peace.

"His was certainly the loudest, and most determined, and most unfailing of the prophetic voices of the Diocese of Raleigh," Father Byron said.

Franciscan Sister Joan Jurski, coordinator of the Diocese of Raleigh's Peace and Justice Department, said that Father Mulholland was a mentor to her.

"Many people called him 'Father Justice' or 'Mr. Justice,'" she said. "We all saw him as the epitome of justice because he lived what he preached. He preached what he practiced, and he practiced what he preached.

"He stood on the line for pro-life; he was at executions, he was in everything. He was a holistic, just person."

But just as important, she said, was that his justice work was always rooted in kindness. "He always respected the dignity of the other person."

In 1998, Father Mulholland received, along with Sister Rosemary McNamara, S.U., Catholic Social Ministries' John J. Carey Award.

The Rev. W.W. Finlator, former pastor at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, said that he and Father Mulholland arrived in the city at about the same time in 1956. They were close friends from then on, he said.

"He stood on line, he marched, he testified," Rev. Finlator said. "He identified himself all his life with poor people. He fought poverty and injustice all his life. He had a tremendous spirit."

It was rare in those days for Catholic priests and leaders to work with Baptists and other denominations on various issues, Rev. Finlator acknowledged, but Father Mulholland "was one of us.... We needed him, and we will miss him."

In 1976 Father Mulholland was elected president of the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, a position he held for one year.

"That was wonderful," Rev. Finlator said. "He was disarming in the presence of hostility because of his quiet calm and truthfulness.

"He was not confrontational. He loved those who opposed him.

"I am honored to have been associated with Father Charlie."

Father Mulholland was born in the Bronx, N.Y., April 26, 1921. He attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y., from 1942 to 1944. After serving in the Merchant Marine during World War II, he went to St. John Seminary in Little Rock, Ark., from 1950 to 1952, and Catholic University in Washington 1952 to 1956.

He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh by Bishop Vincent S. Waters at Immaculate Conception Church in Durham May 24, 1956.

His pastoral assignments included Our Lady of Guadalupe in Newton Grove; St. John Church in North Wilkesboro; Infant of Prague, Jacksonville; and the diocese's Outdoor Mission Apostolate.

His first pastorate was at Sacred Heart Church in Brevard from 1963 to 1966. He was also pastor at St. Ann, Smithfield, St. Mary, Garner; and Mother of Mercy, Washington. He was also co-chaplain at East Carolina University in Greenville.

He served as pastor at St. Michael Church in Cary from 1982 to 1989, and at St. Mary in Garner from 1989 to his retirement in 1996.

He also served the diocese as dean of the New Bern Deanery, a member of the Council of Priests, then known as the Priests' Senate; and as a member of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission.

John Strange is editor of the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese.

Smoky Mountain Vicariate to sponsor death penalty workshop

MAGGIE VALLEY — "The Catholic Pro-Life Struggle: The Death Penalty" is the topic of a workshop Aug. 11 at the Living Waters Reflection Center in Maggie Valley.

Sponsored by the Smoky Mountain Vicariate of the Diocese of Charlotte, the day of reflection will feature presenter Sister Patricia McCarthy, a Sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame, from Rochester, R.I.

Sister Patricia McCarthy, CND

The workshop will focus on four components: the scriptural basis for life; myths behind the death penalty; moral choices to be made; and decisions for action.

"This topic was chosen because the position of the Catholic Church on the issue of the death penalty is so clear from the teachings of Pope John Paul II, the Catechism, the American bishops and our bishops in North Carolina, and, yet, for many Catholics, the death penalty is an acceptable form of punishment," said Father George Kloster, vicar of the Smoky Mountain Vicariate.

"The recent execution of Timothy McVeigh once again highlighted the prominent role of the death penalty in American society," he added. "The statement of the American bishops by Bishop Joseph Fiorenza, president of the USCC, is a reminder to Catholics of the need 'to protect human life from conception to natural death.'"

In his statement, Bishop Fiorenza stated: "In an age where respect for life is threatened in so many ways, we believe it is important to emphasize that human life is a gift from God, and no one or any government should presume to kill God's gift.... We call on Catholics and all people of good will — particularly legislators — to reconsider the use of capital punishment.

"The resumption of federally-sanctioned killings and the atmosphere surrounding it have brought us to this sad day for our country."

Sister McCarthy has worked for more than two decades with the needy in the field of education, particularly with abused children. She has studied the theology and spirituality of Christian nonviolence and has lectured throughout North America, Ireland and Japan.

She has published articles for Review for Religious, The Spiritual Life and Momentum.

The program runs from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Advanced registration is required. For registration details, call (828) 926-3833, or e-mail LWCRC@main.nc.us.

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Book Review

Books on Stein assist meditation on saint

REVIEWED BY **EUGENE J. FISHER**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

In 1999, on the eve of the turn of the millennium, Pope John Paul II added new names to the list of patron saints of Europe, making a total of three women and three men, celebrating East and West and key moments of profound change in the history of Christian Europe.

The sole representative of the 20th century, which saw the worst eruptions of violence in recorded history as well as the great renewal of Catholic hope arising out of that carnage with the Second Vatican Council, is St. Edith Stein.

Through the life, works, and, perhaps above all, death of this towering Jewish intellectual and humble Carmelite, the Holy Father challenges us to discern something of what is at the core of the past we have come from and the future we and our children face.

THE LIFE AND THOUGHT OF EDITH STEIN, **by Freda Mary Oben. Alba House, Society of St. Paul (New York, 2001). 165 pp., $12.95.**

EDITH STEIN: ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, **by Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda. Our Sunday Visitor (Huntington, Ind. 2001). 208 pp. $11.95.**

What are the challenges the pope sees embedded in and embodied by the figure of Edith Stein, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross? These two books — by award-winning journalist Maria Ruiz Scaperlanda and Freda Mary Oben, a scholar with a doctorate from Catholic University — will greatly assist our meditation of this singular saint who is the spiritual model for our time.

Both books are based on solid research, and are well written and very readable. Both contain numerous insights into the saint and why reverence for her can deepen our spiritual lives in the 21st century. Both conclude with extensive, thoughtful commentaries on her legacy and on the challenge she poses for Catholic-Jewish relations.

Each gives a good sense of Edith Stein's life and times, but their different approaches make them complementary, not redundant.

Scaperlanda's book is chronological, beginning with Edith Stein's early life as a Jewish girl in a typical middle-class Jewish family in Breslau, Germany. It describes her hunger to learn and pursue truth, and her early loss of her ancestral faith (though never her identity as a Jew!).

We learn about her academic development as a student of renowned philosopher Edmund Husserl; her conversion from atheism to Christianity through the confidence that a steadfast faith gave to a Lutheran widow; and her attraction to Catholicism through the writings of St. Theresa of Avila.

Scaperlanda recounts Edith Stein's entry into a Carmelite cloister and the pain that separation caused her family and herself.

The author writes about Stein's pioneering spirit as a leader of Catholic feminism and as a philosopher-theologian bringing together the insights of medieval scholasticism (in the writings especially of Aquinas) and modern phenomenology.

Next comes her banishment from German academia as the dark night of Nazism fell over her country; her flight to Holland with her sister; and finally, her arrest, deportation and death in Auschwitz as one of the 6 million of her fellow Jews murdered by the Germans in history's most depraved and evil act, the Shoah.

Oben spends less time on the narrative of her subject's life, but delves more deeply into the saint's philosophical and theological writings.

Her summary of St. Edith Stein's synthesis of scholasticism and phenomenology is extremely helpful for understanding its continuing significance for Catholic thought today. I came away with the conviction that, in addition to being named a martyr of the church, a very good case can be made that St. Edith Stein also should be named a doctor of the church, one of very few women to be so honored.

Oben is herself a Jewish convert to Catholicism who, like St. Edith Stein, maintains a deep sense of her Jewishness and of the respect Judaism is owed as a religion integral to itself and founded on divine revelation.

This gives her a special sensitivity to the positive influence on future generations of Catholics that veneration of St. Edith Stein can have.

The saint who died with and for her fellow Jews will always remain a goad to the conscience of Christians.

She is a perpetual reminder on the Christian calendar of the utter sinfulness of anti-Semitism and the very real dangers of corruption of the faith when Christians fall — as they did so often and for so many centuries leading up to the Holocaust — into the twin heresies of supersessionism (the idea that Christianity has "taken the place" of Judaism in God's heart) and triumphalism (the idea that Christianity is somehow "superior" to Judaism, as if God played such petty games of favoritism with the history of salvation).

What should emerge from Christian contemplation of St. Edith Stein's life and profound thought is a renewed appreciation of the mystery of salvation itself.

It is a mystery in which the church and the Jewish people are called, together and not in opposition, to witness to the infinite love and mercy of the one God of Israel who has called us both into being in order that we may prepare the way for the coming of God's kingdom.

Fisher is associate director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Word to Life

August 5, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C Readings:

1)Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2)Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
3)Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

BY **DAN LUBY**
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

When my mother died more than 10 years ago, my siblings and I knew better than to expect a monetary windfall from her estate. She'd lived frugally on Social Security and a widow's pension. Still, when the sad morning came when my sister and I drove to her bank to close out her accounts and empty her safe deposit box, a less than noble part of my consciousness was tickled by a fantasy scenario featuring thick stacks of Treasury bonds or velvet bags of mysteriously undisclosed gemstones.

Of course nothing of the kind was found, only personal papers: will, insurance information, old passbooks. Similarly, emptying her apartment in the weeks ahead revealed no secret stash of currency, no priceless coin collection. Her few outstanding bills pretty much zeroed out what money she'd had in the bank and the proceeds from the sale of her car. But when we all tearfully departed her modest home for the last time, we knew that the legacy she'd left us had made us rich.

Each of us has something tangible that had been hers: her engagement ring, a comfortable couch, some well-worn but handsome pieces of furniture, her piano. But more blessedly we have walked away with treasures which won't fade or get lumpy or lose their beauty.

In the long run my mother was rich in things that count, that last: a great capacity for affection, the wisdom of experience, commitment to family, intellectual curiosity, the courage to embrace new ideas and new people. Most important, her legacy was a deep and lively faith in Christ, a faith in which all her other gifts were rooted.

Sunday's Gospel parable of the rich fool is a cautionary tale about mistaking passing wealth for permanent riches. May each of us be blessed with people in our lives who help us to know the difference.

QUESTIONS:

Who is an example for you of investing your life in the things that last? What is one specific way you can enrich your relationships with the people you love?

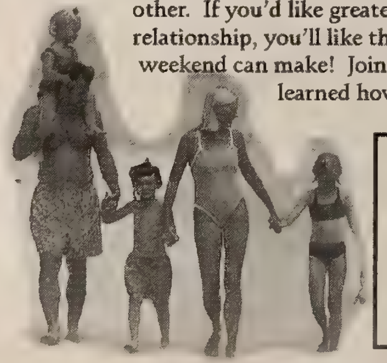
Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of August 5-11

Sunday, Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23, Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11, Luke 12: 13-21; **Monday** (Transfiguration of the Lord), Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1: 16-19, Luke 9:28b-36; **Tuesday (St. Sixtus II and Companions, St. Cajetan)**, Numbers 12:1-13, Matthew 14:22-36; **Wednesday (St. Dominic)**, Numbers 13:1-2, 25 —14:1, 26-29, 34-35, Matthew 15:21-28; **Thursday**, Numbers 20:1-13, Matthew 16:13-23; **Friday (St. Lawrence)**, 2 Corinthians 9:6-10, John 12:24-26; **Saturday (St. Clare)**, Deuteronomy 6:4-13, Matthew 17:14-20

Readings for the week of August 12-18

Sunday, Wisdom 18:6-9, Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19, Luke 12:32-48; **Monday (Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus)**, Deuteronomy 10:12-22, Matthew 17:22-27; **Tuesday (St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe)**, Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14; **Wednesday (The Assumption of Mary)**, Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab, 1 Corinthians 15:20-27, Luke 1:39-56; **Thursday (St. Stephen of Hungary)**, Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17, Matthew 18:21 — 19:1; **Friday**, Joshua 24:1-13, Matthew 19:3-12, **Saturday (St. Jane Frances de Chantal)**, Joshua 24:14-29, Matthew 19:13-15



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Video reviews

By GERRI PARE

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available in VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"Down to Earth" (2001)

Stale remake has an aspiring comedian (Chris Rock) die prematurely, followed by inept angel (Eugene Levy) placing him in the body of an elderly millionaire who has just been bumped off by his wife and her lover. Directed by brothers Chris and Paul Weitz, the romantic comedy is a poor rewrite that uses the race issue for cheap laughs. Some sexual references and fleeting profanity with recurring crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Paramount)

"Head Over Heels" (2001)

Frivolous romantic comedy in which an art restorer (Monica Potter) living with four supermodels in New York City falls for the seemingly perfect guy (Freddie Prinze Jr.), until she thinks she sees him commit murder. As directed by Mark S. Waters, the film has a few entertaining moments despite its conventional comedy-of-errors plot. Fleeting violence, a few sexual encounters, some crude humor and brief crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Universal)

"Malena" (2000)

Shallow tale set in Fascist-era Sicily in which the sexual yearnings of a 13-year-old boy (Guiseppe Sulfaro) are awakened by the town's curvaceous bombshell (Monica Bellucci), whose beauty makes her the target of nasty rumors and innuendos. Director Guiseppe Tornatore's nostalgic coming-of-age film is dramatically underdeveloped with some tasteless scenes and a cursory narrative that fails to make an impression. Subtitles. Brief violence, a few implied sexual encounters, masturbation, some nudity and minimal rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Miramax)

"Monkeybone" (2001)

Strange comic fantasy in which a cartoonist (Brendan Fraser) in a comatose state plunges into the spooky dream world of his comic book creation and must escape back to reality before Death (Whoopi Goldberg) claims him. As directed by Henry Selick, the live-action/stop-motion animation film is filled with entertaining characters and kooky creations but the muddled narrative is impenetrable. Some sexual references, fleeting rear nudity, an instance of profanity and brief crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (20th Century Fox)

CNS photo from Universal

Scene from movie 'Jurassic Park III'

Sam Neill stars as Dr. Alan Grant in "Jurassic Park III." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 -- parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Recess: School's Out" (2001)

Innocuous animated movie about six elementary school youngsters who foil the plans of a bitter former principal (voice of James Woods) to wipe out summer vacation. Based on the cartoon TV show, director Chuck Sheetz's film feels like an extended series episode with flat animation and a flimsy narrative. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Buena Vista)

"Saving Silverman" (2001)

Mindless comedy about two twentysomething friends (Jack Black and Steve Zahn) who concoct a plan to save their best friend (Jason Biggs) from marrying the wrong woman (Amanda Peet) by kidnapping her and reuniting him with his long-lost love. As directed by Dennis Dugan, the familiar story is told in a monotonous fashion with a lagging pace and an occasional chuckle. Comically intended violence, a few sexual situations and references, fleeting profanity and some crude expressions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Columbia Tristar Home Video)

"Snatch" (2001)

Savage crime caper in which two low-level boxing promoters and their bare-knuckle gypsy fighter (Brad Pitt) unintentionally become embroiled in the theft of an 86-carat diamond by a gambling addict (Benicio Del Toro). Writer-director Guy Ritchie pulls together seemingly unrelated plot lines with kinetic editing and colorful characters, but the escalating brutality and benign attitude towards wrongdoing are repulsive. Much gratuitous violence, brief nudity, constant rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Sony Pictures Entertainment)

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says God's last word is always one of mercy, love

By CINDY WOODEN
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While God punishes people for their sinfulness, his last word is always one of mercy and love, Pope John Paul II said.

At his first general audience after an 11-day Alpine vacation, the pope July 25 said that throughout history, people have asked, "Why does God treat us this way?"

The answer is a combination of "justice and divine mercy: 'He scourged you for your inequities, but will again have mercy on you all,'" the pope said, quoting the Book of Tobit.

"Punishment appears as a kind of divine teaching method in which, however, the last word always is given to mercy," he told the thousands of visitors who filled the Vatican's air-conditioned Paul VI Audience Hall.

The story of Tobit, the pope said, is the story of a man who, despite all kinds of suffering, remains faithful to God and to his law, especially to the laws of charity and almsgiving.

And God remains faithful to Tobit as well, ensuring a happy marriage for his son, leading the young man home and healing Tobit's blindness, the pope said.

"The message is clear: One who does good, especially opening his heart to the needs of his neighbor, is pleasing to the Lord and, even if he is put to the test, in the end he will experience God's benevolence," Pope John Paul said.

"We can always place our trust in the mercy of God, who never forsakes us," he said.

In the story of Tobit and throughout the Bible, the pope said, "suffering itself, provided it is accepted in a spirit of abandonment to God's plan, takes on a mysteriously positive meaning."

"The cross of Christ provides the ultimate response to the question of human suffering," he said.

Pope John Paul said Tobit's canticle of praise acknowledges the fact that sinners are punished for their faults and called to conversion, which opens them to "the marvelous prospect" of God renewing his favor to them.

"It is God, even more than his gifts, that we need," the pope said. "Sin is a tragedy not so much because it brings God's punishments, but because it pushes him from our hearts."

Pope John Paul, spending two months at the papal villa south of Rome, traveled by helicopter to the Vatican for the audience. Afterward, he spent nearly an hour greeting individuals and posing for photos with groups, including several members of general chapters of religious orders meeting in Rome.

A group of Latin American indigenous dancers, wearing traditional costumes and elaborate feathered headdresses, performed for the pope, who then returned to the summer residence at Castel Gandolfo.

Coming of Age

CHRISTOPHER CARSTENS
CNS Columnist

Just imagine!

Here's something worth thinking about: When school starts you'll get a whole new chance. You'll have new teachers, new classes. It's your opportunity for making a change.

Big deal, you may say. Everybody gets to start over in the fall.

In fact, those annual new starts are one of the special privileges of youth. Adults don't get "start-overs" nearly as often.

For most adults, the experience of starting over is rare and precious. For kids, it comes every fall, with each year offering a chance to try something different, some new way of handling an old situation.

As you think about this year's new start, what would you like to do differently?

Some things you can't change. For example, most junior high girls hate their noses. Looking in a mirror, they see a nose that is too small or too wide, too crooked or too pointy. Given a chance to fix just one thing, lots of girls — and guys, too — would change their looks.

You don't alter the shape of your face; you can't make yourself taller or shorter. You have the body God gave you.

What you can change is your behavior, the way you interact with other people as you go through the day, and your attitude. Those are within your control.

Over the years I've watched teens make some marvelous changes during a single summer.

Elizabeth grew up shy and socially awkward. The summer between middle school and Catholic high, she decided to change all that. That fall she introduced herself to the other kids as Becky — a name she never had used before. Shy Elizabeth was left back in middle school.

With her new name, Becky adopted a new attitude. She went right up to people and talked to them. She smiled and laughed instead of brooding in the corners. The new Becky made lots of friends.

I wouldn't necessarily promote changing your name. However, this summer you doubtless will find yourself thinking about what you'd like to do differently this fall.

Instead of dwelling on what you plan to stop doing, think about what new behaviors or attitudes you want to add to your life.

Be specific, and then give yourself a chance to daydream about the changes. Imagine yourself acting in the new way or experiencing the new attitude. Those positive images — like little movies in your head — are powerful tools we have for self-change.

If you want to improve your grades, imagine yourself taking careful notes and getting started on your assignments before the last minute. Visualize yourself sitting down to the task, turning work in on time and receiving compliments on your project from a teacher.

If your goal is making more friends, imagine yourself starting conversations with people you don't know well. If you want to do better at your sports, imagine yourself at practice, giving every ounce of your attention to the game.

You'll have plenty of time for daydreaming this summer. Spend a few minutes each day rehearsing success in your head. Those rehearsals make success in the real world much more likely.

Your comments are welcome. Please address: Dr. Christopher Carstens, c/o Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017.

Guest Column

RICO De SILVA
Guest Columnist

Love to the Max

Words have power. Words inspire us to greatness. Words move us to practice heroic virtue and to love our neighbor. When the hour of our death comes, words give us courage to lay down our lives for a higher purpose. When I think of St. Maximilian Kolbe, 10 words come to mind: love of God, love of Our Lady, love of neighbor. St. John tells us, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." (Jn. 1:14) Christ is the Word of God and is that Word who gave St. Maximilian Kolbe the courage to lay down his life for another. This was a prisoner at the Auschwitz concentration camp during World II, a man hardly known to Maximilian.

A line from the Eagles' popular hit, "Peaceful Easy Feeling," summarizes in a sense the relationship between this great saint and the Woman of his life. "I found a long time ago what a woman can do to your soul," captures that relationship. St. Maximilian always found profound peace and solace in Mary, the Woman in his life, as he discovered this bond early.

When he was about 10 years old, the Blessed Virgin appeared to St. Maximilian and offered him two crowns, a white one for purity and a red one for martyrdom. In his enthusiasm, Raymond, as he was known then, picked both. From that point, his life was characterized with a great trust in the never-failing intercession of Mary. This tremendous trust touched every area of his fruitful apostolate as a priest. It safeguarded his great apostolic zeal to save "as many souls as soon as possible," as he would say.

St. Maximilian Kolbe wore his white crown of purity throughout his life by practicing heroic charity. He showed great love of God and neighbor by leading many souls to God by a life marked with burning zeal for souls under the patronage of the "Immaculata," his favorite title for the Virgin Mary. When the time came for him to wear his red crown, he offered his life to replace a married prisoner. This man was condemned with nine others to die in the starvation bunker. The perplexed Nazi officer agreed to Maximilian's request as he identified himself as a Catholic priest: On Aug. 14, 1941, after two weeks without drink or food, St. Maximilian and three other prisoners, still alive, were given a lethal injection and their bodies cremated. On the eve of the Assumption of Mary, Mother of God, the Woman who promised him the two crowns of purity and martyrdom, his ashes rose to Heaven like incense to give honor to God and His Mother.

Francis Gajowniczek, the man for whom St. Maximilian Kolbe offered his life, survived Auschwitz and was reunited with his wife and family. He was present at Maximilian's canonization by Pope John Paul II on Oct. 10, 1982. Perhaps the best words to describe St. Maximilian's life are the same words to describe the life of Jesus: There is no greater love than this, for a man to lay down his life for his friends (Jn. 15:13).

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, priest and martyr, pray for us.

The feast of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe is Aug. 14.

Rico De Silva is a seminarian of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Finally at peace

Having the legendary actor Carroll O'Connor as a guest on our television program was a genuine thrill. Like most adult Americans, I grew up with his beloved if irascible incarnation of Archie Bunker. Carroll O'Connor was a terribly gifted man who managed to teach us both right and wrong through the opinionated blue-collar Archie. We could laugh at him, but we also understood that the limits of his tolerance were sometimes a mirror of our own prejudices and limitations. Years later Carroll gave us another challenging portrayal in the television drama, "In The Heat of the Night." In their unique and powerful ways, both his comedy and drama series taught us about the need to live the Golden Rule. It's a lesson Carroll O'Connor tried to live throughout his life. And it pained him when all his efforts came up short.

I remember asking Carroll if he felt that his programs had advanced the cause of racial harmony in the 25 years since he first came to prominence. With an expression etched with sadness, he said that he doubted it. "After 'All In The Family' and 'In the Heat of the Night,' we're still dragging black men to their deaths in places like Jasper, Texas. So how far have we really come, Father Jim?"

But ever the optimist, Carroll said he had confidence that what we lack the ability to accomplish, would, through the grace of God, be made right one day. That outlook especially reflected his attitude toward the tragic loss of his son. Hugh, the child adopted by Carroll and his beloved wife, Nancy, was the apple of his eye. Brought back from Italy as an infant, he never lacked for the dedicated love of his parents. But all the love in the world can't always thwart the path of drug addiction. For years, Hugh wrestled with this demon. And his parents wrestled along with him. If they could have willed him to sobriety, they would have. If they could have offered their lives in place of his, they would have. But it was not to be. Driven to despair, Hugh took his own life. In a way, Carroll's heart died on the same day as his son's.

Oh, he did what he could to spread the message about resisting drugs. He did continue to love his widowed daughter-in-law and his grandson. He worked a bit. He went to Mass each week in the company of his wife of half a century, praying for peace. But, truth told, he also carried a sadness that would not be lifted. Friends say he aged significantly in the years following Hugh's death.

At our television interview, O'Connor spoke of Hugh with gentleness and a proud love. But he was struggling, still. You'd see it in the sorrowful tone, in the eyes that longed to see his son again.

Then, toward the end of our conversation, the topic turned to life beyond this life. I asked Carroll if he believed that our lives continue beyond the earthly journey. His answer was unequivocal: "Absolutely." Then I asked him if he thought that Hugh was alive and living in heaven. Again, the certainty: "Without a doubt." And with my final question, a gentle smile returned to his face. "Carroll," I asked, "do you expect to meet Hugh again in the hereafter?" I will always remember his twinkling eyes and the certainty with which he said, "Oh, yes."

Sadly, we have lost an actor of great talent and charm. Sadly, his family is without a husband, a father-in-law and a grandfather whom they adored. But I know of one place where there is surely great happiness. And that's in a place we call heaven, where a father and his son are joined in a loving and much longed for embrace. Rest in peace, dear Carroll, dear Archie, you have well earned you place in Paradise.

Family Reflections

ANDREW & TERRI LYKE
Guest Columnists

Paying attention to God's handiwork

Picture a sunset on a hazy summer sky. Vivid colors of red, yellow and blue mix into a scene of natural beauty. Depending on atmospheric conditions, density of the clouds, and juxtapositions of the sun and earth, every sunset reveals God's unique handiwork and artistry.

Not only do such conditions create awe and beauty, so does our attention. For there is no appreciation of art without human senses and intellect. If we don't pay attention to God's handiwork, we miss out. Perhaps it's not reasonable to attempt to capture every sunset. Our human intellect might trivialize it into a mundane everyday experience. However, no matter how common a sunset may be, with reflection on and appreciation for its colors and its uniqueness - the spiritual gifts of awe and wonder - we are capable of grasping its beauty and experiencing the sacred in the ordinary.

Several years ago we vacationed in the Dunes of Western Michigan. Hearing that there was a sunset "to die for" at a particular point along the Lake Michigan Shore, we eagerly scrambled to get there to see it first hand.

We left our campsite by car and parked as close to the site as we could. We hiked dune over dune, on a heavily forested trail. Taking much longer than we anticipated getting there, we finally reached the last and steepest hill. The sun was setting quickly and the uphill trek through the sand took its toll on our tired limbs. As we emerged from the forest we caught the final seconds of what had been a magnificent sunset. Despite our late arrival, we grasped those few seconds and reveled in that sunset as though it was our last.

This experience and the appreciation of sunsets are a metaphor for family life. Like sunsets, we don't create life; God does. We participate in the beauty of family life with our presence. Its beauty may be elusive because of its ordinariness. It requires our attention to be appreciated. Each relationship between family members is unique. When we reflect on and appreciate God's handiwork in our family life, we are filled with awe and wonder. Combined with other family relations, unique "atmospheric conditions" make family life a scene of natural beauty.

Our sunset adventure—the anticipation, the dunes, the forest, our tired legs and the brief sunset—though it was not what we had expected, was an experience of awe and wonder. Our hunger for beauty beautified us.

Questions for Reflection

When was the last time you caught a sunset or sunrise?

What are the "atmospheric conditions" that make your family life wondrous and awe-inspiring?

Are you paying attention?

What other ordinary phenomenon reveal God's divine's presence?

"Family Reflections" is a newspaper column that presents a continuing theology of family life. Andrew and Terri report, from their experiences as married partners, parents, and members of extended families, their observations of God's presence in family life. As active members in the Catholic community they share their perspectives on the Church in society. Through the prism of their African American heritage, they share their unique spirituality.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

Is Permanent Diaconate conferred by holy orders?

Q. A recent article on the "Jubilee of Permanent Deacons," celebrating Vatican II's restoring permanent deacons in the church, states, "In its effort to update the life of the church, Vatican Council II made allowance for the diaconate 'to be restored to its own permanent position in the hierarchy' ('Lumen Gentium,' 29), also making it possible for married men to be conferred this sacrament."

Is conferring the diaconate considered the same as the sacrament of holy orders? When a seminarian receives the order of deacon and then priesthood, does he receive the sacrament twice?

A. One might put it that way, I suppose, since the sacrament is conferred in two distinct ceremonies. It is more proper and theologically correct, however, to speak of three degrees of the sacrament of orders.

St. Hippolytus, a Roman priest who died in 236, has left us a valuable work titled "The Apostolic Tradition," with information about Christian worship and structure in his time. The bishop is the "sacerdos" (priest), says Hippolytus, elected by the people and ordained by imposition of hands by another bishop.

It was the bishop's role, among other functions, to preside at the Eucharist and proclaim the word of God.

"Presbyters" (elders or priests) were ordained by the bishop, with other priests laying on hands with him. "Presbyters" stood with the bishop as he presided at the eucharistic celebration and could themselves preside at the Eucharist with the bishop's permission.

Deacons were ordained by the bishop alone, since the specifics of their service to the bishop and priests in the local church were determined by the bishop himself.

With the restoration of the permanent diaconate in the last 40 years, that picture of Catholic Church hierarchy described by Hippolytus remains in basic outline the one we know today.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, summarizing this tradition, speaks of two degrees of ministerial participation in the priesthood of Christ, the episcopacy and the presbyterate, and a third degree, the diaconate, to serve liturgical and other needs of the local community as determined by the bishop.

"Catholic doctrine teaches that the degrees of priestly participation (episcopate and presbyterate) and the degree of service (diaconate) are all three conferred by ... the sacrament of holy orders" (Catechism, Nos. 1554 and 1596).

The catechism quotes a letter of St. Ignatius of Antioch, martyred in Rome about the year 107, emphasizing the importance of all three degrees of holy orders, bishops, priests and deacons, in the life of the church. "Without them," writes Ignatius, "one cannot speak of the church."

Enthronement equals evangelization for Sacred Heart devotee

By BETTE BARTHOLOMEW
CORRESPONDENT

SALISBURY — "Evangelize" was a call Bill Owens had heard throughout 12 years of Catholic education in Lafayette, La. That he was called to missionary work, he had no doubt. He had found ways here and there to be a witness for Christ, but he never felt that he had found the most pertinent channel for him.

In January 2001, that all changed.

He heard Gloria Anson, director of the Sacred Heart Apostolate, speak at a mission in Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury. Anson talked about the miracles that happen in families when the image of the Sacred Heart is enthroned in homes and the family is dedicated to him.

"We sometimes assuage our call to be the mission arm of the church by sending a check to some faraway place. This is a good thing to do," said Owens. "But as Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa have pointed out, mission is where we are. Our families, our work, our community and our parish are our first mission. Near proximity is our God-given assignment."

For Owens, that assignment has involved a devotion to the Sacred Heart. It is a devotion he wants to share with others. Inspired by Anson's talk, Owens and his wife, Michelle, began participating in Sacred Heart enthronements in local parishioners' homes — starting with their own.

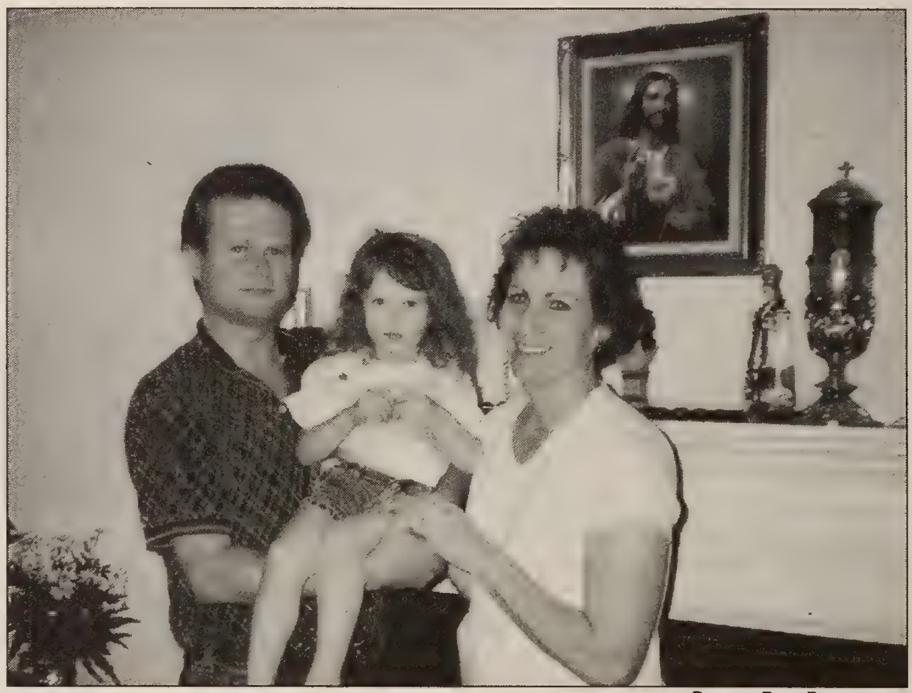

PHOTO BY BETTE BARTHOLOMEW

Bill and Michelle Owens have placed their picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on their family room mantle. They are pictured with daughter Breanna, one of their six children.

"When my family turned their lives over to the Sacred Heart and gave him kingship in our home, he became our safe harbor where we went not just for devotion, but to make him part of every joy, sorrow, work and suffering, and focal point of our decisions," Owens said. "We are a long way from perfection as yet, but we are centered where we need to be."

When Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century, he promised her, "The more you honor me, the more I will bless you." Devotion to the Sacred Heart was greatly furthered by the St. Margaret Mary's revelations from Jesus, which focused on the sovereignty of Jesus Christ in the Christian family.

In his appearances to her, Jesus told Margaret Mary that she was to proclaim Jesus' love—his heart—for all people, and that his heart was to be honored in the form of a heart of flesh.

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is one way to illustrate that devotion. A picture, statue or some other image of the Sacred Heart is placed prominently in the home, accompanied by an act of consecration.

Frequently, the enthronement is made a social event, with the head of the family placing the picture of the Sacred Heart in a prominent position. But it can also be a private devotion. The prayers, for dedication and consecration of the family, can be helpful.

When families work with local representatives such as Bill and Michelle Owens, they become registered at the national apostolate headquarters, whereby they are linked with all the prayers of those participating in this apostolic endeavor.

Since January, Bill and Michelle Owens have participated in 23 enrollments in Sacred Heart Church. "Families tell us it has made a vital difference in their family life," said Bill. "Some have seen miraculous flip-flops in a family member who was struggling with a problem."

In the very least, there has been a change in outlook and approach to problems.

"Giving Christ kingship means that you can take a deep breath and realize that no matter what transpires, it is part of a divine plan, and when offered in love and prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," Owens said, "you can trust that it will all come out OK."

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. N.P.

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. T.P.F.

W.Va. bishop calls for aid, prayers for flood victims

By THOMAS R. PAPEIKA
Catholic News Service

WHEELING, W.Va. (CNS) — Bishop Bernard W. Schmitt of Wheeling-Charleston toured the flood-devastated region of southern West Virginia July 14, and called on Catholics across the state to provide material and spiritual comfort for an area already among the poorest in Appalachia.

Some areas in southern West Virginia were inundated with nearly eight inches of rain July 8, causing what the National Weather Service called a "100-year flood."

The rugged topography of the area exacerbated the unavoidable flooding and forced flood waters down mountainsides and into the narrow, but populated, valleys below.

At least 1,000 homes were destroyed, and 2,000 more were badly damaged. Stephen Kappa, director of the state's Office of Emergency Services, estimated that the tally of destroyed homes would eventually total more than 2,000.

In one community alone, 80 percent of the businesses were destroyed. Nearly 6,000 applications for assistance were filed and 40,000 residents were left without drinking water.

In addition, 4,100 doses of tetanus vaccine were administered, nearly wiping out the state's stockpile of the medicine, and 15 temporary debris collection points quickly filled to 90 percent capacity and were plagued by bears and snakes picking through the debris.

But statistics don't tell the full story, according to Bishop Schmitt.

"We have to be more human in our thinking about this," he told The Catholic Spirit, the diocesan newspaper.

"The personal grief and hurts are so deep. Somehow these people are going to physically survive. The question is how to help with the pain," he said. "And the only way over that is with the help of the Holy Spirit and the works of the Christian community."

The bishop said he made his visit the same day the familiar "Good Samaritan" Gospel was being proclaimed in Catholic churches around the world.

"People read that Gospel and ask themselves who their neighbors are. Well, their neighbors are here in southern West Virginia, beaten and robbed by the floods," he said. "The Good Samaritan gave his time, money, and concern, and this is the kind of help we need from our people."

He said he was impressed by the way people were caring for one another after the flood.

"If anything good can be said about the flood, it's that there is a real sense of Christian community and spirit of fellowship that has surfaced," he added.

Bishop Schmitt praised several Catholic youth groups that have already traveled to the area to aid in the recovery and urged more to come, particularly to help the elderly.

He also requested that all parishes and missions in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston take up a special collection for flood relief to be administered through Catholic Charities.

George Smoulder, executive director of the diocesan Department of Catholic Charities, said the office's funds were " almost exhausted by the floods in May and June" and they are "really counting on the generosity of people throughout the state to help our ongoing and sustained efforts."

But in addition to providing help and financial support, Bishop Schmitt urged Catholics to pray fervently to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation for the flood victims.

"We have to root everything in prayer. We have to pray that the people's faith is strengthened in times of such trial," he said. "Our faith is no good to us, if it is only there when things are going well."

Recovery from the flood is expected to take years. People from some towns were trying to decide whether they should even bother to rebuild, or just leave.

Congressional briefing discusses how to make Web safe for kids

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Children need to be protected from sexual predators who are using Internet chat rooms to locate new prey, participants at a July 26 congressional briefing were told.

"Congress must ensure that efforts are made to ensure that children are never exploited in the first place," said Wendy Braffman, an aide to U.S. Rep Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, a member of the Congressional Children's Caucus and the Congressional Caucus for Missing and Exploited Children, both of which sponsored the briefing.

"The Internet is the new playground, and it's not monitored," said Catholic actor Robert Davi, who had starred for four seasons on the crime drama "Profiler" and has backed efforts to keep children out of harm's way.

Davi spoke of playing "abduction games" with two of his daughters, now 11 and 9, using such ruses as "I've lost my puppy. Can you help me look for him?" When the girls got within arm's reach, Davi said, he would grab them and exclaim, "Gotcha!"

The daughters may have taken it all in good fun because he was their father, Davi added, but the lesson on how to be aware of one's surroundings was worth teaching and learning, and he extended the lesson to his girls' softball teams.

Davi said he was asked to accompany the traveling all-star softball team. On their first day at the new field, one player saw a suspicious character in a nearby parking lot. Police questioned him, but the man's answers made it seem as if nothing was amiss.

The next day, Davi said, police told him the man had been arrested the previous night on molestation charges.

Katie Tarbox, 19, spoke of being targeted online at age 13 by a sexual predator. When she started chatting online, "I didn't really understand what a modem was," Tarbox said. "We were into the teen chat rooms, just like any other kid."

It was there that she met 23-year-old "Mark," who was really 41-year-old Francis Kufrovich.

While Tarbox said she hadn't thought about Mark in a romantic way, "I was 13 years old, emotional and vulnerable. ... He certainly led me to believe that I was intelligent and that I was beautiful. As a 13-year-old that means the world to me, to be paid attention by this older man."

When Tarbox went to Texas to compete in a swimming tournament, Mark got a room at the hotel where she was staying with her mother. He enticed her to his room and sexually assaulted her.

While he eventually pleaded guilty to charges of persuading a minor to have sex and of crossing state lines to have sex with a minor, Tarbox said she became "clinically depressed for two years. I got bad rashes on my skin; the blood vessels popped from me vomiting so much."

Part of Tarbox's therapy was to write "Katie.com: My Story," a book detailing her ordeal. Kufrovich's case was the first one prosecuted under the federal 1996 Communications Decency Act.

Maryland State Police Lt. Barry Leese, who works on the force's Internet Crimes Against Children's Task Force, said that only 10 percent of parents responding to a telephone poll knew who to call should their child receive an online sexual solicitation; meanwhile, 17 percent of the minors did.

The problem is likely to escalate. About 24 million minors ages 10 to 17 were regularly online in 1999, according to the Census Bureau. By 2005, it is estimated that 77 million minors will have Web access.

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Deacon fulfills lifelong call to serve God through ordained ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

MOORESVILLE — John Sims almost did not make it. His was a breech birth, and he was baptized just hours after he was born. His parents watched nervously as the child made it through the night and the next. It was a tiny miracle during a big war — World War II. While growing up, he hung around his big sister and lived his life as other children did during that time period in Yonkers, N.Y. In the midst of families from various backgrounds, young John grew up having friends of various nationalities.

His high school experience with the Marist Brothers was a positive one that he feels shaped his spiritual life. "I received a great education, and my faith was formed there. I sent all five of my children to Catholic school because of my experience." Toward the end of his high school years, his father's unexpected death was difficult for him because he passed away just before his son received a full scholarship to Iona College.

Rev. Mr. Sims's love of chemistry was superceded by his hatred of the smells in the chemistry lab, so he majored in math at the college in New Rochelle, N.Y. While in a required theology class, he heard a call that would change his life. As his professor was reading a list of items that would be discussed at Vatican II, Rev. Mr. Sims heard the words "restoration of the permanent diaconate." He cannot explain why or how, but he knew at that instant he would become a permanent deacon.

"I knew it just as well as I knew my own name that I would become a deacon. I went home and told my girlfriend while on a date, and her response was 'what's a deacon?'"

His girlfriend and future wife Cheryl was as unaware of the ordained ministry as was Rev. Mr. Sims, and strangely enough, they forgot all about that idea until years later. The two married after college and moved to Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he accepted a job as an assistant programmer in the research and development division for IBM. This computer science pioneer programmed the first IBM compatible system and has worked in the area of advanced research and development, now as a project executive, for his 37 years with the company.

"I have had fun, have never been bored, and have been on the leading edge of technology," said the self-proclaimed "gadgeter and tinkerer" who builds computers from scratch using parts purchased from the Internet. He gives them to his children for their use and says that if anything happens, they can call the "manufacturer" at any time.

The computer whiz moved to Endicott, N.Y., where IBM was founded and raised his family. He says that his wife's support and ability to communicate through all mediums has been the family glue over the years.

The permanent diaconate crept back into his life as the Diocese of Syracuse was preparing to have its first formation class in the late 1970s. The classes were difficult, and even though it was optional for wives to attend, Mrs. Sims accompanied her husband to nearly all of his classes. "Cheryl was supportive and helpful. I really believe that there is a lot the church could learn about the two sacraments — holy orders and matrimony. The interaction between the two is very beautiful and is a powerful gift of the Holy Spirit."

Ordination in 1979 came a little late because of a stopped clock in the social hall of his church during the ceremony. However, Rev. Mr. Sims, the youngest in his class at age 35, was ordained in September of that year. The deacons were assigned to specific areas of ministry at that time in his diocese, and his interest was youth ministry. Later, when he was assigned to his parish, he focused his energy in youth ministry but also worked with sacramental preparation, evangelization and in other areas of ministry.

His life was moving in the way that he had planned, but there was another plan in store for him. While on a retreat in 1994, something told him that he had a move coming up in his life. Not one to question these feelings, one of which originally led him to the permanent diaconate, he prepared for a move. That move came in the form of company relocation to Charlotte. It was a difficult decision requiring prayer and contemplation of the Sims and their friends, but when they arrived in the town similar to their own home, they knew it was where they should be.

Rev. Mr. John Sims

"The place was growing and needed many people. 'The harvest was full, and the workers were few,'" said Rev. Mr. Sims, referring to the biblical passage.

He jumped right into St. Therese Church and has not stopped since. The growth in the area has been the most surprising to him, but he enjoys his ministry. "I am a much better person, and my faith life is a lot different. Every moment of my life is directed toward my service of God and my fellow human beings."

Rev. Mr. Sims, who has received all seven of the sacraments including anointing of the sick during an illness, says that the sacraments are important in his life. "The graces of the sacraments keep me focused. I am sure my faith life is much more different than it would have been. God has walked a long road with me. It has been almost '40 years since I listened to a call that was neither solicited nor expected. However, Cheryl and I thank God for all of the wonderful, awesome blessings given to us by the Holy Spirit."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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The Catholic
NEWS & HERALD

Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 17, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 42

Inside

Bishop Curlin addresses stem-cell issue ... Page 7

Teens learn to live as faithful servants ... Page 12

Local News

Secular Franciscans shine at annual gathering ... Page 9

ESL program bridges communities, cultures ... Page 18

Every Week

Entertainment ...Pages 14-15

Editorials & Columns ...Pages 16-17

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

– Matthew 24: 44

Diocese has opportunity to "welcome the stranger"

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — The Diocese of Charlotte is blessed with an opportunity to respond compassionately to the U.S. Catholic bishops' recent pastoral letter on immigrants and refugees, a Refugee Resettlement official said.

"Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity" is the November 2000 statement by the bishops encouraging Catholics to welcome immigrants and refugees into their church communities. The letter calls on all members of the church to work together with "simple, grace-filled kindness and concern" on behalf of newcomers to this country.

Beth Downing, coordinator of the Parish and Community Resources for Refugees Program (PCRRP) in the Diocese of Charlotte, said the bishops' pastoral underlines their prayers for a truly universal church.

"The statement is intended to help the Catholic community embrace all newcomers from diverse backgrounds, especially refugees, into the life of the church," said Downing, whose program is part of the Refugee Resettlement Office of Catholic Social Services in the Diocese of Charlotte.

"This statement of the U.S. Catholic bishops actively acknowledges the changing face of the church in the United States and

See WELCOME, page 10

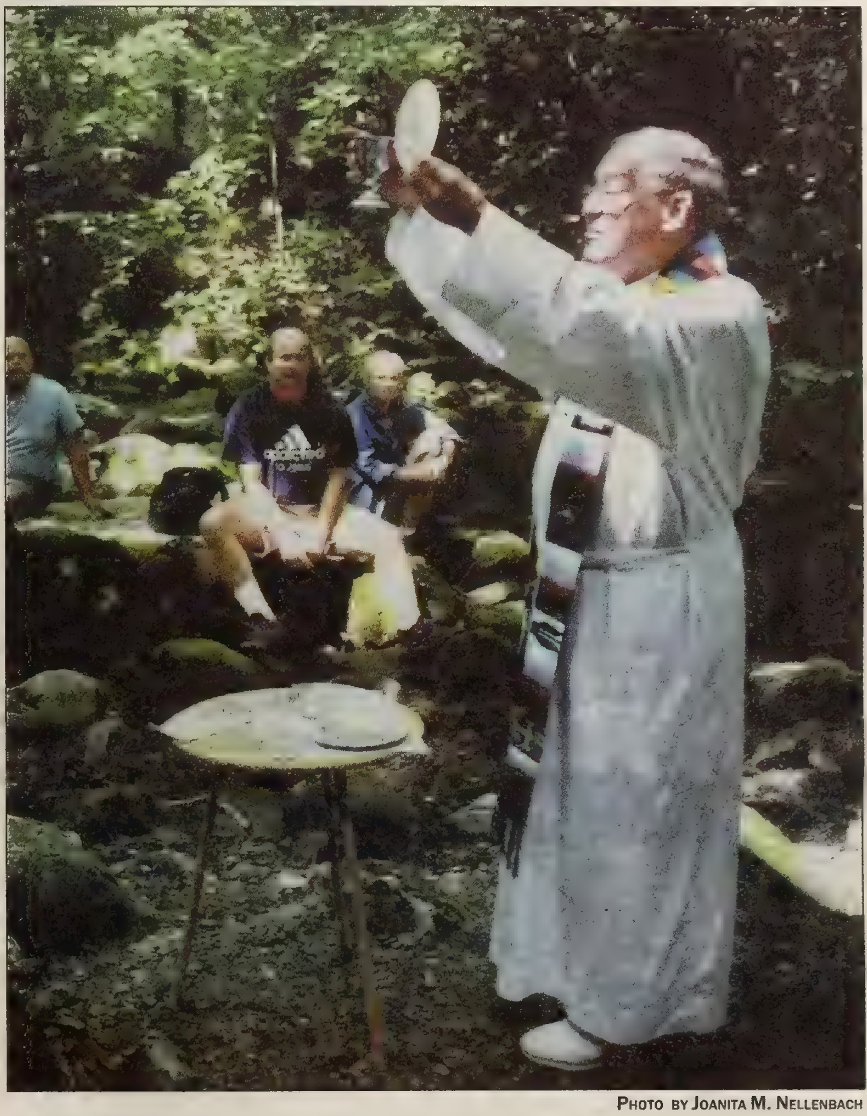

Photo by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Retreatants gather for Mass among beech trees on Kephart Prong in Great Smoky Mountains National Park during a nature retreat co-led by Father Terry Hyland, pictured foreground. See story page 4.

Catholic leaders respond to Bush 'trade-off' in stem-cell research announcement

By NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The "trade-off" on embryonic stem-cell research announced Aug. 9 by President Bush is "morally unacceptable" and may be unworkable, according to the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston said he prayed Bush would "return to a principled stand against treating some human lives as nothing more than objects to be manipulated and destroyed for research purposes."

In a nationally televised address from his vacation home in Crawford, Texas, Bush said he would authorize federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research involving only the 60 or so existing stem-cell lines already developed by scientists, because in those cases "the life-and-death decision has already been made."

"This allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem-cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human embryos that have at least the potential for life," the president added.

Bush also announced his strong opposition to human cloning, his support for "aggressive federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult and animal stem cells" and his plans to establish a president's council on stem-cell research headed by Leon Kass, a biomedical ethicist from the University of Chicago.

Bishop Fiorenza said that with Bush's decision, "the federal government, for the first time in history, will support research that relies on the destruction of some defenseless human beings for possible benefit to others."

"However such a decision is hedged about with qualifications, it allows our nation's research enterprise to cultivate a disrespect for human life," he added.

The USCCB leader also said that because some researchers and "their allies in Congress" already have rejected limits such as those set by Bush, "the president's policy may therefore prove to be as unworkable as it is morally wrong, ultimately serving only those whose goal is unlimited embryo research."

Some Catholic commentators found reason to praise Bush for his new policy.

See STEM CELL, page 7

As temperatures soar, air-conditioned school opened to homeless

LAWRENCE, Kan. (CNS) — The weather outside is frightful — but it's due to the heat, not a winter storm. Homeless people in Lawrence may have felt like it was Christmas in July, however, when St. John the Evangelist Church opened its school gymnasium so that they could escape the sweltering heat and get a good night's sleep at least through mid-August. Parishioners strung blue Christmas lights around the gym door as an added touch of hospitality, and a handwritten sign reading "Welcome" was taped to the gym door. Capuchin Franciscan Father Charles Polifka, pastor of St. John and prime mover behind opening the temporary shelter, said it was "just the right thing to do."

Delaware rectory fire labeled arson; parish adapts

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — As investigators continued their arson inquiry into a fire that damaged the rectory and parish offices, members of the Church of the Holy Child in Wilmington attended Masses elsewhere. Their pastor, Father James Kirk, was recovering at the rectory of Christ Our King Church from burns he suffered to his hands while escaping the early-morning fire July 20. Although the Holy Child church building itself was not burned, it had some smoke damage, so weekend Masses were being celebrated temporarily in the performing arts center of nearby St. Edmond's Academy. A double-wide trailer was moved onto the parish parking lot to serve as temporary offices.

Debate over human cloning hits new peak

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. debate over human cloning reached a new peak Aug. 7 when three scientists defended their plans to begin producing cloned babies at a symposium convened by the National Academy of Sciences. The symposium took place a week after the U.S. House of Representatives voted to ban all cloning of human embryos, whether to produce babies or to destroy the embryos in order to use their stem cells for experiments or medical treatments. The bill still had to come before the Senate. Most scientists at the symposium opposed making cloned humans. Rudolf Jaenisch, a biology professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, called it too dangerous to try cloning humans at the current state of scientific knowledge. "At present there is no way to predict whether a given clone will develop into a normal or abnormal individual," he said, citing the high failure rates so far in the cloning of other mammals.

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Woman prays at A-bomb dome in Hiroshima

Toshie Kanda offers a prayer on the 56th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing at Hiroshima, Japan, Aug. 6. More than 100,000 people were killed when the United States dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, and on Nagasaki Aug. 9. The bombings led to the Japanese surrender in World War II.

Indonesian mudslide result of environmental abuse, bishop says

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — The early August mudslide and floods that killed more than 100 people in western Indonesia teach hard lessons on the effects of environmental abuse, said the local bishop. Bishop Anicetus Bongsu Sinaga of Sibolga said that what happened in north Sumatra was a consequence of cutting trees. "This tragedy is a lesson for us to be more careful in treating nature," the bishop told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. In the coming weeks, the bishop added, the life of people there would be more difficult because the harvest they depend on also was destroyed.

CRS official praises Pakistani decision on Afghan refugees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic Relief Services official praised a decision by Pakistan to register Afghan refugees. "This is a very important development because now the refugees will be able to receive emergency aid," said James John, deputy director of CRS' Pakistan program. More than 150,000 Afghan refugees reside in squalid camps in Pakistan, after fleeing years of war and drought in their homeland. Pakistan began registering refugees Aug. 6 through the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and has offered to assist those refugees who wish to return to Afghanistan, John told Catholic News Service.

Nuncio visits clergy on Philippine island, site of beheadings

ISABELA, Philippines (CNS) — The apostolic nuncio to the Philippines visited the clergy of a troubled southern island where 10 men were beheaded by Muslim extremists. Archbishop Antonio Franco gathered the clergy of Isabela prelature Aug. 7 in nearby Zamboanga City to express his concern for the priests, who have been without a bishop for six months, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The prelature is on Basilan island, 550 miles southeast of Manila. The nuncio said the priests were under a lot of stress, especially after Abu Sayyaf rebels attacked Basilan Aug. 2. The group abducted some 30 Christians, including eight children. At least 10 men, including a lay minister, were beheaded.

Missouri governor limits state funding on abortion, cell research

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — An executive order by Missouri Gov. Bob Holden will prevent state-funded science research grants from being used for abortions, stem-cell research, human cloning or other medical procedures that harm a fetus. The order releases about $21.5 million from Missouri's portion of the national tobacco settlement to fund life sciences research grants. Funds may not subsidize the following: research involving embryonic stem cells or human cloning; referrals for abortions; use of tissue from aborted fetuses; or the development of abortion-inducing drugs such as RU-486. A bill similar to the executive order drew wide support in the Missouri General Assembly, but the assembly failed to vote on it before adjournment.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

August 18 — 11 a.m.
Groundbreaking for St. Francis Springs Prayer Center
Stoneville/Wentworth border, N.C.

August 25 — 4:30 p.m.
Principal celebrant and homilist
10th anniversary Mass for
Redemptorist Priests
Redemptorist Retreat House
Long Branch, N.J.

September 1 — 11 a.m.
Confirmation
Our Lady of the Americas, Biscoe

September 7 — 7:30 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick, Charlotte

September 8 — 4 p.m.
Celebrant and homilist at closing liturgy
Power Rally 2001
Fort Mill, S.C.

Diocesan planner

August

19 CHARLOTTE — The men's Cursillo closing will take place at 4:45 p.m. this afternoon at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy. The women's Cursillo closing will take place Sept. 23 at 4:30 p.m., also at St. Matthew. For more information, call Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696 or Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

20 MOORESVILLE — Rev. Mr. Bruce Simpson will speak on healing at St. Therese Church, 217 Brawley School Rd., tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Holy Spirit Prayer Group. Rev. Mr. Simpson has worked with evangelization and other aspects of ministry for many years in the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., and has spoken to several groups in various areas around the country. For further information, call (704) 664-3992.

22 CHARLOTTE — All families who have suffered a loss are invited to attend the monthly memorial Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, that will be taking place tonight at 7:30 p.m. Call the church office at (704) 334-2283 with the name(s) of loved ones so they may be remembered during the Mass.

22 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division is looking for more Irish Catholic men to join them for meetings, educational seminars and social events. Contact Michael Slane at (336) 665-9264 for time and location of tonight's monthly meeting.

24 MAGGIE VALLEY — A retreat for singles will be taking place at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, beginning today through Aug. 26. The weekend gathering, entitled "Blessed Are the Single Herated," is being presented by Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, Tommy Barnhart and Lee Accettullo. Topics such as the spirituality of single life, community and relationships and other related themes will be discussed. For further details, call (828) 926-3833.

26 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Char-

Judge awards $315 million damages to former hostage's family

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A federal judge has awarded the survivors of the late Father Lawrence Martin Jenco $314.6 million in damages from Iran for the 18 months he was held hostage in Lebanon in the mid-1980s. U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth in an Aug. 2 ruling awarded $300 million in punitive damages and $14.6 million in compensatory damages to the survivors of the Servite priest. Father Jenco, who died of cancer in 1996, was held as a hostage for 564 days beginning in January 1985. He was abducted in Beirut while serving as program director of Catholic Relief Services there. He was one of dozens of Westerners taken hostage in the Middle East by terrorist groups associated with the Iranian government during the 1980s.

National Catholic office for young adult ministry established

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Young adult ministry in the U.S. Catholic Church is taking a big step forward with the establishment of a permanent national office. Michelle Miller, a former campus minister who worked most recently in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth, is the first executive director of the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association. Although the association has existed since 1982, its headquarters moved "all over the country," depending on where its president or secretary lived, Miller said. But thanks to a $65,000 grant from the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities and funds from the association, the national office will be based in Washington or the Virginia suburbs.

North Korea considers allowing priests to minister in country

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Authorities in North Korea have discussed allowing the return of Catholic priests to minister to the country's few thousand faithful, said Fides, the Vatican's missionary news service. A South Korean Catholic delegation from the Archdiocese of Seoul met with government authorities and representatives of North Korea's state-controlled Catholic association in late July, Fides said Aug. 4. Among the proposals discussed was providing for a permanent presence of South Korean priests, who would serve in the North in three-month rotations. Fides called the encounter and talks "positive signs."

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Girl cools off in Washington fountain

Katie Turner, 11, of Lawrence, Kan., cools off in fountains near the Washington Monument as the nation's capital hit a record heat index Aug. 9. Hot and humid air smothered most of the United States in early August.

Survey finds most U.S. Christians oppose genetic modification

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although most American Christians believe humans should use their knowledge to improve the lives of others, the majority opposes the genetic modification of food and animals, according to a new survey. The Zogby International poll was conducted in mid-July for the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, and was released July 26 during a panel discussion on "Genetically Modifying Food: Playing God or Doing God's Work?" Asked about their own religious, ethical or moral views on whether man should move genes from one species or organism to another, 57 percent of Protestants and 52 percent of Catholics said they were opposed to such manipulation. Jews were the only religious group in which a majority supported such biotechnology, with 55 percent in favor and 35 percent opposed. Among Muslims, 46 percent opposed genetic engineering.

Marian devotions tied to national identities in Latin America

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When Alberto Garcia Aspe scored the winning goal that put Mexico into the finals of the Latin American soccer championship in Colombia, he pulled the front of his national team jersey over his head and ran around the field celebrating. Beneath the green jersey was a T-shirt emblazoned with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The incident in late July highlights how this Marian image underlies Mexican identity. The situation is similar in the other heavily Catholic Latin American countries where Mary, under different titles, is a symbol of one's nationality as well as the spiritual mother of believers. The tradition is being transplanted in the United States as Hispanic immigrants see her as a needed link to their home countries and cultures. Many dioceses and parishes with significant Hispanic populations are encouraging devotions to Mary under her many titles to promote the differences among Hispanics within their overall unity in the faith.

NCCW to hold 50th annual convention in September

WASHINGTON (CNS) — More than 1,500 women are expected to attend the upcoming National Council of Catholic Women's 50th annual convention Sept. 27-30 in Nashville, Tenn. The theme of the four-day event, "NCCW Servant Leadership: Making a Difference Every Day," aims to recognize the many ways members of the organization improve the lives of women and families through projects at the church, community and global levels. Mercy Sister Sharon Euart, former associate general secretary for the U.S. bishops' national conference in Washington, will be the keynote speaker, discussing the current role of women in the church and society. During the convention, Corinne "Lindy" Boggs, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See in 1998-2001, will receive the NCCW 2001 Distinguished Service Award.

Pope meets with Arafat, calls for end to violence on both sides

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — As violence continued to escalate in Israel and the Palestinian territories, Pope John Paul II met privately Aug. 2 with Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority. The 25-minute meeting was held at the pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo. Arafat was in Rome for talks with Italian government leaders, urging them to use their influence within the European Union to garner support for a plan to send international observers to the Middle East to monitor ongoing violations of the mid-June cease fire. Nemer Hammad, the Palestinian representative in Rome, told reporters Pope John Paul had made it clear he supported the idea of sending observers to the region.

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lotte area will be hosting ultreyas and school of leaders on the following dates and times: St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., from 1:15-3 p.m. with a family potluck and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., from 1:30-3:00 p.m. today with childcare and a family potluck. For more information, call Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665 or Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696.

26 HENDERSONVILLE — The St. Francis of the Hills Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet today from 3-5 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 208 7th Ave. West, in the office wing. Visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Pat Cowan at (828) 884-4246.

27 CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the non-profit Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday and beginning on Sept. 13, on a third day offered at Sardis Presbyterian Church, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

September

2 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

3 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Sept. 4 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

3 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass with Father John Putnam tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Oct. 10. For more information, call (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

Ongoing

CONCORD — The summer hours for the religious gifts and book shop at St. James Church, 251 Union St., are as follows: Sun. after 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, Wed. from 9 a.m.-noon and Sat. after the 5 p.m. Mass. For more information, contact Mary Moore at (704) 720-0600.

KERNERSVILLE — All are invited for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which takes place every Friday at Holy Cross Church, 616 S. Cherry St., from 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Anyone interested in spending a hour with the Blessed Sacrament as a monitor, call J.D. Hamacher at (336) 993-7650.

Upcoming

WINSTON-SALEM — Marriage Encounter Weekends are designed for couples to get away from jobs, kids, chores and phones for 44 hours and focus only on each other. The next Marriage Encounter will be taking place Sept. 28-30 at the Holiday Inn in Winston-Salem. Registration closes Sept. 23, and the weekends fill up quickly. For details and registration, call Tom and Emilie Sandin at (336) 274-4424.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Nature retreat in N.C. mountains celebrates God's creation

Editor's note: Smoky Mountain Vicariate correspondent Joanita Nellenbach recently attended a nature retreat hosted by Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, an institution of the Diocese of Charlotte currently operated by Augustinian clergy. The following is her account of the experience.

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

MAGGIE VALLEY — "Creation Day" was the beginning. Now, on "Earth Day," we looked out across creation, row after row of mountain ridges, from deep blue nearest us to pale, pearly gray at the edge of our vision.

For five days, 25 of us had reveled in creation — the cold water of mountain streams, fresh air, fire's warmth, earth in our hands and beneath our feet — during "Drink the Living Water," one of several nature retreats held each year at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center.

Each morning, through prayer and reflection, our facilitators — Augustinian Father Terry Hyland, director of the reflection center; Sister of Charity Fran Grady, artist and spiritual director; and Freeman Owle, storyteller, instructor on Cherokee spirituality and culture, and member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee — helped us focus on the day's theme. Then, taking the sack lunches we had packed in the retreat center's kitchen, we would carpool to the day's place in Great Smoky Mountains National Park or on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"Wisdom," Father Terry told us on the first morning, "is the ability to see as God sees. And God saw that creation was good — very good. One of the retreat's goals is to come alive in our senses. Sometimes we're so focused on our own agenda that we miss the touch of the Lord. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

"We call ourselves a 'fast-food' society. Really savor as you eat lunch today by a stream or under a tree. Bite into a peach and let the juice drip down your chin. If we see life as zestful and tasty, it makes a real difference in our attitude. The sounds of nature are gentle and pleasing. Keep silence in the woods so you can hear the gentle sounds and savor the goodness of the Lord around you."

Bob Maxwell, on retreat with his wife, Liz, was inspired to listen and to see God revealed everywhere. "Within myself, and this is something I want to extend far beyond the retreat, is the desire to talk less and listen more, to not wait for the great revelation. We don't need a revelation. We get it from thousands of sources."

On "Creation Day," Freeman told the Cherokee legend of how the buzzard created the mountains and the valleys: The first buzzard was very large, and as he flew over the land, his wings dipped to earth to make valleys; as the wings rose, they created mountains.

Freeman had advised us: "Take off your shoes and put your feet in a stream. You cannot find God unless you find yourself. Rest; be at peace. If you can do that for 15 minutes, you will feel like you have slept for three hours. Man is the only creature that has the ability to separate himself from nature. We should not do that."

That first morning, we went to Smokemont Campground. There, by the headwaters of the Oconaluftee River, we had Mass at a picnic table.

Masses at these remote locations were highlights for many of the retreatants.

"What I liked best was having the Mass outdoors and then being able to walk somewhere and reflect on what was going on instead of having to get into a car and drive somewhere," said Betty Dunne, who was making the retreat with her husband, Joe.

The next day, "Water Day," we went to Deep Creek to meditate on the cleansing and refreshment that water brings. But first we stopped at a 300-acre piece of land that the Cherokee have recently purchased. It was land on which they had lived for 9,000 years before the Removal, known as the "Trail of Tears," in which more than 16,000 Cherokee were forced to march to Oklahoma in 1838.

Once there were many houses on this piece of land, so there are many graves, although we could not see them. Freeman told us that the Cherokee had buried people under their houses. We were walking on sacred land.

He told us how the Cherokee, a monotheistic people, would get up each morning and go to bathe in the nearby stream, laving water over themselves seven times as they prayed.

During his homily at Deep Creek, Father Terry talked about the power that signs have to remind us of God. Water, for instance, gives us life just as God's Spirit gives us life. "There is something life-giving about being cleansed," he said.

During our reflection that evening, we experienced seven-time cleansing. Father Terry had begun the morning's service by using the blessing from the Rite of Baptism to bless a punch bowl of water. Now we were invited to approach the bowl, kneel, dip our fingers into the water seven times and touch our foreheads, praying as the Cherokee had prayed all those years ago in their stream: first, to be cleansed of whatever kept us from God; second, to be cleansed of whatever kept us from others; and five

Continued Next Page

Photos by Joanita M. Nellenbach

Freeman Owle, Cherokee storyteller and co-facilitator of the retreat, tells Cherokee legends at evening at Waterrock Knob on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

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times for whatever we needed.

Next day was "Air Day." "God's Spirit is as real as the air that we breathe," Father Terry said. "Today, where we're going for Eucharist, we go up an incline, and your breathing will become more labored. Be aware of that. We take breathing for granted until it's challenged. It's the same with our spiritual life. I don't know about you, but my prayer life is weakest when everything is going well. I'm much more aware of my need for God when my life is challenged."

"Recall how many breaths you have taken since the doctor slapped you when you were born, and how many breaths you will take before you die, and be thankful for the gift of breath," Sister Fran said.

We went to a stream called Kephart Prong. We walked about a quarter-mile along the railroad bed of a 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps logging operation. The railroad ties are gone and, scattered among the trees that have reclaimed the area, a stone chimney, a couple of stone gateposts, an arched rock wall that was once part of a church, are all that remain of the logging camp.

Father Terry set up a little table beside the stream at a spot where the tops of beech trees as tall as skyscrapers met over the water. We gathered on the bank or on wide flat rocks in the stream to participate. As we gave the Precious Blood to each other, Father Terry began to sing; we all joined in:

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

I can feel his mighty power and his grace.

I can feel the brush of angels' wings.

I see glory on each face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place."

We sang it over and over. Inspire means to breathe in, and this was an inspired song for "Air Day" and for this place, the favorite for many of us.

On "Fire Day," we went to Heintooga Overlook for Mass and meditation. The most moving service was in the evening, in a glade above St. Margaret Church, which is on the hill overlooking Living Waters. There, a fire had been built in an aluminum can atop a pile of fieldstones. Each of us received two sparklers, the kind that kids set off on the Fourth of July. We took turns lighting one of our sparklers and telling about a person who had been a spark in our lives. The stories were compelling, as people told of parents, spouses, friends who had been especially meaningful to them.

Freeman Owle, who has been carving in stone and wood since boyhood, adds details to a stone carving that finally included a turtle, kingfisher, snake, frog, and other swamp creatures.

Sister Beverly Fichler, O.S.F., lights a sparkler during the evening service on "Fire Day." After lighting their sparklers, each person told of someone who had been a "spark" in their lives.

Bob Maxwell said that was one of the things he liked best about the retreat. "It was so personal," he said. "People were so revealing about sharing the person who had influenced them."

With the second sparkler we named a person that we hoped to spark when we returned home.

Our last day was "Earth Day" with its theme that the earth is full of the goodness of God. "If we could recognize that the earth is blessed, it would make a difference in our lives," Father Terry said. "When others see the good acts we do and give thanks for us, we are living the Gospel. Good acts keep us grounded. Think today about how we are called to be earthy, humble, rooted, grounded, salt of the earth, light of the world."

Freeman had offered to teach us to carve soapstone. Sister Lynda Snyder, a Sister of Notre Dame from Toledo, Ohio, carved a bear into a piece of the soft stone. "Besides hiking, that was one of the things that really got me in touch with the earth," she said. "It was almost sacramental — handling the earth and making something from the earth."

And that evening we went to Waterrock Knob (elevation 6,292 feet) on the Blue Ridge Parkway to see the sun set over the mountains. It was cloudy, and we saw only the red outline of the sun behind the clouds, but that glorious mountain vista was enough. And as Freeman told us, "Cherokees believe that you should put your soul on the highest mountain top; then it won't be dragged down by earthly things."

There was plenty of time throughout the retreat to meditate on mountaintops for the soul.

"I liked the flexibility of the schedule," said Sister Bernice Knapek, a Sister of St. Mary of Namur from Fort Worth, Texas. "If you felt you needed some time off, you could take it. And the three facilitators were so different, but they really complemented each other. Freeman gave me a greater appreciation of the Indians. Fran had that wonderful smile and that ability to bring people together through sharing. Father Terry's talks were very down to earth. Sometimes we think spirituality is 'out there,' but it's how we live our lives. Through his stories of his lived experiences, he taught us much."

"I just loved it all," said Sister Joanita Koors, a Franciscan from North Vernon, Ind., "from looking at the mountains in the early morning, to the liturgies, to walking the trails — the grandeur of God. This place is heaven."

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Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians to be recognized

CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians in North Carolina will be recognized as a state chapter of the national organization of the Lady Hibernians at a ceremony Aug. 18 at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte at noon. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians consists of three divisions — Charlotte, Greensboro and Wilmington. Mary B. Dolan, national president, and Mary Paglione, national organizer, will be in Charlotte to install officers of the news state board during the ceremony. A luncheon will follow in the parish ministry center.

Priest in Guatemalan border town defends, shelters migrants

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala (CNS) — The migrant people who pass through Tecun Uman, a sprawling city on the Guatemala-Mexico border, help the city survive economically, said a priest who works with the migrant population. "Public opinion is that violence is growing, but in my opinion the increased number of migrants has meant a better economic situation for the people here," said Scalabrini Father Ademar Barilli, Brazilian founder of the five-year-old House of the Migrant in Tecun Uman. The house offers temporary shelter to migrants who pass through this Guatemalan city. It provided shelter for about 9,000 migrants last year, Father Barilli said. He estimated that 300 people are deported from Mexico to Guatemala each day.

Priest uses homemade baked goods in outreach to youths, homebound

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — There is a smell of comfort in the air at St. Elizabeth Ann rectory in Omaha. On this day, the scent revealed Father David La Plante's latest culinary creation — pineapple-blueberry muffins. They were meant for fellow students in a course on the "Spiritual Foundations of Christian Spirituality" the priest was taking at Creighton University. The topic was table fellowship in the Gospel of Luke. "The muffins will make it more real," Father La Plante said as he scooped batter from a large silver bowl into muffin cups. The bowl bears dents from his preparation of the hundreds of muffins and cookies that preceded this most recent batch. A gift from the people of St. Philip Neri Parish in Omaha 17 years ago, the bowl has become a tool for ministering to others, including parish youth groups and homebound parishioners.

CNS PHOTO COURTESY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights meet in Toronto for annual gathering

Members of the Knights of Columbus hold their annual international meeting in Toronto. The Catholic fraternal organization held its 119th convention in Canada Aug. 7-9

Art Linkletter to receive Gabriel Personal Achievement Award

DAYTON, Ohio (CNS) — Longtime television host Art Linkletter, 89, has been picked to receive the Personal Achievement Award in this year's Gabriel Awards ceremonies, scheduled for Oct. 20 in San Antonio. Awards for Linkletter and dozens of top radio and TV programming initiatives were announced Aug. 6. The Gabriels are awarded by Unda-USA, the U.S. branch of the worldwide association for Catholic broadcasters, based in Dayton. Linkletter, who hosted such TV shows as "House Party," with its "Kids Say the Darndest Things" segment, and "People Are Funny," began his career on radio in the 1940s. He crusaded against illegal drug use in the 1960s and '70s and in recent years has campaigned for better health and health care for America's elderly population.

Cardinal Keeler praises black nun at national shrine ceremony

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore Aug. 5 praised a 19th-century African-American nun for bucking the racial prejudices of her times by educating children of slaves. Contemporary society needs to learn from Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, he said at a ceremony dedicating a stained-glass window in her honor at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Mother Lange in 1829 was one of the founders of the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious order for women of African descent in the United States. In 1991, Cardinal Keeler formally opened the investigation that could lead to Mother Lange's canonization.

Former Republican chairman confirmed as ambassador to Holy See

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Senate Aug. 1 confirmed former Republican National Committee chairman Jim Nicholson as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. He was sworn in at the State Department Aug. 10. Nicholson, a 63-year-old Catholic, was vice chairman of the Republican National Committee 1993-97 and chairman from 1997 until this January, when he joined the law firm of Greener and Hook in Washington. In a statement on Nicholson's nomination in April, President Bush described him as "a proven leader who will bring a solid sense of commitment to his work with the Holy See on critical world issues."

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Stem Cell, from page 1

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference, public policy arm of the state's four dioceses, said in a statement that Bush had "demonstrated the utmost in courage by refusing to compel millions of taxpayers against their conscience to promote the killing of human life for utilitarian purposes."

"While the president's decision to permit research funding on ... cell lines established from the previous destruction of embryos is disturbing, this does not diminish the significance of the president's refusal to fund research involving the future destruction of embryos," the statement added.

Joseph M. Scheidler, a Catholic who is executive director of the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago, called Bush's decision "a much-needed half-step for society, which must begin its retreat from the slippery slope of disrespect for human life. We wish, on this issue of life and death, Bush had made a full step."

He said it was "a victory for the pro-life movement that Bush would stand up to the pressure and not permit our tax money to be used in procedures that would sacrifice more human lives." But Bush's compromise, he added, "is still quite troubling."

Supreme Knight Carl Anderson of the Knights of Columbus expressed his organization's "deepest disappointment" at the Bush decision.

"This decision to fund such research is all the more baffling in that ethical avenues to pursue this research — avenues that all can agree upon — are available with adult stem cells," Anderson said.

Noting that adult stem cells "are already being used successfully in human clinical trials," he added, "In marked contrast, embryonic stem cells have never helped a single human patient."

Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit said the debate over embryonic stem-cell research reminded him of the efforts several years ago in Michigan to legalize assisted suicide.

"Scores of weak, vulnerable people were victimized at the end of their lives with claims of false mercy and compassion," he said. "These tiny specks, these stem cells are no less vulnerable. They deserve our protection, not experimentation."

Archbishop Francis B. Schulte of New Orleans said Bush's decision "is morally wrong and furthers the culture of death."

"My hope is that this brief disappointment will not be a cause for despair or cynicism," he added. "Rather, let us rededicate ourselves to the Gospel of life and to doing all we can to promote the dignity of life in all its forms."

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, said Bush "did the right thing by opposing any federally funded stem-cell research that would require the killing of new embryos" and by appointing Kass to head the president's council.

"But Bush erred when he said human embryos 'have at least the potential for life,'" Donohue added. "A human embryo is a human life and if allowed to mature naturally — without human impediment — he or she will in most instances develop as a fetus, infant, child and adult."

Laura Echevarria, director of media relations for the National Right to Life Committee, said her organization was "delighted with President Bush's decision that prevents the federal government from becoming a party to any further killing of human embryos for medical experimentation."

"While National Right to Life mourns the loss of life for those embryos from whom stem-cell lines have already been derived, nothing the National Right to Life Committee or President Bush can do can restore the lives of those embryos who have already died," she added.

Father Michael D. Place, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said that although Bush's decision "could appear as a carefully nuanced solution to a complex issue," it "raises significant moral concerns for our society."

"The continued use of these cultured stem-cell lines by scientists involves complicity in the destruction of embryonic human life," he said. "A society's use of that which is derived from an immoral action — even for a noble end — must be a source of grave moral concern."

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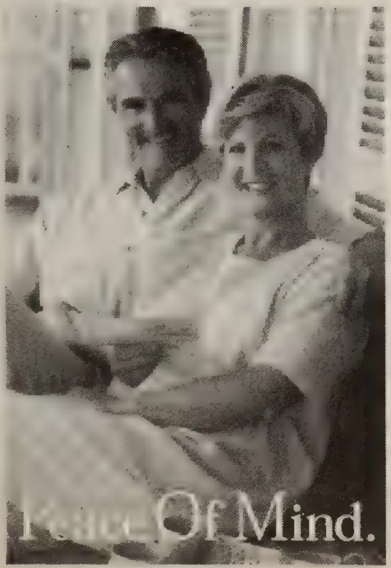
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SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you. As U.S. Catholics we are called to "faithful citizenship," to be involved in the formation of policies with the goal of shaping a society "respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace." How our society chooses to act toward members of our human family that are most vulnerable and defenseless is a sound measure of whether or not we are reaching that goal. I write today to offer you the moral and spiritual guidance of the Church on the issue of embryonic cell research. As I am sure you are aware, this issue has been very prominent in the news recently. I pray that you will give due consideration to the teachings of the Church on this issue.

On July 31, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that bans the cloning of human embryos for any reason. I join my brother bishops in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in applauding this action. The passing of the Human Cloning Prohibition Act sends the message that our society can use technology for the benefit of all humanity, and that it must resist traveling down an ethically flawed path of treating some human lives as expendable for the benefit of others.

Last week, President Bush addressed the nation on the matter of whether embryonic stem cell research should receive federal funding and to what extent such research should be regulated. His statement follows upon months of public debate on this matter. I write to the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte, to inform you of the response of the U.S. Catholic bishops to President Bush's statement on federal policy toward embryonic stem cell research.

The U.S. Catholic bishops have been very much involved in this public debate on stem cell research. We have stressed that while some forms of stem cell research are morally acceptable (i.e. so long as the cells are voluntarily obtained from adult tissue, placentas and umbilical cords) embryonic stem cell research is unacceptable and a morally egregious act because such research involves the killing of a living human embryo. As Catholics we believe that human life begins at conception, and that all life is sacred because we are created by the hand of God and in His image. It is this profound belief in the sanctity of life that led Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza, president of the USCCB, to issue a statement calling President Bush's decision to allow even a limited amount of embryonic stem cell research "morally unacceptable." Even though the policy proposed by President Bush does not fund the killing of further embryos for research, any research on stem cells obtained through the past destruction of human embryos "cultivates a disrespect for human life." I echo Bishop Fiorenza's concern that even stem cell research on already extracted embryonic stem cells "relies on the destruction of some defenseless human beings for the benefit of others."

Many have called for the expansion and public funding of embryonic stem cell research because they believe that such research holds promise of medical treatment and cures for a wide range of life threatening and debilitating diseases and injuries. While we are called to compassion and called to do what is ethically permissible to alleviate the suffering of others, we are never permitted to trade one life for another — to permit the killing of those who are defenseless as a sacrifice to benefit others. It is encouraging that adult stem research holds therapeutic promise for millions of people who are ill or injured; indeed such research has already helped thousands of patients.

As Catholics we can urge our legislators to support adult stem research funding, knowing that this research has aided many, will continue to benefit many, and does not offer our society the terrible utilitarian choice of trading some lives for the hope of a better life for others. We need not compromise our faith and morals to the advancement of science. The historical and current involvement of institutions of the Catholic Church in medical research and the care of patients demonstrates that faith and science can be true partners for the advancement of society.

Many statements in the media have expressed the opinion that embryonic stem cell research ought to be encouraged because it involves the exchange of "potential" human life for the benefit of existing human life. Let me make the Church's position perfectly clear — an embryo is a human life. A human embryo has the potential to one day be a doctor, a parent, a teacher; to one day laugh, cry, and be amazed at God's creation. Yet there is nothing potential about the status of an embryo as a human being and its right to dignity and life. May God bless all of us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

St. Paul the Apostle parishioner recognized for social justice thoughts

By DENISE KASPER
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — What started as an 11th-grade English class assignment has become something of a personal vision for Greensboro resident Emily Cupito. She may have hit on something with her 1,300-word paper, because her essay won first place in the Piedmont Interfaith Council's Essay Contest.

Emily Cupito

In her dissertation, entitled "A Spark of Hope," the rising senior from Western High School and parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Church worked off the theme how to create a society of justice and understanding among people from difference races, religions and ethnic origins.

"It is possible to create a society to include everyone," said the zealous teen-ager, who attended elementary school at Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro. "I really wanted to answer the topic."

Her efforts to answer what seems now to be an age-old question — "Can't we all just get along?" — were not squandered. Her response apparently stirred the judges, who awarded her with a commemorative plaque and a check for $300.

Cupito, 17, said she worked long and hard on the essay — spending more than five hours on a painstaking revision. She drew from personal experience, and talking to her makes it clear that this issue hits close to her heart. Her inspiration for the essay was an experience she had as a new high-school freshman. It was the first day of gym class, and she looked around the room seeing students from all kinds of backgrounds.

"There were different dialects and accents — some I couldn't even understand," she said. "Eventually I began to understand their accents and get their jokes. Soon I had friends from all different countries."

Her essay focuses on a hope to create a society where each person is an individual, responsible to love one another, she said.

"It starts with the individual and an individual's own heart," she said. "It's our own actions and deeds that count. It is possible to create a society and look past these differences. People are actually more alike than different."

In her essay she says that it's partly up to parents to expose children to diversity as much as possible, as soon as possible and as often as possible. She even suggests that parents bring their children to different places of worship to expose them to other cultures and traditions.

"It's neat to be walking through the hallways and have friends outside of the core group of ethnic backgrounds I'm used to growing up with."

Cupito said she's saving her winnings for a rainy day, maybe even college expenses. She plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill, not straying too far from the family she says is her foundation. She is very close to her three sisters, Jessica, 20, Abby, 15, and Ali, 12, and says she gets inspiration from her parents, Susan and Thomas.

"I can't say that me and my sisters don't fight and yell at each other," she said. "But, my parents always treated us with respect. We just mirrored that with each other."

Unsure of what course of study she'll pursue in college or what she wants to do with her life after college, she does know her life's work will involve people.

"I do know that whatever I do I want to help other people," she said.

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Secular Franciscans shine at annual gathering

By ELLEN NEERINCX SIGMON
Correspondent

HICKORY — Even though the skies were overcast, the light of Christ shone brightly through the members of the Secular Franciscan Order who met at the Catholic Conference Center July 27-29 for their annual regional gathering.

Saturday began with an early morning Mass, during which John Martin, a veterinarian from Lenoir, made his profession into the order. Martin belongs to the Fraternity of Brother Francis in Hickory, but about 100 secular Franciscans representing five states watched him receive a San Damiano cross as a symbol of his mission in the world and a lighted candle to remind him that he would become an even brighter light of Christ through his profession.

Later that morning, Capuchin Father Lester Bach, author of "Catch Me a Rainbow Too," a book used by many Franciscan groups for their formation program, spoke about the light of Christ and how it is present throughout the Bible.

"Francis and Clare (of Assisi) saw the light," he said. "Christ became so real for them that it was all that they needed.

"When Jesus comes among us, we begin to see in clarity because there is light," he said. When trying to make a decision about the right thing to do, he said, one should "always ask the question, 'Will this bring darkness or light?'"

In the evening, several people shared stories of how Jesus had blessed them through their associations with their secular Franciscan groups. Ruth Thoni, minister of the Hickory group, met her future husband, Herman Thoni, at a 1995 Franciscan convention. Both were in their 60s and had never been married.

She also talked about the support and prayers she received from Franciscans in Charlotte and all over the world when her husband was diagnosed with cancer. He died in December 2000.

"Yes, I feel a little cheated," she said, "but it's this great joy of St. Francis that soothes my heart."

Photo by Ellen Neerincx Sigmon

Bill Brockhoff presents John Martin with a lighted candle during his profession to remind him that with his profession he becomes an even brighter light for Christ. Martin now belongs to the Fraternity of Brother Francis in Hickory. About 100 secular Franciscans representing five states witnessed his profession.

John Martin spoke about Herman Thoni as well. Thoni, formerly the minister of the group, had felt the need for the Hickory group to do a re-enactment of the birth of Jesus, in the spirit of the crib at Greccio, Italy, organized by St. Francis of Assisi in 1223. Martin, because he was a veterinarian, was asked to find the animals for the re-enactment.

Martin said that a few days later, a client called his office about a sick donkey. When Martin examined the donkey, he found that it had pneumonia and was very sick and weak. When he suggested that the donkey be put on antibiotics, the client was concerned about the cost. Martin told him that he would treat the animal free of charge, provided that, if the donkey lived, the man would bring it to participate in the reenactment. The man agreed, and Martin alerted his Franciscan group to pray about it.

"The donkey made a dramatic recovery and grew a beautiful coat," Martin said. He also said that a friend of his brought a cow and some sheep, and even dressed his children as shepherds and brought them to participate in the reenactment.

"I can still see the happy faces of the children (who attended)," he said.

Larry Kertz, a candidate for profession from the Chattanooga, Tenn., Franciscan group, talked about how his association with that group had helped him overcome his fears and problems with addiction.

"They are a group of people who have modeled for me and loved me unconditionally," he said. "I've learned an awful lot from my community. They've affirmed me."

He also spoke about how much he had enjoyed getting to know the other Franciscans in the region that weekend.

"They radiate a serenity and peace that I want," he said.

Martin and other members of the Hickory group announced plans for another re-enactment of the crib at Greccio at 4 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the Catholic Conference Center. They are also planning a service on Oct. 3 at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Lenoir to celebrate the Transitus (the passage from earthly life to eternal life) of St. Francis.

Secular Franciscans came from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee to attend this regional meeting. The group also conducted elections and went over their budget and regional guidelines during the gathering.

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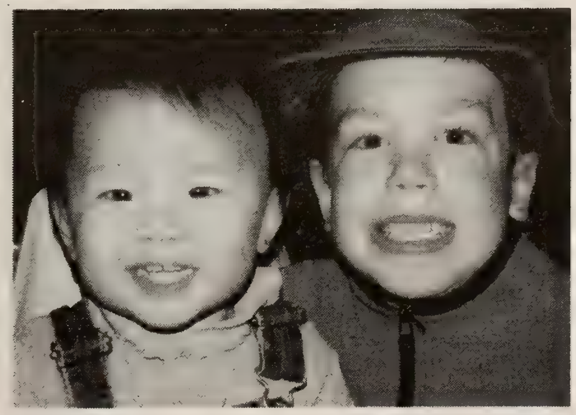

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Welcome, from page 1

urges all parishes to join together to become a welcoming church," added Cira Ponce, director of the Refugee Resettlement Office.

The PCRRP is a pilot program of the diocese's Catholic Social Services ministry. Downing will be involved in practical guidance for parishes in their efforts to include immigrants and refugees in their communities.

During the week of Aug. 5, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services Office for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees in Washington, D.C., mailed resource kits to every parish in the United States and to Migration and Refugee Services network members to help them implement the bishops' pastoral.

The packets include a full copy of the pastoral, brochures summarizing the statement, and information sheets for pastors, parish councils, liturgists and homilists, school and religious education leaders, social ministry leaders and other parish leaders.

The bishops' statement borrows from Pope John Paul II's 1999 papal document "Ecclesia in America," in which the pontiff said the experience of the living Christ happens along the path of conversion, communion and solidarity.

"The presence of brothers and sisters from different cultures should be celebrated as a gift to the church," the bishops' statement says.

"The presence of so many people of so many different cultures and religions in so many different parts of the United States has challenged us as a church to a profound conversion so that we can truly become a sacrament of unity," it says. "We reject the anti-immigration stance that has become popular in different parts of our country, and the nativism, ethnocentricity and racism that continue to reassert themselves in our communities."

Sonia Hayden, coordinator of Volunteer Services for the Refugee Resettlement Office, said the three key points of the statement — conversion, communion and solidarity — provide a teaching moment for church leadership on the gifts one encounters in a diverse church.

Downing added that conversion in this case is "not necessarily the conversion of non-Catholic refugees, but rather our conversion as Catholics to a more open viewpoint of others." She added that communion implies an accepting of newcomers and building bridges to join cultures.

Regarding solidarity, Downing said Catholics can "advocate for laws that respect human rights of immigrants and preserve unity of the refugee family," as well as encourage such programs as social services and citizenship classes.

"When a parish welcomes refugees in the spirit of conversion, communion and solidarity, there is a greater likelihood that the acculturation process for those refugees will be less traumatic than it would be otherwise," Hayden said. "They will feel more of a sense of belonging and connection to their new homeland."

For Catholic Social Services' Refugee Resettlement Office, whose goal is to assist refugees in becoming self-sufficient and self-reliant, the bishops' statement is a welcome resource in bringing that message of connection to light.

The Refugee Resettlement Office is an affiliate of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services Office. Since its establishment in 1975, the diocesan office has resettled almost 7,500 refugees of 20 different nationalities, said Ponce.

According to Migration and Refugee Services, the key difference between immigrants and refugees is that immigrants choose to leave their native countries, while refugees are compelled to do so because of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, social structures or political opinion.

The Refugee Resettlement Office assists in meeting the needs of refugees both before and after they arrive. Pre-arrival services include helping with initial housing needs, collecting furnishings and household items, providing basic food items, welcoming the refugees at the airport and translation services.

Once they arrive, refugees receive employment orientation and placement, social security registration, health services, immigration processing, cultural and community orientation and a host of other social services.

The Refugee Resettlement Office continues to be one of the busiest refugee resettlement programs in the nation, not only by placing families in the Diocese of Charlotte but by participating in nationwide initiatives.

In response to the political and religious persecution in Sudan, for example, the Refugee Resettlement Office has been actively involved in placing 47 Sudanese here since May 1999.

Some in this group are members of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan, thousands of young men orphaned by war who fought for survival across Africa as a militant slavery campaign by the Islamic regime pursued the young Sudanese boys in their flight. About 4,000 of the Lost Boys — who once numbered closer to 12,000 before many died, returned to Sudan or simply disappeared — are now being resettled in the United States.

Bishop William G. Curlin in February joined his support with other U.S. bishops for the nation to take a stronger role in addressing the plight of the Sudanese. He wrote to Colin Powell, U.S. secretary of state, in mid-February urging the Bush administration to make peace in the Sudan a priority.

Examples like this are part of what it means to welcome the stranger, Ponce said.

"A tremendous benefit of answering the call to 'welcome the stranger' is the increased cultural exchange and understanding between newly arriving refugees and Americans," Ponce said. By implementing the bishops' pastoral, "parishioners will have the opportunity to put their faith in action, to live out the gospel mandate to welcome the stranger."

The Southeast regional training for implementation of "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity" will be in Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 4-6. For more information, call (202) 541-5408.

For details on local efforts, call Beth Downing at (704) 370-3256 or Sonia Hayden, coordinator of Volunteer Services for the Refugee Resettlement Office, at (704) 370-3283.

Catholic News Service contributed to this article.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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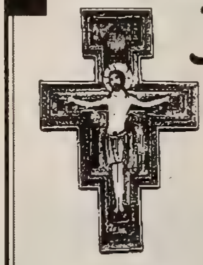

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CSS employee recognized for dedication and work

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Alicia Garcia has 96 "relatives," some of whom she interacts with almost on a daily basis. She visits their homes, ensures that their needs are being met and accompanies them on trips to the doctor and on other appointments. Her co-workers and friends marvel at how she maintains relationships with all of those people. She says that even though it is her job to help, she feels as if all of them are extended family.

"I grow very close to my clients when they arrive, and it's a great feeling when you are helping someone," said Garcia, a Catholic Social Services case manager in the diocesan Refugee Resettlement Office. "You create a bond with them. They become family members; they are no longer refugees."

Because of her dedication, Garcia received the Outstanding Agency Employee Award from the North Carolina Refugee Office.

Each refugee resettelment office submits a nomination, and that — along with the state refugee office coordinator's visits, observations and reports — determines the person recognized for his or her work with refugees. Cira Ponce, director of the diocesan CSS Refugee Resettlement Office, nominated Garcia for this year's award. She said that Garcia "goes beyond the call of duty" with her clients.

"Alicia has been and continues to be there for her clients, and they regard her as a family member," wrote Ponce in her nomination form. "Her commitment, energy and compassion are admirable."

Garcia was recently recognized at the state office's biennial conference for all refugee service providers and was shocked that she had been honored.

"During the conference, I was listening to the nomination and said to myself 'this person sounds a lot like me.' When they called my name, it was such a big surprise. I was speechless," she remembered.

Immigrants to the United States from various countries meet Garcia, and she helps them to establish their lives and to settle into a new land. She provides translations, transportation and other informative services to navigate their way through finding a residence, enrolling children in school and receiving state-required immunizations and health care. Garcia has encountered many clients with serious medical conditions including cancer, heart disease, kidney failure and other problems.

She attends additional daytime and evening medical appointments with her clients and checks that they receive proper long-term medical care for their illnesses.

Garcia says that she feels proud that her work has been recognized after nearly 30 years of working with refugees.

"My clients tell me that they appreciate my work, and that gives me such joy. I try to give them positive reinforcement and hope for the future, hope for the best."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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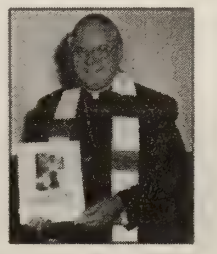

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Faithful Servant offers leadership schools for the church and for the larger community

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

> Nobody's fake here; everybody's totally real. God was with us."
>
> — *Michael Smith, 17, of Asheville*

SMITHFIELD — One of the common threads that seems to be woven into the stories about school violence in recent years is that many of the students who have been the aggressors have a history of being outcasts in their schools. Many have said they have been bullied and belittled by their peers.

What if someone, a peer for example, were able to recognize and empathize with another in that situation before it exploded into violence? What if that someone had a better understanding of what it means to be ostracized by others because they, for a fleeting moment, had been able to feel that pain?

Such empathy is part of the training given to students at a long-running institute conducted jointly by the two Catholic dioceses in North Carolina. About 80 people from the dioceses of Raleigh and Charlotte gathered at the Short Journey Retreat Center in mid-July to take part in the Faithful Servant Leadership Institute. Led by adult chaperones, youth ministers, peer leaders and the young people themselves, the participants engaged in a week of discussions, talks, small group gatherings and other related activities.

"The goal is to learn leadership skills in a Catholic Christian setting," said Mike Hagarty, youth ministry consultant for the Diocese of Raleigh. "It is important to see that leadership is learnable and these young people have chosen to learn leadership skills in this setting."

Hagarty said the fact that Catholic Christian leadership can be learned is obviated by the fact that so many teenagers have decided to return to the program as peer leaders. "They put their skills into practice to be a model of leadership for other young people."

Leo Moreda, youth minister at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Raleigh, said the teenagers learn skills they can carry into the church.

"(They) are given the skills and (we) let them take those back to the parish."

But the walls between the church community and the secular world are not real, and in this case it is hoped they are non-existent. Kathleen Lewis, youth minister at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, said when the institute is over, the teenagers have "a heightened sense of their baptismal call to leadership in the church and the world at large."

Moreda said they could use the same skills they lean at the institute in their everyday lives. "A lot of it is leadership you can utilize in a secular setting," said Moreda. "[S]tudent governments or youth councils have different goals by similar roles."

One of the important sessions in the institute puts the teenagers and the adult chaperones in the situation of being the outcast. While the situation is not real, leaders believe the role playing helps the teenagers — and the adults who must also go through the process — better understand what teenagers feel when they are cutoff from the mainstream in their schools.

Lewis said the development of future sensitivity to such situations is "part of our expectation." She said the exercises used to demonstrate the pain of being ostracized teach the teenagers how easy it is to "succumb to the roles that someone has placed on them."

Lewis said the participants learn quickly that if a person is cut off from a group, taunted and teased and placed in a particular role, it does not take long for that person to "begin to act the way that is expected of them."

She said it is hoped by being caught briefly in that trap, teenagers at the Faithful Servant Leadership Institute can help others escape the situation. At least, they will be able to better identify with those who suffer such devastating stereotyping and help to "challenge the label the kid wears."

Josh Moore, 17, one of the several members of Blessed Sacrament Church in Burlington to attend the session, added weight to the idea that the teenagers can learn from being exposed to difficult situations. He said the experience teaches teenagers skills that improve the ability to get along in diverse groups.

Michael Smith, 17, of Asheville, returned to Short Journey as a peer leader. The St. Barnabas Church member said last year's experience "changed my life." Smith offered a concrete example. He is now a participant in Mass at his parish, something that came as a result of the interest in guitar playing he developed at the institute last year.

Smith said the experience of the institute gave teenagers the chance to be more open in a group setting. "Nobody's fake here; everybody's totally real. God was with us."

He said the institute helped him alter his listening skills and with the important act of making eye contact with another. "When someone is talking, I'm all ears."

Meredith Maher of St. Francis in Raleigh said her decision to return as a peer leader was based on the fact that "I had such an awesome experience last year." Maher said that Faithful Servant is "a good leadership experience for us."

She said she valued the experience of meeting all the people from around the state and "seeing how their faith grows over the week — your faith grows too."

Maher added the experience has helped her in personal situations. She said she believed she has been able to overcome some basic shyness in her personality and has been more open to the people in her life, particularly at Sanderson High School in Wake County.

Lewis echoed a statement offered at many events that bring together young people from far flung sections of the state. She said they learn they are part of a larger church.

Lewis explained that many of the young Catholics in North Carolina live in settings where most of their fellow students in public schools are not Catholic. The only contact they have with other Catholics is in church settings, and often because of size, those opportunities are limited.

The native of Charleston, S.C., said it was her experience that it is important for a young Catholic to understand they are part of the larger church and that there are others experiencing similar situations. Having the opportunity to gather at places like Short Journey Center gives the teenagers a new perspective on what it is like to Catholic in the South in the new millennium.

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Diocesan deacons and wives gather for development, renewal

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
Correspondent

ARDEN — For most permanent deacons traveling to Arden on Aug. 4, it was a 30-minute to 3 1/2-hour ride through the mist and sprinklings of threatening rain, as they drove through the mountains where the sky kisses the earth.

This is one of three opportunities for the deacons to fulfill their obligation and responsibility to grow in the faith and love of Christ. They gather regularly for spiritual renewal and camaraderie afforded through the brotherhood of the diaconate. The ongoing-education classes and presenters are arranged by Rev. Mr. Art Kingsley, who is a permanent deacon at St. Barnabas Church in Arden.

The classes are scheduled for the first Saturdays of February, August and November of each year. Each deacon attends based upon topic, location and other obligations that may interfere with a certain class.

The day started with Mass offered by Father Roger Arnsparger, pastor. Father Arnsparger welcomed his parishioners and the travelers who were able to make it in time for the eucharistic celebration.

After the Mass, the deacons and wives all congregated in the church hall to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends over coffee and donuts. Shortly thereafter, all assembled in the main conference room for morning prayer led by the newly ordained Rev. Mr. Michael Zboyovski.

Morning prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, which all priests, deacons and religious are required to say each day.

By faithfully reciting the Liturgy of the Hours every day, one completes the entire Psalter (Book of Psalms) within a four-week cycle. The Psalter is a liturgical book consisting of psalms and biblical canticles used in divine worship and upon which the day's class was based.

The presenter for this class was Father David Valtierra. Father Valtierra was ordained in September of 1976 into a community of priests and lay brothers, the Oratorians, founded by St. Philip Neri in 16th-century Rome. He lives in congregation at the Oratory located in Rock Hill, S.C. There, along with other duties, he gives seminars and classes on the Psalms.

According to Father Valtierra, the message of the Psalms is the message of a covenantal relationship between Yahweh and his chosen people. The timeframe expressed in the Psalms is past, present and future all at once. Each Psalm touches those human experiences that all people have or will have experienced before they pass on to eternal life.

Giving an example of an old soft-drink commercial in which nothing is said, but pictured is a boy being smothered by the love of a puppy, Father Valtierra explained that this is the expression of pure joy supposedly related to the product. This same type of experience is gleaned from the Psalms, which artfully and spiritually move the reader from basic human experiences to the image of God himself. Yet, in the midst of looking at the Lord, there is but one prerequisite: "One must be honest about one's own spirituality." Otherwise, one can never connect through the Psalms.

Father Valtierra indicates the each Psalm "invites us to go into areas we have never yet ventured," the area depending upon whether the Psalm is one of lament, thanksgiving or praise. Each Psalm works on several images and on several different levels of thought simultaneously.

Photo by Rev. Mr. Gerald Potkay

Pictured from left to right are Reverend Mr. Thomas Kak, Emily Ann Kak, Reverend Mr. Vince Shaw and Reverend Mr. Gordon Forester.

The Psalms are a resource, a songbook. They are expressions of a shared memory of the people of God on their journey through faith. As a community prayer book, they should be sung in community.

Judith Johnson of St. Charles Borromeo and wife of Rev. Mr. James Johnson in Morganton said, "I have studied the Psalms before. This is a new and different approach with a lot more depth to it."

Rev. Mr. Philip Killian of St. Benedict in Greensboro told of how this presentation "gives a better insight to understanding of the Psalms — that we are all human and that God is working through all of our emotions. I can see this now that it has been pointed out."

Eileen Rohan of Our Lady of Grace in Greensboro and wife of Rev. Mr. Tim Rohan indicated that she can now see how the Psalms "water the feet with a peaceful loving relationship with God, giving us everything we need spiritually." Meanwhile, Rev. Mr. Gordon Forester of St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro indicates that he is "going to use this information for nights of reflection" at his church.

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Book Review

New literary work explores development of spirituality in technological age

Reviewed by **JAN KILBY**
Catholic News Service

Many people know that technology has transformed their lives, but few have developed a theology of technology. Richard R. Gaillardetz is one who has.

In "Transforming Our Days: Spirituality, Community and Liturgy in a Technological Culture," Gaillardetz, a Catholic theologian, examines technology's influence on life and faith.

***TRANSFORMING OUR DAYS: SPIRITUALITY, COMMUNITY AND LITURGY IN A TECHNOLOGICAL CULTURE*, by Richard R. Gaillardetz. Crossroad Publishing Company (New York, 2000). 158 pp. $15.95.**

Gaillardetz, who will hold the Murray-Bacik Endowed Chair in Catholic Studies at the University of Toledo beginning this fall, describes in his book's preface his growing awareness of technology's harm. This realization occurred when he recognized his family's increasing dependence on TVs, VCRs and computers.

Though he says he and his wife were committed to their vocation as parents of four children, he made a surprising discovery: 'Something precious in our lives seemed to be seeping out of our family life.'"

He suggests that faith can help provide the proper perspective on technology. He bases his views on Catholicism and on the work of Albert Borgmann, a Catholic and a University of Montana philosophy professor and writer on technology and culture. Borgmann calls for "a transformed dailiness" or more awareness of the spirituality of daily life.

Technology, Gaillardetz says, promises to eliminate routine tasks considered "boring, insignificant and burdensome." The problem he sees is that in performing such tasks we receive "grace and blessings.' He agrees with Borgmann who asserts that "technological devices" can produce experiences that are less meaningful than "focal" experiences. For example, he says, central heating creates a warm home, but a fireplace brings people together in a more enjoyable way.

The author then describes how the virtual reality created by computers can result in a "culture of simulation" that is "no replacement for interpersonal, human engagement."

Gaillardetz believes that the Catholic doctrine of the Trinity and the theology of grace call for a preservation of focal practices. He says the Trinitarian concept of God as a "pulsing, divine movement toward us in love" shows us the need for relationships. He writes that "grace is not so much a divine substance as it is a quality of relation in which the presence of God emerges as we attend to the world around us and receive it as a gift."

Gaillardetz describes the impact of technology on communal spirituality. He questions the "privatization of spirituality." He suggests that "immersion in a Christian community ... schools us in practices and attitudes that allow us to recover the sacred dimensions of our daily lives." Liturgy, he says, is the "paradigmatic focal practice of the Christian life." He suggests that people in a culture dominated by technology and consumerism may be less able to experience it fully.

Gaillardetz acknowledges that technology can assist people in fulfilling their biblical role as stewards of the earth. He also says that the creativity required to develop technology is evidence of divine inspiration. He simply urges readers to evaluate their use of it.

He says, "We need a 'lifestyle' discernment, not a discernment about the goodness or badness of a particular device." By doing so, he says, people can achieve "the salvation of humankind that embraces the personal, social, political, and economic spheres of human existence." This is especially critical now, he says, "because one of the characteristics of modern society is the effective anesthetization of humanity to the felt need for any salvation at all."

"Transforming Our Days" is thought-provoking, well written, and timely. The author makes complex ideas clear, interesting and readable.

Kilby is a free-lance writer in San Antonio.

Word to Life

August 26, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C Readings:

1) Isaiah 66:18-21
Psalm 117:1-2
2) Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
3) Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

By **JEAN DENTON**
Catholic News Service

Jesus' image of the entrance to heaven being a "narrow door" makes me think he was directing his remarks at people of privilege — those having either material wealth, intellectual gifts or the opportunity to eat and drink in his company. Hey, just like middle-class American Christians!

It also makes me think that some people were born in the narrow doorway and struggle there for a lifetime, but with God and his kingdom close at hand encouraging them in with minute, periodic tugs of a sort of divine crowbar. These are the impoverished, the oppressed, the sick who know God because they live on the edge of life and must look to him every day for salvation. On their final day they'll just pop through.

But what of the ones standing in the wide doorway where God's generosity constantly oozes out and greases the skids of their lives? What a wonderful (and practically painless) way this is into the kingdom.

Jesus' message, however, indicates these are one-way doors — the wide one flowing out of the kingdom, but the narrow one being the way to get in. "Try," he says, emphasizing that this is something that requires some effort, "to come in through the narrow door."

I recently met a couple who followed this radical idea. Steve and his wife have taken their privileges to the narrow doorway to share with those who struggle.

After a middle-class upbringing and a university education, they chose to move to a crowded urban neighborhood where they rented a house which they opened to the city's poor as a hospitality house. Now, while rearing their own family, they provide coffee and bread in the mornings and a soup kitchen every noon. Rooms are available to those who need shelter.

Steve admits that going to the narrow door isn't an easy choice. "There's always the temptation to just look out for ourselves and our nuclear family, to be concerned for our own wants and needs," he said. "Our culture pushes people very much in that direction."

However, he pointed out an opposite attraction: "Living with the poor every day — in our house — is putting ourselves in a position to open our eyes and our ears to see and hear what God sees and hears."

Sounds like the kingdom of God to me.

QUESTIONS:

What material and spiritual privileges have you received through God's generosity? What keeps you from going to the narrow door?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of August 19-25

Sunday, Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10, Hebrews 12:1-4, Luke 12:49-53; **Monday (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)**, Judges 2:11-19, Matthew 19:16-22; **Tuesday (St. Pius X)**, Judges 6:11-24a, Matthew 19:23-30; **Wednesday (The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary)**, Judges 9:6-15, Matthew 20:1-16a; **Thursday (St. Rose of Lima)**, Judges 11:29-39a, Matthew 22:1-14; **Friday (St. Bartholomew)**, Revelation 21:9b-14, John 1:45-51; **Saturday (St. Louis, St. Joseph of Calasanz)**, Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17, Matthew 23:1-12

Readings for the week of August 26-September 1

Sunday, Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13, Luke 13:22-30; **Monday (St. Monica)**, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5, 8b-10, Matthew 23: 13-22; **Tuesday (St. Augustine)**, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Matthew 23:23-26; **Wednesday (The Martyrdom of John the Baptist)**, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Mark 6:17-29; **Thursday**, 1 Thessalonians 3:7-13, Matthew 24:42-51; **Friday**, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, Matthew 25:1-13

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Video reviews

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are home videocassette reviews from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting. Each videocassette is available in VHS format. Theatrical movies on video have a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification and Motion Picture Association of America rating. All reviews indicate the appropriate age group for the video audience.

"The Brothers" (2001)

Bland relationship drama about four young African-American men (including Morris Chestnut and D.L. Hughley) who face their individual issues about commitment and honesty after one of the quartet gets engaged. Director Gary Hardwick's male perspective on dating and marriage lacks energy and uses cliched dialogue to state the obvious. Several intense sexual situations and crass references, fleeting violence and sporadic rough language with some profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar)

"The Brothers McMullen" (1995)

Sturdy but flawed comic drama set in New York City where three brothers (Jack Mulcahy, Mike McGlone and Edward Burns) share their muddlements over love, sex, relationships and commitment from the perspective of their Irish-Catholic upbringing. Also written and directed by Burns, the low-budget picture succeeds best in portraying the close family bond helping the brothers face individual moral quagmires as best they can without benefit of ties to parish or sacraments. Sexual situations occasioning much discussion of morality with sporadic profanity and rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Fox)

"Grey Gardens" (1976)

Documentary about two women, an aging mother and a middle-aged daughter, once wealthy but who now live as recluses in a crumbling mansion in an exclusive community which wants them out. Directed by Albert and David Maysles, the often moving, often troubling portrait of rugged individualism invades their privacy but presents them as noble and heroic women who refuse to compromise their ideals to the standards of society. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. (Portrait Films)

"Pollock" (2000)

Powerful portrait of modern artist Jackson Pollock (Ed Harris), his tumultuous relationship with wife Lee Krasner (Marcia Gay Harden) and his rise and fall from fame. Harris' directorial debut is an appropriately restrained work that grasps the troubled life of an artistic icon, although the finely wrought performances are hindered by a somewhat lagging narrative pace. A brief sexual encounter, an extramarital affair, alcohol abuse, some profanity and intermittent rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. (Columbia TriStar)

"The Secret Garden" (1993)

Winning dramatization of Frances Hodgson Burnett's children's classic about a little Victorian orphan girl (Kate Maberly) who comes to live in her uncle's remote manor on the English moors where she uncovers the mystery of a locked garden, transforms her sickly cousin (Heydon Prowse) and wins the friendship of a local country lad (Andrew Knott). Directed by Agnieszka Holland, the appealing tale of three lonely children discovering the wonder and joy of life in tending a long-neglected garden is vividly told through evocative visuals ranging from the forbidding gloom of the manor to the enchanting beauty of the natural world outside. A rich experience for all members of the family. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. (Warner Home Video)

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'Planet of the Apes' star helps Boston priest who helped him

CNS Photo from 20th Century Fox

Mark Wahlberg as Leo leads a rebellion against tyrannical primates in "Planet of the Apes." Closer to home, the actor is helping a priest rebuild a gym at St. Edward Parish in Brockton.

By STACIE N. GALANG
Catholic News Service

BOSTON (CNS) — When the hit movie "Planet of the Apes" premiered in Boston, star Mark Wahlberg invited his former parish priest, who helped steer the actor from the streets.

Father James Flavin left the premiere with a six-figure pledge from Wahlberg to help rebuild the gymnasium at St. Edward Parish in Brockton, where Father Flavin serves as pastor.

The relationship between the movie star and the priest dates back to when Wahlberg was a troubled youth. Father Flavin befriended Wahlberg while serving as pastor at St. William's in Boston's Dorchester section.

"He was kind of a street thug and he got himself together. He was always getting in fights at every basketball game," Father Flavin said of Wahlberg.

But it was Wahlberg's participation in a Catholic Youth Organization basketball league that helped steer the youth in the right direction, Father Flavin said.

Wahlberg's story is the story of a kid with troubles who made good, the priest told The Pilot, newspaper of the Boston Archdiocese.

The exact figure of the donation could not be made public, Father Flavin said, because of the contract bidding process. But it did exceed six figures, he said.

The priest recalled how Wahlberg as a youth would regularly drive past St. William, always in a different car, waving and beeping.

It's been a while since Father Flavin visited Wahlberg in jail. Through the years, the two continued their relationship.

Father Flavin described Wahlberg as being a very mature adult who attends Mass every Sunday.

"He's very proud of being Catholic," Father Flavin said. "The church really helped him to set a foundation."

For the July 26 premiere, Wahlberg arranged for members of community organizations from the Boston area to attend.

In an upstairs theater, young moviegoers awaited Wahlberg, who greeted the audience to choruses of "We love you, Mark."

James Romikitis, 13, of St. Augustine Parish in South Boston attended the screening with friends from the Boys and Girls Club of South Boston.

"He (Wahlberg) came up to us and shook our hands," Romikitis said. "He gave a shout out to the Boys and Girls Club."

Romikitis gave the movie good reviews, although he said the ending went a little overboard.

Father Flavin said Wahlberg is expected to be on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new gymnasium in the fall.

"I'm as a proud of him as the kids from St. William's who became bricklayers," Father Flavin said. "Mark now has the means to help a lot people."

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

God protects weak, watches over those who trust in him, pope says

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God watches over all the events of human history, protecting the weak and encouraging all people to hope in him, Pope John Paul II said.

"The loving faithfulness of God, like a cloak, wraps around us, warms us and protects us, offering us serenity and giving a sure foundation for our faith and our hope," he said Aug. 8 at his weekly general audience.

Speaking to thousands of people in the Vatican's audience hall, the pope continued his series of talks on the Psalms, focusing on Psalm 33, which he called a "catechesis" on God's constant care for his creation.

The psalm, he said, teaches that God is the Lord of human history and that his plan for humanity often faces opposition from "the plans of earthly powers."

"When human plans try to offer alternatives, they introduce injustice, evil and violence" into the world, he said.

"And despite their transitory and apparent success," he said, in the end their plans are destined to fail.

"The psalmist reminds us that from heaven, his transcendent dwelling place, God follows all the itineraries of humanity, even those which are foolish and absurd, and he intuits the secrets of the human heart," the pope said.

The psalm tells the powerful not to fool themselves into relying on their armies, he said, and it calls on the oppressed and the poor "to hope in the Lord who will not let them fall into the abyss of destruction."

Psalm 33, Pope John Paul said, "is an appeal to faith in a God who is not indifferent to the arrogance of the powerful and who is close when humanity is weak, raising up and sustaining those who have faith, who trust in him and who offer their prayers and praise to him."

Pope prays for motorists during summer vacation time

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — With millions of people on the highways driving to or from vacation destinations, Pope John Paul II prayed that people would drive carefully and be helpful to other motorists. Reciting the Angelus Aug. 5 at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, the pope offered special greetings to those "who are on the roads leaving for or returning from their holidays." The pope said, "I pray to the Lord that such massive movements (of people and cars) will take place without great trouble thanks to the contribution and prudence of everyone."

The Bottom Line

ANTOINETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

Teaching Young Ones to Pray

With schools opening, parents and children are getting focused once more on studying and learning. When my children were young, this was also the time when we put some attention on how to supplement the religious instruction they would get in CCD classes. Most of the time, we were determined to say the rosary as often as possible.

My devotion to the rosary began many years before I was a mother. I was fortunate to have been a student at the College of St. Rose in Albany, N.Y., in the days when Holy Cross Father Patrick Peyton was a frequent visitor there. He had a mission to get families praying every day, specifically saying the rosary.

Father Peyton actually was based at my college, coming back there after trips he would take to various places, often Hollywood. He would tell us stories about stars who were devout Catholics, and we were, indeed, impressed.

This summer, the Vatican Congregation for Sainthood Causes formally opened the cause of possible canonization of this priest, who never stopped saying, "The family that prays together, stays together."

The announcement came from Bishop Sean O'Malley of Fall River, Mass., who sought formal approval by the Vatican for this cause because Father Peyton is buried in Easton, a town within his diocese. Reading of this brought back many memories.

As Bishop O'Malley was reported to have put it, Father Peyton "encouraged millions of families around the world to pray daily, especially the rosary, to strengthen families and to achieve world peace. He knew that with prayer all things became possible."

I talk to parents of youngsters today who say they want to get their children to pray more, but too many activities and interests distract them, crowding out prayer time. While they grew up saying the family rosary, it's hard to pray this way in their homes today. So what are the alternatives?

Some priests have told me that they encourage parents to bring their children to the church when nothing is going on so that they can show them sacred items and images, explaining what they are and why they're there. They say storytelling is a very important form of active prayer for youngsters, where characters do good for others, and that good published material abounds to help parents teach children to pray.

It is especially important for children to understand that prayer is a two-way street — them talking to God and God talking back. To hear him, they have to listen.

One book I recommend to many parents, published by Sorin Books, is "Children Praying, Why and How to Pray With Your Children," by Joan Bel Geddes. It brings together important insights on spirituality and child development.

The author underscores her conviction that "prayer should be at the level where a person really is. As the Quakers say, it must 'speak to our condition' if it is not going to be irrelevant and useless. So instead of having children listen to and mouth words someone else has composed, children should be shown how to do their own praying, how to reach way down inside themselves and way out beyond themselves" so that they can increase their self-understanding, as well as their understanding of other people and of the whole world.

No matter how families teach children about praying today, one thing has not changed: the truth that Father Peyton devoted his life to, that prayer strengthens families.

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor to The Catholic News & Herald, Letters to the Editor, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203, or e-mail with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line to catholicnews@charlottediocese.org. Letters may be edited for clarity, space and grammar. Opinions expressed in letters and columns do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper or its publisher.

Stem-cell research a momentous life issue

Editor's note: The writer submitted the following letter before President Bush's decision last week on stem-cell research.

Dear Editor,

President Bush will soon make a momentous life decision about using taxpayer funds for the use of human embryos in stem-cell research. Misinformation abounds from celebrities to senators. Stem cells from adults are actually better, but for some strange reason the media have virtually ignored this important fact; thus, the general public is being misled.

Stem cells for medical research may be obtained without killing human embryos. They can be taken from adult blood, bone marrow, fat and also from placentas and umbilical cords, according to the National Right to Life News, June 2001.

An embryo is a tiny baby — all the features it will ever have are present at the time of conception and the life process has begun. Nothing is added except nourishment. Every human being starts as an embryo; therefore, discarding one or using it in stem-cell research results in an abortion.

Who will decide which of these humans will live or die? Euthanasia historically follows abortion. Who will be next?

President Bush needs to hear "the other side of the story." Call the White House Comment Line at (202) 456-1111 or write: The President, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500

Mary Jane Harmon
Charlotte

Nun photo sparks respect for elderly

Dear Editor,

Contemplating a photo of Iowa Franciscan Sisters Dorothy and Gwen Hennessey about to be sentenced to six months in prison for demonstrating to close the Fort Benning, Georgia, "School of the Americas" (The Catholic News & Herald, Aug. 3), I spent early morning meditation time with the Old Testament Books of the Maccabees. The case of elderly Eleazar (2 Mac 6:18-31) provides an instructive parallel. Then it was the Syrian empire's attempt to impose its pagan mores on the resistance community in Jewish society. As he refused to go along with the obligatory pagan ritual, Eleazar explained himself, saying: "I prefer to behave as people expect of someone my age, so I can give a good example for the young generation."

Let me confess that both sisters offered me hospitality years ago when I visited Des Moines and Dubuque, and that their now-deceased brother, Father Ron Hennessey, MM, was instrumental in helping me arrange my current ministry here in Guatemala. Also, as she and hundreds of others were doing the Great Peace March from California to Washington in the late 1980s, I visited with then-73-year-old Sister Dorothy in her pup tent somewhere along US Route 30 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The Hennesseys are very ordinary people giving an extraordinary witness worthy of becoming the norm for elderly Catholics of the Charlotte Diocese.

Father Bernard A. Survil
Guatemala

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Hard Decisions All Around

There's no doubt that life can be complicated, if not downright messy. That certainly applies to the spiritual and moral decisions we are called on to make. You have to make them, just as I do, just as bishops and celebrities do — which brings me to these thoughts.

Like many people, I have long enjoyed Anthony Quinn's films, from "Zorba the Greek" to "Shoes of the Fisherman." So, a while back, I was glad to meet him. He was rather quiet, respectful, hardly the larger-than-life character he often portrayed. With him was his wife, Kathy Benven. She had been his personal assistant. They fell in love and had children. Faith was important to her and she wanted to marry in the Catholic Church. Quinn's first wife had died and he and his second wife had married civilly, so the possibility existed. But he also had a reputation for well-publicized affairs. And Anthony Quinn had a history of disliking what he viewed as pretense in the official Church. Born a Catholic, he wandered a wide spiritual road.

When he died not long ago, his wife wanted final services at the cathedral in Providence, R.I. That diocese has an extraordinarily kind and pastoral shepherd, Bishop Robert Mulvee, who faced a sensitive situation, one many face in parish life. When someone has not been active in his or her religion, who has even spoken critically about aspects of the faith, is it right to grant a Mass of Christian Burial?

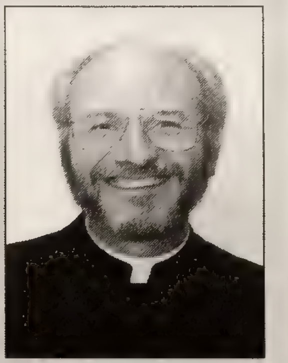
I happened to be visiting Bishop Mulvee about that time and he told me that he had no objection to a priest being present at the burial. But he was unsure of the wisdom of a large funeral Mass at the cathedral on behalf of someone who seemed disinclined to either receive the sacraments or be otherwise involved in the life of the church. Here is a diocese that wants to respect the deceased and his family, but also wants the sacraments to be celebrated by those who honor them; a diocese that sees a funeral Mass celebrated in the cathedral as a public statement of honor which the deceased may not even have sought.

This situation raises the issue of the church's sacramental life. Is it open to all, even those who seem to have left their religious identities behind? Or should comforting the grieving survivors take precedence?

Often, in a parish, you meet folks who haven't been near a church in years. They come to baptize their child. Or for the child's preparation for first Communion or confirmation. For some, it's the first time they've been in touch since they got married. For others, who weren't married in the church, the last point of contact may be even longer. I know that some priests have serious and understandable reservations about families that want to celebrate the sacraments for their children but who have not had — and probably will never have — an ongoing relationship with the church. Other priests see it differently. They reason that rejecting a family's desire for a child to be welcomed to the sacraments is a sure way to make them former members of the church — permanently.

Then there are the families with loved ones who have died, people who began life as Catholics, but wandered. This is not a battle between the bereaved in need of comfort and a hardhearted hierarchy. Rather, we have a family which seeks to honor the dead and a shepherd who seeks to protect the dignity of the sacraments. There are no bad guys here. Only people with a decidedly different vision of the proper role of the church.

Economy of Faith



GLENMARY FATHER JOHN RAUSCH
GUEST COLUMNIST

Discovering Mercy For All

When Rose Pentecost grew up in Wisconsin, she seldom thought about the death penalty. Wisconsin abolished capital punishment in 1863 and today numbers among only 12 states without it. But, over the years with the employment moves of her husband, she lived in states where frequent death penalty cases made headlines.

Still, capital punishment remained remote involving nobody she knew. Then, in her later 60s, a death penalty case grabbed her attention. Volunteering for office work at St. Agnes Parish, Springfield, Mo., she learned that a 20-year-old and a former parishioner, Jessica Clark, murdered another woman. Jessica graduated from the parish grade school and attended some time at the Catholic high school. Although Rose did not personally know Jessica or her family, she learned about Jessica's background and identified with her.

"This girl was very large and had never been accepted by the kids at either school," she remarked. "This hit closer to home because I grew up a big girl." She began attending the trial with her friend, Doris, who knew first hand the many hurts these cases bring with her own son in prison on a DUI that involved someone's death. Faithfully Rose sat in the Greene County Courthouse each day for over two weeks, praying with Doris and other parishioners for life without parole instead of the death penalty. Finally the verdict came like an answer to her prayers: second-degree murder with the possibility of parole.

Over the next several years, Rose joined Doris and other parishioners in prayer vigils before executions in Missouri. Then, in 1998 an horrific crime shocked Springfield. A mother, her three children and her unborn child were murdered by an estranged boyfriend and father of the unborn.

"Now I had to really decide if my feelings were always against the death penalty or just case by case," Rose reflected. The case contained the complexity of knotted twine. Drugs, lack of education, low self-esteem, abuse as a child, HIV and AIDS all wound themselves through the story of Richard DeLong, the confessed killer. For nearly three weeks Rose attended court, even on Saturdays.

"Someone asked me why I wanted to attend these trials," she said. "I was still trying to understand how these things could happen." One day as she sat alone in the courtroom without Doris or other parishioners, a Southern Baptist minister took the stand. Rev. Ron Houston, a local pastor, had visited DeLong in jail nearly every week for two and a half years. "Forgiveness and grace were the epithets of my visits," he said. He appealed to the jury not for exoneration but mercy.

"If this defendant cannot receive grace, then grace will not be available to any of us because God's grace is for all."

Though addressed to the jury, the logic of the minister's words pierced Rose's soul. "I then thought of grace as forgiveness, and I knew I had what I was looking for," she said. "I am now against the death penalty in all cases."

Richard DeLong is now serving life in prison without possibility of parole in a maximum-security prison in Missouri. Murderers cannot go free. Yet Rose insists, "If they are guilty, they need all of their natural life to make peace with God and others. This can only be done with life in prison without parole."

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS COLUMNIST

Does the Bible Countenance Genocide?

Q. Detractors of the Bible sometimes point to Chapter 31 of the Book of Numbers, where God orders the elimination of an entire people. When the soldiers construe the command to mean only males, Moses, at God's command, dispatches them to slay the women and children, too, with one exception: The virgins you may keep for yourselves.

Bible mockers point out that it was our God who first invented genocide. How can we justify the killing of both innocent and guilty? How about those soldiers keeping girls as sex slaves, and all with the Lord's blessing? (Illinois)

A. First of all, we obviously cannot, from a Christian, or even later Jewish, perspective theologically justify these wholesale slaughters. Without attempting to do that, however, we can acknowledge that, from the Hebrew outlook of those times, there was more to this practice than meets the eye.

Through a centuries-long series of complicated ethnic and religious experiences, these "holy wars" were seen (even to some degree in Christian understanding) as a way God used human instruments to establish and confirm Israel as the people and land chosen to play a major role in the history of his salvation of the world.

Tribes and cultures whose religions and military ambitions created an obstacle to that purpose were to be eliminated. "If Israel had been dominated by any less tolerant attitude she would have amalgamated with her pagan neighbors and in so doing lost all that she was to contribute to the world." The ideas behind the ban (the command to totally destroy the enemy) "cannot be accepted as the word of God for the modern Christian, but they may well have been so for Israel in the sense that they must be understood in the light of God's purpose" and what was needed to accomplish it (The Interpreter's Bible Vol. 2, p. 458).

Two points are significant. When Israel is commanded to totally "destroy" the enemy (e.g. Deut 7:2 and 20:17), the Hebrew verb, here translated as destroy, is especially used in relation to a holy war. Objects or persons under the "ban" must be wholly consumed as a holocaust to God.

Their destruction, something similar to sacrifice, in effect dedicates them to the deity. While this devastation is morally reprehensible to us, it is radically something other than an act of wanton vengeance or cruelty when viewed in that context.

From the aspect of God's purpose for the people and land of Israel, an interesting distinction is made that doesn't appear in your question. If a distant enemy nation, which threatens to corrupt the relation between Israel and Yahweh, refuses to make peace, every male is killed; women and children are taken as booty, but not to be slain (Deut 20:12-14).

If, however, enemy cities occupy land given to Israel for its inheritance, Hebrew militants are to save alive "nothing that breathes" (Deut 20:16). Israel's sense of God's supreme lordship over all people and creation makes their compliance with his law, as they understand it, an act of religious obedience.

We have here another element of a holy war; everything offensive and contemptuous to Yahweh (including women who had contributed to building up the pagan Midianite population) was to be destroyed. But the unmarried girls taken captive could now bear children for the conquering people of Israel.

I agree, this violates all our concepts of morality, for individuals or nations. The insights I point out, however, are not insignificant and for a long time guided the Hebrew people in the ways they related to their God.

ESL program bridges language barriers and distant lands

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

CHARLOTTE — Around two tables in an east Charlotte apartment, women from Africa and Southeast Asia are learning about pronouns in English. Smiles replace frowns as the women make their way down the pages.

On this afternoon, the women's linguistic grasp of "he," "she" and "they" is the latest small victory in a struggle to assimilate as strangers in a strange land. These women are refugees — Africans from Sudan, Somalia, and Liberia, and a Montagnard from Vietnam who came here fleeing from their native lands.

The women are among a group of 82 currently participating in the English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) program sponsored by the Refugee Resettlement Office of the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic Social Services.

The language program is part of the cultural and community services provided or co-sponsored by the Refugee Resettlement Office to newcomers to this country. About 75 percent of adult refugees served by the diocesan office pursue formal English language training in their first year here, said Cira Ponce, director of the Refugee Resettlement Office.

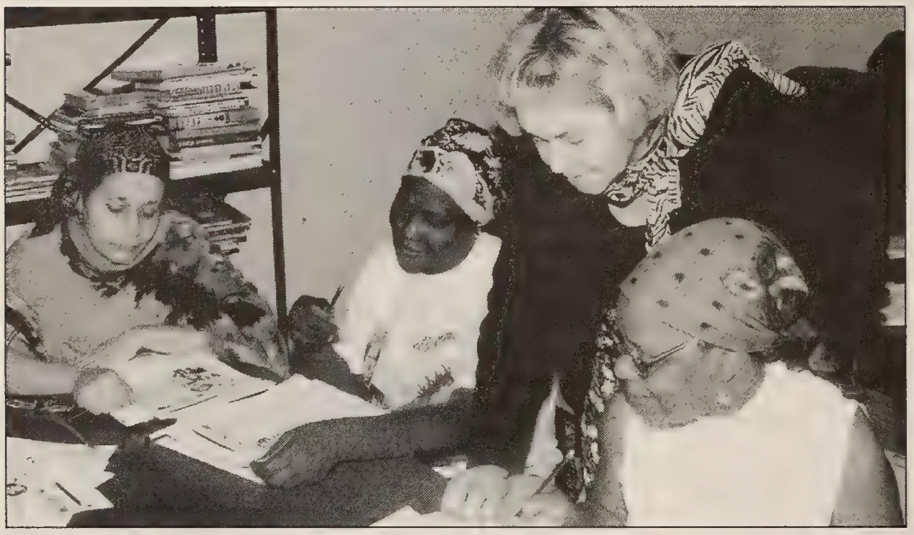


Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Gloria Trumpower, an ESL teacher, works with women from Africa and Vietnam during a recent class in Charlotte.

In addition to the ESL classes at three sites in town, the Refugee Office connects refugees with tutors as well.

"Since the Refugee Resettlement Office's inception in the 1970s, thousands of refugees have benefited from the office's ESL classes," said Beth Downing, coordinator of the refugee office's Parish and Community Resources for Refugees Program.

Thanks to a $5,000 grant from the diocesan Foundation, the Refugee Office is embarking on expanding the ESL program. With the grant funding, classes are now taught five days a week instead of three.

"Knowing that an exceptional ESL program is key in helping its refugee clients become self-sufficient, the Refugee Resettlement Office aims to improve upon this already successful tool," said Downing. "Grant monies received from the Foundation ... will be instrumental in achieving this."

In addition to expanding the number of classes, the grant has also enabled the program to begin a new, accelerated curriculum aimed at preparing the refugees for life beyond the classroom.

"This revised and restructured ESL curriculum will focus intensely on the basic survival English needed by refugees as they acclimate to work environments and the Charlotte community as a whole," said Luz Vickers, supervisor of the ESL program.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Luz Vickers and Cira Ponce accept a $5,000 grant from the diocesan Foundation from Gina Rhodes, diocesan director of planned giving.

The grant will also enable the program to expand its recruiting of volunteer tutors.

The refugee office serves as a conduit between the refugee population, other service agencies and the local community. The office's mission is to provide quality services and a compassionate support system that empowers clients to become self-sufficient, self-reliant and productive members of society.

"By improving refugees' English language skills, the program increases the likelihood that they will obtain early employment, upgrade their job, and have better access to community resources," said Ponce.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Director, Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO): Murphy, N.C. The Office of Justice and Peace, part of Catholic Social Services, seeks person with economic development and nonprofit experience. Will maintain current OEO programs and develop new programs, collaborating with community partners to promote the economic well-being of individuals and communities in western N.C. Required: excellent communication skills, ability to travel regionally, BA/BS in relevant field (master's preferred). Willing to work within the tradition and mission of service of the Diocese of Charlotte to implement Catholic Social Teaching's vision on economic justice and human dignity. Full-time (25-33K, depending on education/experience). Send by 8/24 resume with cover letter to Office of Justice and Peace, CSS, 1123 S. Church St., Charlotte, N.C. 28203 or as MSWord e-mail attachment to justicepeace@charlottediocese.org. Projected start date: 10/01/01. More detailed position description available upon request.

Director of Religious Education: Suburban Charlotte parish of 500 families. Major responsibilities include: oversight of faith formation program K-6, youth ministry, and adult education programs. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic with good organizational skills and the ability to engage children, youth and their parents. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience and dependent on DRE or CRE credentials. Position may be 1 FT position or would consider 2 PT (1 FF K-6 and 1 YM 6-12). Contact: Search Committee, Queen of the Apostles Church, 503 N. Main St., Belmont, N.C. 28012.

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Youth and Young Adult Ministry Director: Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Trinity, 720 Telfair Street, PO Box 2446, August, Ga. 30903. www.themostholytrinity.org. (706) 722-4944. Full-time position to direct and develop middle/high school and young adult ministries that are relational, holistic, developmental, ministerial, goal-centered with a multi-dimensional approach to youth ministry. Must work in harmonious collaboration with parish personnel, parents, many volunteers and youth. Must also work closely with DRE (Director of Religious Education) in areas of administration. Must have computer and office skills. This parish is a traditional, downtown parish with 1200 families and is demographically and ethnically diverse. Qualifications: Active, practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Experience in parish youth ministry and/or college campus ministry. BA in Theology and/or related field or Certificate of Advanced Study in Youth Ministry preferred. Competitive salary/benefits package offered. Send resume and references to: Fr. Allan J. McDonald at above address.

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PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

Thank you, St. Jude, for prayers answered. N.P.

Leadership training seminar to be offered in Asheville

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

ASHEVILLE — Leadership skills and leadership in action will be the focus of the diocesan Education Vicariate's Leadership Training for Lay Ministers Sept. 29 and Oct. 13 in Asheville, education officials recently announced.

The training seminars are for lay leaders involved in any of the diocese's educational ministries, as well as in other of the many leadership opportunities that exist across the diocese's western counties.

Business and diocesan leaders serve as trainers during the sessions, offering their areas of experience and expertise in matters of leadership, communication and collaboration.

"This program is designed to assist those in leadership in parishes and other entities to be more effective in their roles and responsibilities," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Developed from national guidelines on pastoral leadership training, the diocesan program debuted in Charlotte in November 2000, with a second session in March 2001.

"Originally, our invitations went out to people the Education Vicariate would deal with on a regular basis — faith formation leaders, youth ministers, campus ministers, people in the schools and in the RCIA," said Colleen McDermott, diocesan director of campus and young adult ministries and coordinator of the leadership training seminar.

When music ministers, parish council members and other parish leaders heard about the program, however, interest soon mushroomed, McDermott said.

"When you think about who needs leadership skills, it makes perfect sense to come to this if you're in a leadership role and you haven't had these types of opportunities in the past," she said.

The Asheville seminar was planned after McDermott met with pastors and faith formation leaders at a recent vicariate meeting. After needs were discussed, the program was tailored to the western region of the diocese.

The Asheville program will be divided into two parts. The Sept. 29 session will focus on defining what skills are needed to be an effective leader. Topics will include becoming a leader who cares and makes a difference; organizing for success; and developing an action plan for applying leadership skills to ministry.

The Oct. 13 session will include discussions on how to communicate with compassion and collaborate with consideration. Seminar leaders will give an overview of basic communicating and collaborating skills, including practicing those skills in various exercises.

Each session is from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and will be hosted at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Still in its infancy stages, the training program will continue to be expanded over time to include all regions of the diocese.

"One of the keys to having it in Asheville is the commitment that we made to ensure that whatever we offer is made available throughout the diocese," Father Hawker said. "We want to be sensitive to that."

McDermott said the Diocese of Charlotte's variety contributes to the need for such programs to be hosted at and tailored to different sites.

"We are an incredibly diverse diocese," she said. "It is important to know what people's needs might be in an urban setting like Charlotte and realize that might not be a need in the Smoky Mountain Vicariate, which is rural."

Registration deadline is Sept. 14. For details on the program or how to register, write to Leadership Training, Education Vicariate, 1123 S. Church Street, Charlotte, N.C. 28203, or call (704) 370-3244.

Second-annual tent revival reaches out to community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE —The big tent will go up again on the corner of Statesville and Oaklawn Avenues. The African American Affairs Ministry of the Diocese of Charlotte is sponsoring "Revival of the Spirit 2001: Climbin' a Higher Mountain!" an old-fashioned tent revival reminiscent of the old days of outdoor preaching Aug. 24-26. Because of the widespread popularity of the community-based event, the diocesan ministry decided to sponsor another event similar to one held last year.

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vicar for African-American Affairs Ministry and vice-chancellor of the diocese, said that the turnout was such that people had begun asking about subsequent revivals even immediately following the first revival. Over 1,200 people attended the weekend with over 500 gathering for the liturgy last year. One of those groups requesting to be a part of this year's weekend of preaching, praise and fellowship was the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir from Philadelphia, Pa., who sang at last summer's gathering.

That spirit of oneness that the Baptist choir members felt is one of the motivating factors behind the tent revival. Not only is its purpose an opportunity for Catholics to worship in the traditions and customs of their heritage, but it is also an opportunity for people of other faith traditions to be exposed to Catholicism and to dialogue with each other.

"It is a marvelous means of evangelization to welcome our non-Catholic brothers and sisters in joining us in praising the Lord and asking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our effort to respond to the prayer of Jesus that all may be one," said Bishop William G. Curlin.

At this month's event, along with the choir from Philadelphia, the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir from Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church in Charlotte will also be kicking off the weekend on Aug. 24 with music at 6:30 p.m. The revival leader, Father John T. Judie from the Diocese of Louisville, Ky., will begin preaching at 7:30 p.m.

On Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., a health fair featuring medical professionals and medical screenings will take place. At 5:30 p.m., a gospel concert featuring the Pinn Memorial Bapist Church Gospel Choir will begin with preaching from Father Judie at 7:30 p.m.

The closing liturgy will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 26., with music from both choirs.

Bishop Curlin said that the spirit of evangelization that was felt at the National Gathering of Black Catholic Women, hosted by the diocese and held in Charlotte last month, will continue with the upcoming tent revival.

"The tent revival and the national gathering are evidence of the marvelous multicultural growth that the diocese is presently experiencing. The theme of the tent revival — 'Climbin' a Higher Mountain' — is one appropriate for the future of the Diocese of Charlotte," said the bishop. "I ask the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte for their prayers and support for the celebration. I am confident that the tent revival will enrich our diocesan family with innumerable blessings from the Lord."

All are invited to attend, and for more information, call Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd at (704) 370-3339.

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Deacon grows in faith as years pass

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Psalm 23 has always inspired Rev. Mr. Joe Mack. The words have comforted him through perilous and desperate times in his life. As a young man who had barely even seen what life had to offer, he was in midst of war and death. World War II supplied many opportunities for him to experience the effects of war on its participants. Throughout his time with the Army, he derived an almost unexplainable sense of peace from the biblical text and through constant prayer

"The first real test of my faith came when I was in the Army. I watched men dying, and I walked through that 'valley of the shadow of death' many times," recalled Rev. Mr. Mack, who fought in several key battles of the war including the Battle of the Bulge and received several accolades for his service. "I began with intercessory prayer, and it came to me that I should pray directly to the Holy Trinity. With all of the shelling and motor and arms fire, a feeling of peace came over me, and I knew I would make it back."

Rev. Mr. Mack did return home from overseas and continued his civilian life in Endicott, N.Y., where he grew up during an era when bread was 6 cents a loaf and where he earned 19 cents an hour selling food and beverages at Grover's Pig Stand, a barbecue drive-in restaurant. After his discharge from the Army, he worked at IBM, where his father had also worked. This was the beginning of a 42-year career with the company and a 55-year marriage to the woman he met while working.

Helen was working as an industrial nurse at IBM in the first aid department, and Rev. Mr. Mack came in a few times and received medical attention from the young nurse. "Every time he came in, my heart skipped a beat, but I didn't say anything to him. And, he would sit down quietly when he did come in," remembered Mrs. Mack.

Rev. Mr. Joe & Helen Mack

Despite their lack of conversation in the beginning, the overabundance of love led them to marriage, and they began their family of six children in the town where they both grew up. Rev. Mr. Mack learned more about IBM through company-provided classes and earned his associate degree in business technology at a local community college. Mrs. Mack tried to adjust to life at home while her husband was away. "It was almost like being a single parent because he was away so much. It was difficult at that time. The children and I missed him especially at dinnertime." However, the Mack bunch found time to take yearly road trips around the country and camped in places like Canada, North Carolina and the New England states.

He and his wife attended church faithfully with their family, but it was not until later when their grandson was living with them for a while that they began to explore their faith life more deeply. "We had to go to first Communion class with our oldest grandson, and we realized that something was missing. There weren't any formal 'ministries' at that time, and we realized that there was more than just going to church. We became involved with Bible study and a teen seminar class."

These early ministries paved the way for Rev. Mr. Mack's later involvement with the permanent diaconate. After being transferred to Charlotte to help begin the IBM division in 1979, the Macks felt that the Holy Spirit was guiding them. "We felt that God was calling us both. Charlotte reminded me of Rochester, N.Y., because of the trees and flowers," said Mrs. Mack.

They moved to an area of East Charlotte, where there was no church at the time. The Catholic community had been gathering in Idlewild Country Club and Cokesbury Methodist Church while St. John Neumann Church was being built. The couple remembers the Catholic church in its early stages.

"We remember driving past it when we were first looking for it and turning around to see a small sign that said 'Catholic Church.' We drove up the driveway to see a pile of bricks where the church would be," said Rev. Mr. Mack.

They watched the small church grow while they became involved with the diocese's first permanent diaconate class. "She was with me all of the way. We did a lot of studying together."

After being ordained in 1983, the couple became involved in RCIA, where Mrs. Mack was the director for 16 years, and they began the baptismal preparation program at the new parish.

Rev. Mr. Mack says that he is just as active now than he ever was with visits to the sick and shut-in, baptismal preparation, chaplaincy with the St. John Neumann Council 7343 Knights of Columbus and other church duties. The now-retired professional, grandfather of 15 and great-grandfather of three, says that his ministry has brought he and his wife closer together on a spiritual level and has opened up a new area for them.

"We learned to pray aloud and read Scripture together. The permanent diaconate has helped me help him in his work and has aided me in understanding when he has to be about the Lord's work," said Mrs. Mack.

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Serving Catholics in Western North Carolina in the Diocese of Charlotte

August 31, 2001
Volume 10 ▾ Number 43

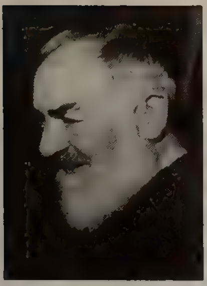
Inside

Transitional deacon, priesthood candidates welcomed ... PAGE 7

BMHS campus minister offers helping hand ...PAGE 9

Local News

Bishop addresses anti-immigration sentiments ... PAGE 4



Hendersonville priest remembers Padre Pio ... PAGE 5

Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 14-15
Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 16-17

Show Them We Care

The diocesan Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection will be taken in parishes Sept. 8-9. The annual collection funds the living expenses of retired diocesan and religious priests who serve here. See pages 10-11 for details.

PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

Jacqueline McElrath, Toni Tupponce and Julie Raburn from the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir raise their hands in praise. At left, Father John T. Judie preaches during "Revival of the Spirit 2001: Climbin' a Higher Mountain."

Revivalist encourages oneness with God

BY ALESHA M. PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CHARLOTTE — "I am climbin' a higher mountain," said members of the congregation to one another during the Sunday Mass. The tent revival's theme, lifted by the cool, morning breeze, echoed throughout the tent and reverberated throughout the weekend. For the second consecutive year, people gathered in the name of spirituality, ecumenism, fellowship and praise under a large blue- and white-striped tent.

"Revival of the Spirit 2001," an old-fashioned tent revival reminiscent of the old days of outdoor preaching, took place Aug. 24-26 on the corner of Statesville and Oaklawn Avenues on the outskirts of downtown Charlotte. A positive response to last year's tent revival, sponsored by the diocesan African American Affairs Ministry, prompted Rev. Mr. Curtiss Todd, vicar of the African American Affairs Ministry and diocesan vice chancellor, to decide to organize another outdoor gathering.

People dressed in African-inspired clothing, complementing the kente cloth material and decorations draped on the podium and on the altar, clapped, jumped up in excitement, waved their hands and shouted "amens" and "alleluias" in response to the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir from Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte; the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church Gospel Choir from Philadelphia, Pa., last year's guest choir and the guest revivalist. Father Mauricio West, vicar general and chancellor, concelebrated the Sunday Mass with Father John T. Judie, pastor of Mother of Good Counsel Church in Louisville, Ky., and with Rev. Mr. Todd and Rev. Mr. Charles Knight from Our Lady of Consolation Church serving.

On Saturday, the participants had the opportunity to hear information and learn more about diseases and illnesses that particularly affect the African-American community. This year, the revival featured a health fair with blood pressure checks, free massages, and other medical services and advice.

"The tent revival has been so alive, and you can feel the love of God here," said Rose Bulas, a St. Gabriel Church parishioner, on Saturday afternoon. "Everyone is joyful, clapping, singing, and the presence of God is all around us."

With the electric keyboard as an accompaniment, Father Judie preached in a songlike tone to the crowd throughout the weekend gathering. He spoke to the tune of the theme and used biblical passages from Haggai and the Gospel of Luke in order to convey the message of spirituality and a continually developing relationship with God.

Father Judie explained how he interweaved the theme into his three days of preaching. "On Friday, the idea was to run and tell others about what God has done for us, to spread the Christian message and be a witness to others. This is one of the steps to climbing the mountain and is how we will get to the top.

"On Saturday, using the familiar story about the apostles traveling on road to Emmaus, the road to nowhere, the idea was a calling back from wherever we've wandered away because we can start up the mountain and find ourselves wandering in all directions but not going anywhere," explained Father Judie.

"We need to keep or focus on the top of the mountain and what waits for us when we get there," he said of Sunday's homily.

Father Judie reminded the crowd to

SEE REVIVAL, PAGE 7

Cardinal urges solidarity with, for workers in Labor Day message

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee urged a legalization program for foreign workers and quicker action toward achieving a living wage in the bishops' annual Labor Day message. Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles urged Catholics to "recommit ourselves to the solidarity of workers and solidarity with workers" on Labor Day, Sept. 3 this year. The message centers on Pope John Paul II's 1981 encyclical on the dignity of work and the rights of workers, "Laborem Exercens," issued after papal visits to Mexico and his native Poland.

Foundation seeks to fund 2,000 programs aiding elderly, disabled

PRINCETON, N.J. (CNS) — The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is encouraging Catholic organizations to apply for some of the $100 million available in grants from its national volunteer caregiver program, Faith in Action. The program makes grants to local groups of volunteers representing many faiths who work together to care for their neighbors who are frail, elderly, chronically ill or disabled. Organizations interested in applying for a Faith in Action grant should phone the national program office, toll-free, at (877) 324-8411 or visit its Web site at www.fiavolunteers.org.

Marriage Encounter convention celebrates sanctity of matrimony

ATLANTA (CNS) — The 700 married couples and 80 priests who participated in the national convention of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Atlanta were honored as "the saints of God." Auxiliary Bishop John J. Kaising of the Archdiocese for the Military Services addressed the group at the opening of the conference. He talked about Pope John Paul II's recent announcement he would beatify a married couple, Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, and told his listeners that they were "the saints of God here in front of me." The July 20-22 convention, held at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta, drew participants from across the United States, Australia, Philippines, Korea and Africa. The convention's theme was "Marriage: A Grace Odyssey."

CNS photo from Reuters

Palestinian children play in shot-up car

Palestinian children play with smashed glass in a car that was hit by gunfire during an exchange between Palestinian gunmen and Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Hebron Aug. 22. Israeli soldiers shot dead four Palestinians in the West Bank, hours after the two sides said they were ready to hold new talks on ending nearly 11 months of bloodshed.

African priest says he was attacked over justice work in Kenya

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Ugandan priest who was beaten, hacked and shot at said he believes he was attacked because of his work with the Kenyan bishops' justice and peace department. Comboni Father Paulino Mondo, who has worked on the investigation of a murdered U.S. missionary, lost the vision in one eye as a result of the June attack in Nairobi, Kenya. Shortly after the incident, he traveled to the United States, where he visited doctors, spoke at U.S. parishes and met with government officials to discuss the FBI investigation into the August 2000 murder of U.S. Mill Hill Father John Kaiser.

Catholic prison chaplains gather in Philadelphia for conference

WYNNEWOOD, Pa. (CNS) — An annual training conference for prison chaplains helps them minister to the imprisoned, but also enables them to teach the church about "justice issues surrounding incarceration," said Father Robert Schulze. The priest is the new president of the American Catholic Correctional Association, which held its yearly gathering Aug. 8-11 in the Philadelphia Archdiocese at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood. Father Schulze, who also directs the Office for Jail and Prison Ministry for the Diocese of Trenton, N.J., said the gathering is important because it gives chaplains "a sense of being supported by a group of sisters and brothers in ministry who share a strong vision."

Church offers solutions before birth, near death, speakers say

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — The Catholic Church's teachings on life offer solutions to problems encountered before birth and approaching death, said speakers at a national conference on marriage and family life Aug. 17. Three panelists discussed church teachings on contraception, infertility problems and end-of-life care at the Aug. 15-18 conference in Arlington marking the 20th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on the family, "Familiaris Consortio." John S. Grabowski, associate professor of theology at The Catholic University of America, set the stage for the panel discussion by explaining the cultural setting in which "Familiaris Consortio" was issued and its major teachings.

'Familiaris Consortio' said to offer radical vision for family

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on the family, "Familiaris Consortio," holds out a vision for family life that is radically different from what society offers, says Joseph Atkinson. "What vision will we follow?" asked Atkinson, assistant professor at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington, in a speech at a marriage and family life conference. He addressed about 400 people involved in diocesan family life ministries who attended the Aug. 15-18 symposium in Arlington sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Atkinson said the pope outlined a biblical vision of families with God at the center, whereas society tends to put people at the center to determine the family's purpose.

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NEWS & HERALD

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Award Winner Catholic Press Association cpa 2000

Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 7 — 7:30 a.m.
Mass for Knights and Dames of Malta
St. Patrick Cathedral, Charlotte

September 8 — 4 p.m.
Celebrant and homilist at closing liturgy
Power Rally 2001
Fort Mill, S.C.

September 15 — 12:45 p.m.
Speaker at diocesan Justice and Peace Conference
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

September 16 — 11 a.m.
Installation of Father James Hawker as pastor, St. Luke, Charlotte
4 p.m. – Rosary Makers' Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

September

2 SALISBURY — Sacred Heart Church, 128 N. Fulton St., will be celebrating a charismatic and healing Mass today at 4 p.m. Prayer and worship with prayer teams will be available at 3 p.m., and a potluck dinner will follow the Mass. Father John Putnam, pastor, will be the celebrant. For further information, call Bill Owens at (704) 639-9837.

2 CHARLOTTE — The St. Maximilian Kolbe Fraternity of Secular Franciscans will be meeting today from 2-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 2301 Statesville Ave. All visitors and inquirers are welcome. For more information, call Skyler Mood, SFO, at (704) 573-4299.

3 CHARLOTTE — Churches in the Charlotte area will be having their regularly scheduled cancer support group meetings for survivors, family and friends on the following days: St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight and every first Monday at 7 p.m. in the ministry center library and St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Commons Pkwy., on Sept. 4 and every first Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the office building conference room. For more information, call: St. Matthew - Marilyn Borrelli at (704) 542-2283 and St. Gabriel - Eileen Correll at (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

3 CLEMMONS — Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd., will be celebrating a charismatic Mass with Father Fidel Melo tonight at 7:30 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation will be given at 7 p.m., and the laying on of hands will take place after Mass. The next Mass will be celebrated on Oct. 10. For more information, call the church office at (336) 778-0600 or Jim Passero at (336) 998-7503.

5 CHARLOTTE — The Happy Timers of St. Ann Church, 3635 Park Rd., will be having a meeting with a luncheon and program at 1 p.m. in the parish activity center. The Tutu's Hawaiian Dancers will perform during the event. All adults age 55 and older are welcome. For more information, call

Chicago firefighters form new Knights of Columbus council

CHICAGO (CNS) — The city where fire poles were invented and where hydrants first got the name "fireplugs" is now home to the first Knights of Columbus council formed for firefighters and paramedics. "We're definitely one of a kind," said Chicago Fire Department chaplain Father Thomas Mulcrone, a member of Knights of Columbus Council 12911. The new council received its charter and installed its founding officers Aug. 24 in a ceremony at St. Gabriel Church. The first activity of the council's 60 members is to hit the streets Sept. 21-22 to sell Tootsie Rolls with the rest of Chicago's Knights.

Vowed religious look at racism in their congregations

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Frank talk on racism in the religious life opened the first night of the joint convention of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and Conference of Major Superiors of Men in Baltimore Aug. 23-27. "Racism is firmly entrenched in the religious congregations of this country," said Sister Mary Alice Chineworth, 84, former superior general of the Oblate Sisters of Providence of Catonsville, Md. "We have to name the sin, otherwise we cannot rid ourselves of it," she told Catholic News Service. More than 1,000 leaders of U.S. religious congregations gathered for the conference on the theme "Changing Faces, Changing Hearts," which looked at multiculturalism and religious life in the context of the growing cultural diversity of the U.S. church.

CNS photo by Ed Zelachoski, The Catholic Accent

Carmelite puts up fencing at monastery

Carmelite Sister Mary Paul Cutri puts up sheet metal fencing on the grounds of her order's monastery in Unity Township, Pa. The sisters are celebrating the community's 40th anniversary this year

Pope cautions against new forms of racial discrimination

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II condemned racism as a sin against God and humanity and warned that new types of racial discrimination were emerging across the globe. The pope made the remarks at a Sunday blessing Aug. 26, five days before the start of a weeklong U.N. conference on racial discrimination in Durban, South Africa. Addressing pilgrims at his summer residence outside Rome, the pope said the Vatican delegation to the conference would make clear the church's commitment to fighting racism in all its forms. The pope said human dignity had been seriously threatened in recent decades, which he said have witnessed increasingly aggressive forms of nationalism, ethnic violence and racial discrimination.

Visitors flock to Mother Teresa's tomb to mark birthday

CALCUTTA, India (CNS) — Mother Teresa's Aug. 26 birthday was marked by prayers for her speedy canonization and a continuous flow of visitors to the nun's tomb in Calcutta. The founder of the Missionaries of Charity, who died in 1997, 10 days after her 87th birthday, would have been 91, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. Outside the religious community's motherhouse chapel, "Happy Birthday Dearest Mother" was written on a blackboard. At Mother Teresa's tomb, people from all walks of life flocked to pray for her intercession.

Vatican's top ecumenist laments breakup of WWII commission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's top ecumenist lamented the breakup of a Catholic-Jewish historical commission to study the Vatican's published World War II documents and blamed it partly on Jewish members' "leaks and polemical writings." In an Aug. 24 statement, Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, said he would seek to re-launch the joint research "on new foundations." The study commission, originally made up of three Jewish and three Catholic historians, dissolved in late July when some members said they needed access to the Vatican's complete World War II archives to move forward.

Father of boy killed in shooting continues protest

FAIRFAX, Va. (CNS) — Tom Mauser, an outspoken gun-control advocate since his son's death in the 1999 shootings at Columbine High School, was cleared of trespassing charges Aug. 22 for his June protest in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax. Mauser, a parishioner at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Littleton, Colo., had refused to leave the driveway of the gun lobby's headquarters June 13 as he marched around in a circle carrying a sign with a photo of his murdered son, Daniel. Judge Lorraine Nordlund dismissed the charges against him Aug. 22 because the arresting officer was no longer with the police force and had failed to subpoena any NRA officials to testify. After the case was dropped, Mauser again returned to the NRA headquarters, wearing his slain son's sneakers and carrying his photograph as he marched for an hour along a public sidewalk.

Cookie company founded by nun provides haven for Twin Cities kids

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — More than a dozen years ago, Mercy Sister Jean Thuerauf had a vision of providing a safe haven for children in her north Minneapolis neighborhood. After 12 children died as victims of gang violence, she invited a group of kids into her home to bake cookies in order to get them off the streets. Sister Jean's vision has turned into a full-fledged nonprofit business, called the Cookie Cart. About 150 young people, ages 7 to 17, help there each day. The store bustles with activity as they mix batter, sweep floors and take orders. The basement has been converted into an art room, dance studio and computer lab. Upstairs, kids collaborate on projects that help them develop leadership and decision-making skills.

Charles Nesto at (704) 398-0879.

6 GUILFORD COUNTY — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Guilford County Division 1, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will be having a meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Ladies' Cottage at Our Lady of Grace Church, 2205 West Market St. in Greensboro. For further information, call Alice Schmidt at (336) 288-0983.

6 WINSTON-SALEM — The Healing Companions, a grief support group for the bereaved, will be meeting tonight and Sept. 20 in Conference Room A at 7:30 p.m. at St. Leo the Great Church, 335 Springdale Ave. Call Joanne Parcell at (336) 924-9478 or the church office at (336) 724-0561 for details.

CLEMMOMS — The diocesan Faith Formation Office-Northern Region is sponsoring "Lighting the Fires of Faith VII" today from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 4820 Kinnamon Rd. This bilingual workshop will include morning and afternoon sessions in English and Spanish and will cover topics including cultural awareness, catechesis, morality, the sacraments and other related issues. Dominican Sister Rosa Monique Pena from the Archdiocese of Miami, the keynote speaker, will present "Love Beyond All Telling" in the morning. For more information, call Marie Kinney or Connie Cupello at (336) 996-3625 or (336) 996-5109.

8 CHARLOTTE — St. Luke Church, 13700 Lawyers Rd., will be having a children's consignment sale today from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to the local Mothers of Preschoolers' group. If anyone would like to sell fall and winter children's clothes or baby items, please contact Amy Mullis at (704) 573-0519.

9 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

10 CHARLOTTE — A bereavement support group; facilitated by Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, for those grieving the death of a loved one will begin tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and will continue every Monday in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further information, call Ruth Posey at (704) 370-3238.

12 CHARLOTTE — A session for those who are grieving and those who are in bereavement ministry entitled "Grief as Rehabilitation" will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish ministry center. In this session Larry Dawalt will review differing impacts of loss, ways to make a grief rehabilitation plan and setting realistic goals for the grief process. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

14 CHARLOTTE — A renewal conference, sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Service Team of the Diocese of Charlotte, will be returning to Charlotte area this weekend at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., with liturgies and music from the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church and Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej. Father Patsy Iaquinta, chairman of the National Service Committee of the Renewal, and Dr. Richard Collings from the Share God's Love ministry will be presenting at the conference. For more information, call (336) 760-1110 or e-mail jmanna@triad.rr.com.

Ongoing

ASHEVILLE — The hours for the Nazareth House Family Ministry and Lending Library, 474 Haywood Rd., are as follows: Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m., Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Nazareth House is a family ministry dedicated to promoting the blessings of Christian marriage, chastity, natural family planning and post-abortion healing. For further details, call (828) 250-9690 or e-mail nazarethhouse@juno.com.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Pope cautions against new forms of racial discrimination

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II condemned racism as a sin against God and humanity and warned that new types of racial discrimination were emerging across the globe.

The pope made the remarks at a Sunday blessing Aug. 26, five days before the start of a weeklong U.N. conference on racial discrimination in Durban, South Africa.

Addressing pilgrims at his summer residence outside Rome, the pope said the Vatican delegation to the conference would make clear the church's commitment to fighting racism in all its forms.

The pope said human dignity had been seriously threatened in recent decades, which he said have witnessed increasingly aggressive forms of nationalism, ethnic violence and racial discrimination.

"Racism is a sin that constitutes a serious offense against God," he said.

"Every honest conscience must decisively condemn racism in whatever heart or place it makes a home. Unfortunately, it is emerging in new and unexpected forms, offending and degrading the human family," he said.

The pope cited the Second Vatican Council's teaching that prayer to God is unworthy if those praying engage in discrimination against other groups of people.

He said the church strongly supports a widespread effort to educate people in the values of human dignity and fundamental rights. A conversion of hearts is necessary, and the starting point is prayer, he said.

"Racism must be opposed by a culture of mutual acceptance, recognizing in every man and every woman a brother or a sister with whom to walk the road of solidarity and peace," he said.

The pope said he hoped the Aug. 31-Sept. 7 conference in South Africa would strengthen international resolve to build a freer and fairer world. He offered a prayer to Mary for the end of discriminatory practices and entrusted the outcome of the U.N. conference to her.

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— Hebrews 13:2

SENTIRE CUM CHRISTO

August 31, 2001

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At a recent anti-immigrant rally in Newton in Catawba County (August 18), some of the 75 participants carried extremely offensive signs and shouted negative statements at passersby whom they perceived to be immigrants. Signs calling a particular racial or ethnic group "stupid" and telling them to "swim back" are vile and only serve to incite distrust and fear. The number of anti-immigrant opinion pieces appearing in recent months in various media forums (e.g. editorials, radio broadcasts) has also risen, many of which have used negative stereotypes and erroneous facts to supposedly "inform" the general public. The use of various public forums to encourage civil debate on issues that affect and shape our society is to be encouraged. If such debate, however, purposely excludes certain voices or involves acts or words of intimidation that serve to silence certain voices, all people of goodwill are called to address such morally unacceptable behavior.

As we enter uncertain economic times, when job security and the receipt of enough public resources to help meet all our community needs are in doubt, there is a tendency by some to look for scapegoats. Immigrants, because they so often are unable to obtain the proper legal protection, and because they often simply do not know where to turn for assistance, become too easily the scapegoats to answer for our social ills. So it is not only in response to past and current events that I write to share the Church's position on these matters, but also out of concern for what the future might bring if economic conditions worsen.

In our public debates on how we can best marshal our resources to meet the growing needs of society, including the needs of immigrant communities, it is imperative that we keep in mind the biblical injunction, which appears throughout Sacred Scripture, to care for and protect the "the widow, the orphan, and the stranger" (e.g. Deut. 10:18, Exod. 22:21, Lev. 25:35). The U.S. Catholic Bishops, in our pastoral letter issued in November 2000, "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us - Unity in Diversity," have in no uncertain terms made clear that "we reject the anti-immigrant stance that has become popular in different parts of our country, and the nativism, ethnocentricity and racism that continue to reassert themselves in our communities."

The tremendous growth of the Diocese of Charlotte in recent years has been due primarily to the influx of people from other states and other countries. Our diocese, of all U.S. dioceses and archdioceses, has perhaps seen the greatest percentage increase in its Hispanic Catholic population over the past ten years. Due to language barriers, due to facing daily struggles in adapting to cultural differences, and sadly as we have seen, due to the growing hostility which immigrants face in this society, migrants from foreign lands ought to receive special consideration in diocesan efforts to make certain all are welcome to celebrate the liturgy, participate in parish and diocesan programs, and attend social gatherings. It is the crux of the message of the recent U.S. Bishops' statement, "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us," that our parishes, parish staff, and parishioners "must be filled with a spirit of welcome." We are all one in our communion in Christ.

The Diocese of Charlotte is devoting increasing levels of staff and resources to welcome and to meet the spiritual and material needs of the Hispanic members of our community. Through our diocesan programs such as Programa Esperanza in Catholic Social Services and through the many dedicated men and women (priests, religious, and laity) involved in Hispanic Ministry throughout our diocese, I do hope that the message is clear that all are welcome to the table of the Lord and to the healing ministries of the diocese. While many programs do exist in our diocese to reach out and meet the spiritual and material needs of our Hispanic brothers and sisters, there is of course more to be done. For example, through the kindness of Abbot Placid Solari, Belmont Abbey College has accepted my request that a program on Spanish language and cultures will be made available to priests, religious and parish leaders who serve in the diocese. I have also mandated that our seminarians take part in this program, which will begin in January 2002.

Our country has been blessed by the wealth of contributions that a diverse population, representative of many lands, has offered to our social, spiritual, economic, and political development. The Catholic Church in the United States is especially proud of its diversity and the role of immigrants as a valuable feature of its history. The historical evidence shows the benefits all immigrant groups have brought to U.S. society have far outweighed any costs. Let us not be a people that fears the challenges, but rather, sees the ongoing benefits and tremendous opportunities offered to church and society by recent immigrants.

Christians of all denominations know the passage from Matthew 25: 31-46, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Catholic teaching mandates that respect and care be shown for immigrants and other "strangers among us," such as refugees, whether or not they have legal status to enter and live in our country. In a special way, I call upon those who share with me a deep devotion to the Holy Family, to see in the faces of immigrants the faces of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Holy Family, who had to travel in the dark and cold of night to a foreign land, "are for all times and all places, the models and protectors of every migrant, alien and refugee who, whether by fear of persecution or by want, is forced to leave his native land, relatives, and close friends, and to seek a foreign soil." (Apostolic Constitution "Exsul Familia.")

Anyone who wishes to receive further information on the rich wealth of Catholic Church teaching on the care of migrants and refugees are encouraged to contact our diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, an office of Catholic Social Services (phone numbers: 704-370-3231 or 3225; e-mail justicepeace@charlottediocese.org). May the Holy Family bless us and watch over us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

William G. Curlin

Most Reverend William G. Curlin
Bishop of Charlotte

Capuchin priest serving diocese recalls relationship with Padre Pio

By JOANITA M. NELLENBACH
Correspondent

HENDERSONVILLE — Their time together was short, but Padre Pio changed Father John Aurilia's life forever.

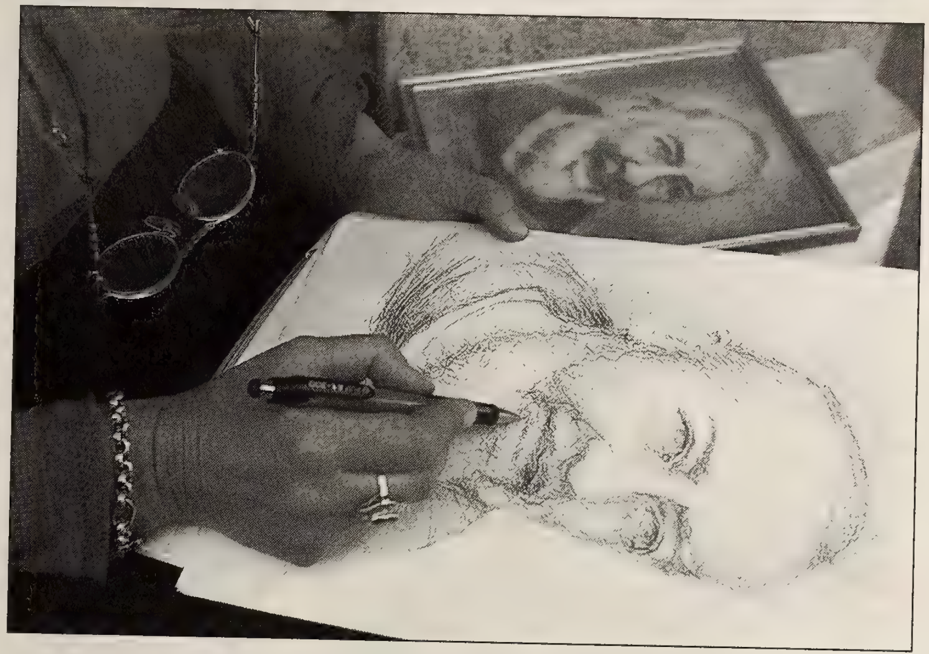
Father Aurilia, a Capuchin Franciscan who serves as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, served as one of Padre Pio's secretaries in August 1967. Father Aurilia smiles often when he recalls the man he came to regard as "one of us friars," but also speaks reverently of the first stigmatized priest in Catholic Church history and a man who could read hearts and minds, cure people and bilocate.

Father Aurilia, who studied in the Franciscan seminary that Padre Pio founded at Pietrelcina, Italy, in the 1940s, had been ordained less than a year and was teaching at another Franciscan seminary, Vico Del Gargano, when he was informed that he was going to San Giovanni Rotondo to fill in for one of Padre Pio's secretaries, who would be away for the month of August.

"You're joking," Father Aurilia thought. "God, you're joking."

Once he met Padre Pio, Father Aurilia saw a man of constant prayer and ministry — and someone who enjoyed having fun in spite of his physical suffering.

"I think he was a saint," Father Aurilia said, "not because of the stigmata, which he had, or the bilocation, which he did, or that he cured people, which he did, but because of the confessional ministry and the prayer."



CNS photo from Reuters

An artist sketches an image of Padre Pio near St. Peter's Square in Rome. Pope John Paul II beatified the Capuchin friar May 2, 1999, in what was one of the largest religious ceremonies ever in Rome.

The man who became Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione on May 25, 1887, at Pietrelcina to poor, deeply religious parents, Grazio Maria and Maria Giuseppa Di Nunzio Forgione. From the age of 5, Francesco wanted to be a priest. He entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order when he was 15, choosing the name Pio (Pius). Always in frail health, but of strong will, he was ordained in 1910.

Prior to 1918, he began to feel the pain of Christ's wounds. Gradually, in September 1918, the wounds became visible, holes in his hands and feet and the mark of the spear in his side. He carried the stigmata for nearly 50 years, until a few months before his death in 1968.

The stigmata were painful, and the wounds in his feet made it difficult for Padre Pio to walk. Once, though, when strolling with another priest near Pietrelcina, he suddenly smelled incense and told the priest that a church and seminary would soon rise there. The priest, who did not smell the incense, doubted that anything would ever be built on the barren spot, but within a couple of years an American woman, Maria Pyle, donated the funds for both facilities. This is the seminary where Father Aurilia trained.

And the incense incident happened many years after Padre Pio's long period of isolation at San Giovanni Rotondo. In June 1922, he received a letter from the pope and the general minister of the Capuchin Franciscans that he was to be kept under observation. Church authorities were skeptical of the stigmata and other miracles attributed to him.

During this "period of observation," which lasted 10 years, Padre Pio could not celebrate Mass at any particular hour, but always at different times, preferably early mornings, and without anyone else present. He celebrated Mass in a tiny chapel smaller than Father Aurilia's office, which is large enough to hold his desk, a small round table, and four swivel chairs. He also was forbidden to hear confessions, to receive visitors or bless people.

In the end, church authorities found nothing unscrupulous. On July 16, 1933, Padre Pio celebrated his first public Mass in more than a decade and began hearing confessions again the following year.

And what a confessor he was. Father Aurilia said that one hour of hearing confessions can leave him drained, but Padre Pio could keep going hour after hour.

"For me," Father Aurilia said, "the greatest miracle is not that he cured people but that he was able to hear confessions up to eight hours a day — and he was a frail man."

The stigmata bled a couple of times a day, and his bandages were changed as often. If he held his hands up to the light when the bandages were off, Father Aurilia said, you could see right through the holes. Gloves covering his hands to the middle joints of his fingers protected the bandages; he wore special sandals to accommodate his swollen feet, and the wound in his side was bandaged.

People made confession appointments as much as five months in advance, although Padre Pio heard the friars' confessions whenever they asked. "He had that double gift," Father Aurilia said. "He was extremely simple and at the same time extremely insightful. He knew exactly if there was true repentance. He was very paternal with some, tough with others."

And he sometimes knew the depth of repentance — or lack of it — before the person said anything. Once a man from Milan came stunned from the room where Padre Pio heard confessions. He had not begun his confession before he was dismissed.

Father Aurilia says that the man, who had waited months for his appointment, told them, "Padre Pio threw me out. He said to go back to Milan and apologize to my wife and then come back here for confession."

Others, however, experienced something else, including being able to converse with him in their native languages, although Padre Pio spoke only Italian.

"A German guy went to confession," Father Aurilia said. "He did not speak a word of Italian, but he went to confession in German and said they had a long conversation in German. He told us that 'Padre Pio speaks German better than I do.'"

Father Aurilia wanted Padre Pio to hear his confession, but incidents such as these made him apprehensive: "I went to

See PADRE PIO, page 19

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Head of faith-based office to leave post

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The director of the White House Office on Faith-based and Community Initiatives plans to leave the post, just six months after he was appointed. President Bush named John DiIulio to head the new office when it was created late in January. DiIulio, a Catholic Democrat who made his academic name as a criminologist, took a leave from a professorship at the University of Pennsylvania to open the White House office. DiIulio, 43, told reporters Aug. 17 he had accomplished goals he set for the job and that he never intended to stay in the position longer than six months to a year. He also said health and family considerations were a factor in his decision to leave.

Pope's likeness to appear on new euro coins beginning next year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Europeans soon will be able to pay for their morning coffee and newspaper using coins bearing the image of Pope John Paul II. Ahead of the Jan. 1 release of euro bills and coins, the Italian Treasury announced that preparations for the switch to the joint European currency, including Vatican euros, were well in hand. "Vatican City will be able to count on a small quantity of euros with the image of John Paul II coined by the Italian Mint," the treasury said Aug. 17. Under an accord with Italy signed earlier this year, the Vatican is allowed an annual maximum of 670,000 euros, about $615,000, in coins, which is about the same it has minted until now in Italian lira.

CNS photo by Nancy Erikson, Catholic Universe Bulletin

Student builds structure of biblical proportions

John Bellinger created a giant Jonah's whale for Bible camp at Sacred Heart and Queen of Heaven churches in Wadsworth, Ohio. The 20-year-old mechanical engineering student has designed other large-scale Bible props, including a 22-foot-long Noah's Ark.

Maureen Reagan mourned, celebrated at Catholic funeral

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS) — Maureen Reagan "had a great love of God and she knew beyond doubt that God loved her," said the Catholic priest who celebrated her Aug. 18 funeral Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Sacramento. Father Simon Twomey, who met Reagan 10 years ago when he was serving in a parish she attended, gave the opening remarks at a memorial service at the cathedral which was followed by the funeral Mass. About 1,000 people attended the two services, which were moved to the cathedral from St. Francis of Assisi Church, the parish of Reagan and her husband, because of the large crowd expected. Reagan, 60, died Aug. 8 after a five-year battle with malignant melanoma. She was the eldest daughter of President Reagan and his first wife, actress Jane Wyman.

Bush bioethics appointee has expertise in other fields, too

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Leon R. Kass, the University of Chicago professor chosen by President Bush to head his bioethics council, might be best known for his opposition to embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning, but he's also developed other areas of expertise. Kass and his wife of 40 years, Amy, have team-taught a seminar at the University of Chicago on the ethics of courtship and have edited a book together on courtship, marriage and the family. Leon Kass also has explored the rituals, customs and taboos surrounding the act of eating in his 1994 book, "The Hungry Soul: Eating and the Perfecting of Our Nature."

Another Philbin gets into the TV act with joy

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — In most word-association exercises, if the first person says the name "Philbin," the second person is likely to say "Regis" or "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire." But the University of Notre Dame alumnus' wife, Joy Philbin, is making her own mark on the TV landscape hosting a series called "At Home With" on the Home & Garden Television cable channel. "At Home With," which premiered in the spring, tours celebrities' homes, but on this show, the celebrities themselves serve as the tour guides, "so you really get to feel their enthusiasm and their love for their home," Philbin said.

Pope provides 'paternal presence,' say World Youth Day officials

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As the one-year countdown to World Youth Day in Toronto began, church officials and young people said they were looking ahead to Pope John Paul II's presence as a sign of his "paternal love." "The Holy Father will give to (young people) and to us a deeper and more humble faith in Jesus Christ," said Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic of Toronto. "The meeting with the Holy Father will be an intense witness for our city and our secularized country, which would like their Christians to remain politely off to one side and be as nonassertive as possible," he said. Cardinal Ambrozic made his comments in an article published Aug. 15 by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

Postal apostolate tells strangers: You've got (spiritual) mail

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — Lost? Looking for something that seems to be missing? Ever notice that sometimes things come from out of the blue just when they're really needed? That's what members of the postal apostolate hope to do when they send a postcard and a prayer to someone they don't know. When Al Cassidy, a parishioner at St. Patrick in the Diocese of Columbus, learned about the postal apostolate, he wrote to Ambrose Pare who, more than 50 years ago, founded the Society of Sts. Francis Xavier and Therese, a postal apostolate that anonymously sends folded postcards to names and addresses taken from telephone directories. "Pope John Paul II always said that we should evangelize, and I thought maybe this would be a way I could do it from home," said Cassidy, who also has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for 40 years.

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Three answer call to ministry

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — "We have gathered here tonight to honor our Blessed Mother," said Bishop William G. Curlin to the congregation gathered on Aug. 15 at St. Patrick Cathedral.

During the Mass on the feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven, three of the diocesan faithful who have chosen a life of commitment to the church moved one step closer to fulfillment of their decisions to become priests. Rev. Mr. Adrian Porras, 29, was ordained to the transitional diaconate; Leo Fowler, 53, and Matthew Buettner, 25, were admitted as candidates for the transitional diaconate and priesthood.

The rite of admission of candidacy for ordination as deacons and priests is the step prior to the transitional diaconate. Matthew Buettner, a seminarian at Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C, and Leo Fowler, a seminarian at St. Vincent's Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., were granted candidacy upon approval of the bishop and with the recommendation of their respective seminaries.

At the Mass, the candidates went through the steps of calling, examination, acceptance and prayer. The two men will be ordained to the transitional diaconate, the phase of formation prior to the priesthood, in June 2002.

Fowler, originally from southern Louisiana and South Carolina, said that he is ready and excited to be ordained to the transitional diaconate. "All I want is to be a good priest," said Fowler in an April 2000 interview in The Catholic News & Herald.

Buettner, born and raised in Peoria, Ill., expressed his gratitude about the "opportunity that God has given him to share his gifts with his people in the Diocese of Charlotte" in an August 2000 vocations series in The Catholic News & Herald. "I look forward with great expectation to serving Christ and his church for the salvation of souls."

Rev. Mr. Adrian Porras, who hails from Greensboro via El Paso, Texas, has a few months to go before he is ordained a priest of the Diocese of Charlotte in December 2001 along with Rev. Mr. Christopher Roux, 38, who was also ordained to the transitional diaconate earlier this year.

During the rite of ordination of a deacon, the bishop calls the candidate forth to make the promise of celibacy and the vow of obedience. The candidate lies prostrate on the floor while those in attendance kneel and pray the litany of the saints. Lying prostrate is an act of total commitment, a giving of one's life to his ministry, explained Rev. Mr. Porras.

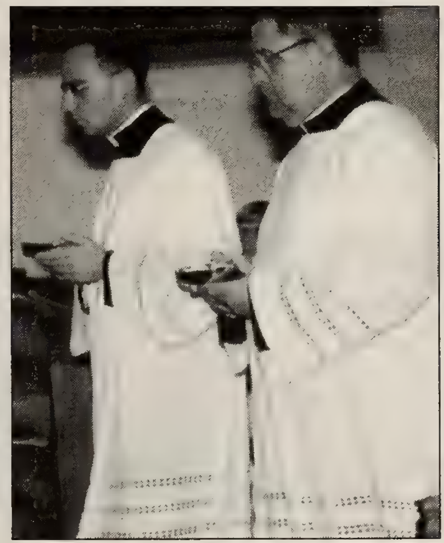
The bishop lays his hands and asks the Holy Spirit to descend upon the candidate. The candidate is then vested with the dalmatic and stole, and as a deacon, assists at the rest of the Mass.

Rev. Mr. Porras originally entered into the Marians of the Immaculate Conception Congregation as a postulant and had a semester left in the Marian Scholasticate when the Order left the Diocese of Charlotte. Wanting to remain close to his family and the diocese he had grown to love, he spoke to Bishop Curlin and joined the diocese as a seminarian in August 2000. He received his Master of Divinity from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., in May 2001.

Rev. Mr. Porras, who is now serving at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, said that after he is ordained a priest, he will reach out to the whole church and help out the Hispanic community in the best way he can.

Reflecting on the day Mary was taken into heaven body and soul, Bishop Curlin told the men to turn to the Blessed Mother whenever they needed to pray.

"Mary is a model for our lives as priests because her response to God was 'yes.' Your answer must be 'yes' even through times when your heart is heavy, when you must minister to someone who is sick or dying, or when you have trials and struggles in your lives," said the bishop to the candidates and congregation during his homily. "Jesus was the center of Mary's life, and he should be the center of our lives. We have to say 'yes' to Jesus every day."



Photos by Alesha M. Price

Pictured left, Rev. Mr. Adrian Porras assists at Mass on Aug. 15 after being ordained to the transitional diaconate. Matthew Buettner, left, and Leo Fowler, right, process with the offertory gifts during the liturgy.

Revival, from page 1

remember why they came to worship — to thank God and praise him for his blessings. He also said that simply attending the weekend event was not enough, that they had to allow the spirit to move, change and transform them into the people the God had intended for them to be.

"This tent revival is very important because (we must) always be attentive to what God is doing in our lives. Sometimes our week-to-week worship can become kind of drab and a little routine, so we need a little reviving and renewal of spirit, something out of the ordinary, to set us back on track to get us where we need to be," said Father Judie. "When you bring in a speaker from the outside who brings a different perspective to the word that is proclaimed, it opens up our eyes, ears and thinking to absorbing and embracing that word in a new way."

On Saturday after the preaching, in keeping with the idea of the old-fashioned tent revival, Father Judie invited people to come to the altar to rededicate themselves to Christ, particularly those who have fallen away from the church or those who are troubled, explained Rev. Mr. Todd.

"I knew in my spirit that people were making life-changing decisions right there at the altar and responding to the invitation and giving their lives to God. It was so powerful," said Father Judie.

"I think as with last year's revival, this one was a success as well in that it accomplished primarily what we had hoped. The tent revival is an evangelizational tool and an outreach to the unchurched and the fallen away, Catholic and otherwise," said Rev. Mr. Todd. "This idea was affirmed when Father Judie had the altar call, and about 30 to 40 people, moved by the spirit and filled with hope for their future relationships with God, came to the front to say publicly in front of God and everyone that they have renounced their pasts and have returned to the path toward God."

Stephen Pickett, a member of Our Lady of Consolation Church who shared his story of faith with the crowd on Saturday, agreed, "I was inspired and moved that the community of faith came together to be renewed by the word of God preached in such a dynamic way," said "I was honored to be allowed to serve the people of God and this revival. I look forward to the next one."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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International speaker addresses 'sex and sanctity' at Charlotte parish

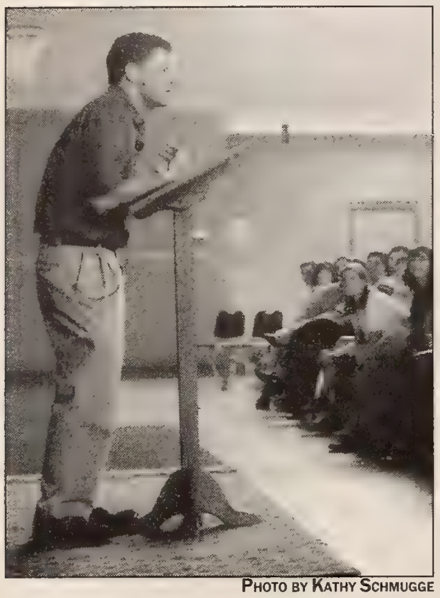

PHOTO BY KATHY SCHMUGGE

BY KATHY SCHMUGGE
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLOTTE — "Sex and Sanctity" is not a title one would find in a popular magazine or as a headline in the newspaper, but it should be because this "rock-your-world" theology is revolutionizing the understanding of the human body as God created it, an international speaker on family issues told a Charlotte audience recently.

Perhaps it was the very novelty of the title "Sex and Sanctity" combined with the growing popularity of international speaker and author Christopher West that attracted almost 600 people to St. Matthew Church in Charlotte on Aug. 5 to hear this important message for today.

"Our path to holiness is intimately entwined with our sexuality because God has stamped his eternal plan on the body, male and female," said West. "Holiness is to love as God loves," which West describes as free, total, faithful and life giving, with each quality necessary for authenticity. But because of sin, few can see the revelation of God in the body, which is the definition of purity.

Since original sin there is an ever-growing disparity between body and soul, according to the speaker.

West, a visiting professor at the John Paul II Institute on Marriage and Family in Melbourne, Australia, derived his insights from the "Theology of the Body," a collection of 129 general audiences given by Pope John Paul II that the speaker presents in an understandable and user-friendly manner.

"Christopher has done a remarkable job translating the scholarly language of the Holy Father's "Theology of the Body" into the vernacular of the pop culture without losing any of its meaning," said Holly Gatlin from St. Ann Church in Florence, S.C.

West continued that in a world bombarded with sexual temptation, holiness is still possible through purity, but it means pressing into the discomforts and disordered desires and turning them to Christ so that redemption can be realized. "Repression and indulgence are two sides of the same disorder, the inability to love correctly," he said.

He explained how before the fall, Adam and Eve were naked without shame because they understood the nuptial meaning of the body (the capacity of expressing love). When they no longer saw the revelation of God in each other, they saw each other as objects to use or possess for their own pleasures. Because sin takes what God has created to be true, good and beautiful and twists it, West admits that it is easy to fall for the counterfeit of God-like love.

The distortions are made obvious when he compares the artwork in the Sistine Chapel with the degrading portrayal of the human body in pornography. Restoring sexuality to what God had intended requires the removal of the tainted glasses acquired from original sin that block one's ability to see God's plan, he said.

West, who is also the director of Marriage and Family Life for the Archdiocese of Denver and staff advisor for the Theology of the Body, shared some sad accounts of what he has witnessed when sexual desire becomes inverted.

"There is always hope," said West, who quoted the pope. "The (human) heart is deeper than lust," which describes the "aspiration of the human spirit towards the true, good and beautiful."

"Have confidence in Christ. He did not just give us coping mechanisms for our sins but has 'taken away the sins of the world.' If we open our body to the gift of grace there will be a radical transformation," he said, using the analogy that God sets up a bank account with trillions of graces and people only withdraw 50 cents' worth.

West then discussed marriage, a sacrament consummated through the one-flesh union that "forms us in the very likeness of the Trinity." He spoke on how the body communicates a profound language in the marital embrace, which is a physical renewal of the sacred wedding vows.

"Sex before marriage," said West, "is lying with our bodies; it is not an honest expression of the spiritual bond of marriage established by the Holy Spirit during the sacrament." Sanctity and sex are also at odds when a couple uses contraception because they remove the total and life-giving potential of the marital embrace, he said.

The language of contraception is "This is *not* my body given up for you" and "Let it *not* be done according to your word," contrary to the fundamental call to mirror God's love, West said.

"I did not come here to wag a finger. I call you to embrace your greatness. I call you to your own supreme dignity as men and women made in the image and likeness of God. If we are cheap then no demands are made on us," said West, "but we are instead called to greatness and greatness is not easy. It takes grace."

Kathleen Lewis, youth minister at St. Mark Church in Huntersville, found West's talk a confirmation of what she teaches. "In the 'Theology of the Body,' Pope John Paul II is renouncing the dichotomy of repression and calls for the integration of body and soul, something the youth need to hear," she said.

"Christopher West gives the 'whys' behind the 'whats' on the issues that are most fundamental to our faith but have been obscured," said Father Matthew Kauth, parochial vicar at St. Matthew Church. "Thanks to (him), the Theology of the Body is reaching people with a message that can set us free."

Bishop William G. Curlin announces

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Campus minister extends helping hand to BMHS students, Hispanic community

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM — In preparation for the school year, several students from Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School were busy during the summer exploring and developing their spirituality in order to help their fellow students on their journeys. Through the guidance and leadership of Martin Mata, BMHS campus minister, students interested in serving as peer ministers went on a summer retreat to discuss the new ministry at the Piedmont-Triad area Catholic high school.

> "Both ministries are the same except for the language, and the ministry and purpose are pretty much the same — to bring everyone closer to Jesus."
>
> – Martin Mata

"I was very impressed with the way the 13 kids responded to the idea (of being peer ministers)," said Mata, who is consulting with the campus minister from Cardinal Gibbons Catholic High School in Raleigh about their peer ministry program. "This year, we are incorporating peer ministry groups which will be helpful in bringing the 'good news' to the other kids, and we are excited to be able to provide this program."

Not only is peer ministry spreading its newly formed wings across the student body but campus ministry, in its current form at BMHS, is flying high as a recent addition to the school. This is Mata's second year as campus minister, and he has been working non-stop to provide the students with spiritual guidance and direction.

During his first year, he conducted interviews with the freshmen to become better acquainted with the students he would be serving. This year, he will be working with the annual senior retreat, a possible overnight junior retreat and small retreat services for the sophomores. He also coordinates the required community and parish service hours for every student by calling local parishes, offering suggestions and referring students to parishes and community volunteer work opportunities. Mata hopes to implement small group retreats, small group school Masses and regular student interviews into the campus ministry program.

"I have met very good and spiritual kids, and I would like to guide them in becoming better acquainted with Jesus Christ," said Mata. "I want to help them to see Jesus in their lives and to feel his presence and to show them how he is walking along with us. Many kids have struggles, and I want to try to provide some answers for them."

Born in Mexico, Mata came to the United States in 1991 with a strong faith foundation and wanted to share his love of Jesus with others. After receiving a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Belmont Abbey College, his involvement with St. Joseph Church in Asheboro and Holy Cross Church in Kernersville led to his position as director of Hispanic ministry at Holy Cross Church. He is going into his fourth year and says that he loves working for the church in this particular ministry.

"I had always wanted to work with my community, and it was a chance for me to work with Spanish-speaking people," said Mata of his opportunity. "I receive satisfaction to see people, some of who have been through so much, stand on their own two feet. When people are helped, later on, they offer help to one another. By helping them to become better Christians, they can help the larger community."

Mata and 35 volunteers help the Hispanic population with adult and youth faith formation programs, retreats for married couples, English-as-a-second-language classes, workshops and seminars on changes in immigration laws and other programs.

Work at BMHS and at Holy Cross provides opportunities for Mata to combine his ministries. This year, the students will conduct a food collection for needy Hispanic families during the holidays, and he is working with the Spanish classes to coordinate a Christmas party with religious activities for Spanish-speaking children.

"Both ministries are the same except for the language, and the ministry and purpose are pretty much the same — to bring everyone closer to Jesus," said Mata.

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Healing of woman's tumor attributed to Mother Teresa

By JOHN NORTON
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican has been asked to confirm the miraculous healing of a non-Christian Indian woman who was touched with a medal that had been in contact with Mother Teresa's body, her postulator said.

Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk, Mother Teresa's advocate for sainthood, detailed the alleged miracle for the first time in an interview with Italy's Famiglia Cristiana magazine. An advance copy was released Aug. 28.

He said Monika Besra, a 30-year-old mother and animist religious believer, was cured of an inoperable stomach tumor, apparently through Mother Teresa's intercession.

Nuns of Mother Teresa's order prayed over the woman at 5 p.m. Sept. 5, 1998, exactly one year after Mother Teresa's death. They also touched the woman's abdomen with a "Miraculous Medal of the Immaculate Conception" that had been placed on Mother Teresa's body before her burial.

"During the night, the sick woman — who in the meantime had gotten drowsy — woke up and realized that the (tumor) mass had disappeared," he said.

"Subsequent tests by doctors showed that it never came back," he added.

In mid-August, the priest, a Canadian, delivered documentation supporting the miracle claim to the Vatican's sainthood congregation, along with a 35,000-page case file on Mother Teresa's life.

He said he had decided to submit Besra's reported cure after also considering the apparently miraculous healing of a Filipino woman from a huge gallstone before its scheduled surgical removal.

The Vatican's beatification process requires the approval of one miracle attributed to candidates' intercession after their death. Another miracle is required after the beatification ceremony for eventual proclamation of sainthood.

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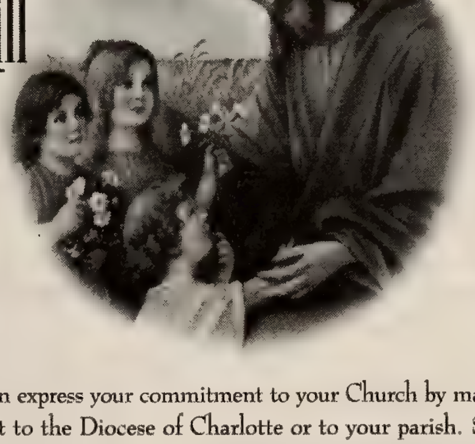

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Priests' retirement and benefit collection a way to say 'We care'

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

Though their experiences and backgrounds are varied, the priests who serve in the Diocese of Charlotte are united in their love of God, devotion to the Eucharist, and thanksgiving for the spiritual support they receive from their brother priests and the faithful of the diocese.

And thanks to the Diocese of Charlotte's annual Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection, they know their financial needs will be taken care of, too.

"Show Them We Care" is the theme of the 2001 collection, to be taken in parishes Sept. 8-9. The collection is the primary way parishioners of the diocese can offer their thanks to the priests who have already served them faithfully through the years, as well as those priests currently serving in ministry here.

The collection funds the diocese's priests' retirement plan, which covers health care, housing and other costs of living. A percentage of the collection goes to the retirement funds of religious orders whose priests serve in the diocese.

The plan includes provisions that will increase benefits annually for priests of the diocese — both those who are now retired and those in current service.

Retired diocesan priests receive monthly pension payments thanks to the collection.

In an effort to better meet the retirement needs of priests who serve here, the collection was revised in 1997 as an assessed collection. Individual parish goals for the collection are determined based on a percentage of annual offertory income.

"The amount assessed is 3 percent of their annual offertory income," said Bill Weldon, chief financial officer for the Diocese of Charlotte, regarding each parish's goal. "The total assessed amount to fund the priests' retirement and benefits program for 2001-2002 is $854,951."

Of that, $383,900 will go to the diocesan priests' retirement plan, $284,984 to the retirement funds of religious order priests serving in the diocese, $168,967 for other clergy benefits, and $17,100 for campaign expenses.

Today, 24 retired diocesan priests currently receive benefits, while 77 serve in active ministry. Eleven religious orders provide the 59 priests who serve here now.

Barbara Gaddy, who directs special collections programs for the diocese, said this offertory is a loving example of stewardship on behalf of those who give so willingly of themselves.

"People's contribution to this important collection is a way to say 'I care!' to the priests who serve us so faithfully," said Barbara Gaddy, diocesan associate director of development. "Our retired priests deserve to live their final years in comfort and dignity.

"Many of our retired priests have but one family — the people of the parishes they have served," she said.

For Bishop William G. Curlin, who himself will one day benefit from this effort, the collection is an important and loving gesture.

"The priests of this diocese spend their lives giving to others," said Bishop Curlin. "Even in their retirement, many of these dedicated men continue to serve the Catholics of western North Carolina by generously giving of their time and talent to help with weekend parish Masses and confessions.

"They spend their lives giving to others, and now it is our turn to 'Show Them We Care.'"

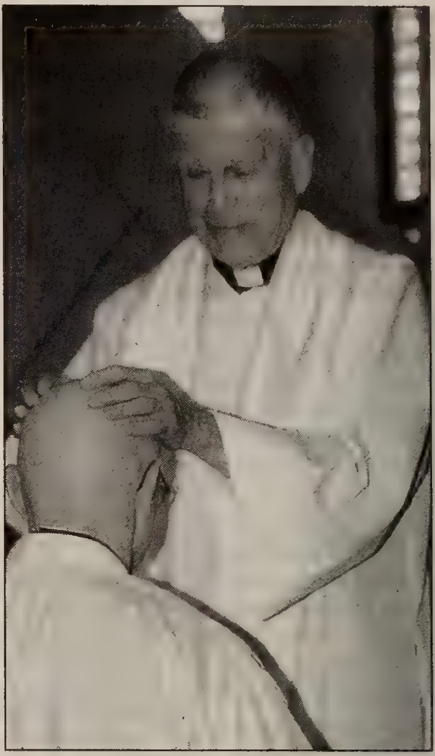

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Msgr. William Pharr, who retired from active ministry this summer, lays hands on Father Kurt Fohn, one of the diocese's newest priests, during the June 2, 2001, ordination liturgy in Charlotte. Msgr. Pharr, Father Fohn and their brother priests who serve in this diocese are beneficiaries of the Priests' Retirement and Benefits Collection.

Diocese of Charlotte Retired Priests

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Rev. Msgr. William N. Pharr,
5100 Sharon Rd., #516-E, Charlotte, NC 28210

Rev. Charles Reese,
800 Bay Dr.#25, Niceville, FL 32578

Rev. James Solari,
30 Lorraine Ave., Asheville, NC 28804

Rev. Edward Sullivan,
3400 Eastern Blvd. H-9, York, PA 17402

Rev. John Tuller,
PO Box 794, Saluda, NC 28773

Rev. Thomas Walsh,
12 N 6th St., Allegany, NY 14706

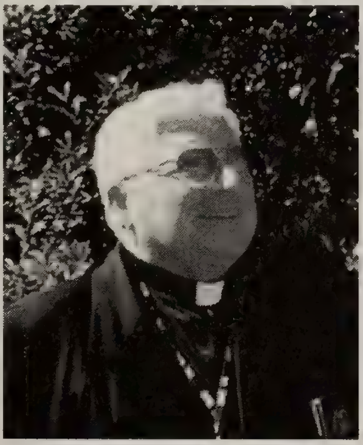
Rev. Joseph Waters,
5614-B West Market St., Greensboro, NC 27409

Retirement not wasted on diocesan priest

By BETTE BARTHOLOMEW
Correspondent

SALISBURY — Good shepherds don't retire. They just find other flocks.

Such is the case of Father Tom Clements, a "retired" priest of the Diocese of Charlotte. When he announced last year to his last parish, Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, that he was retiring from active ministry, the general feeling of his parishioners was one of sadness.



Father Tom Clements

Not only were parishioners dependent upon him for spiritual reflection, but he had been part of their families in major milestones and crises. In addition, his work with the parish youth and at the local Veterans' Hospital, the Rowan County jail, Rowan Regional Medical Center and Catawba College left huge shoes to fill over and beyond the normal functions of church and school.

But as Father Clements transitioned from active ministry into retirement, the pastor and mentor took the opportunity to reflect on the shared experiences of the faith journey.

"I miss the wonderful seasonal liturgies, the RCIA, Easter Week and witnessing miracles of transformation," he said. "Most of all, I miss the wonder of the children in the parish school."

And retirement has also yielded more time to share his love of God and neighbor in his ongoing work at the Veterans' Hospital.

"My transition gift through all of this has been my continuation of the chaplaincy at the Veterans' Hospital in Salisbury," he said. "I love these men and enjoy their families.

"These men are the Normandy Beach Head heroes, the tail gunners in my brother's 8th Air Force (regiment), who flew over Berlin. These are the aging Korean and Vietnam veterans who have come to heal the inner wounds of post-traumatic stress, and to be soothingly balmed with love and understanding. These men have no idea what a blessing they are in my life."

Then there is the national cemetery out back. The flag, the Taps, the rifles, the gathering of the spent shells by children who want a souvenir by which to remember their grandfathers - for Father Clements, it is so good to feel a part of these moments.

His original vision for the priesthood was to be a Trappist monk. His love for nature continues to this day, even in his own rural backyard.

"Here I work two or three hours in my garden, and watch the ducks and geese," he said. "I never turn on TV and I collapse in bed around 10:30 p.m. I am back up about 6:30 a.m. Then I drive one hour back to the VA."

Now removed from the everyday bustle of parish life as a pastor, Father Clements has found meditative quietude in the woods surrounding his home. Moreover, he has kept his hand helping others find comfort in their hour of need.

His rustic property on the headwaters of Lake Norman offers a peaceful setting for prayer and thanksgiving.

"For myself, I find that I think more and more about the finals in my own life," he said. "Yet the eternal optimist in me goes on planting 100 little five-inch saplings, which will mature in about 20 years....

"What truly feeds my soul these days as I dig and plant are the memories of the precious people who have been my family in the varied parishes of the diocese," he said. "My single regret is that I have no way to go back to each of these wonderful parishes to thank those fine people for their love and support.

"My prayer is that they know how precious they are to me."

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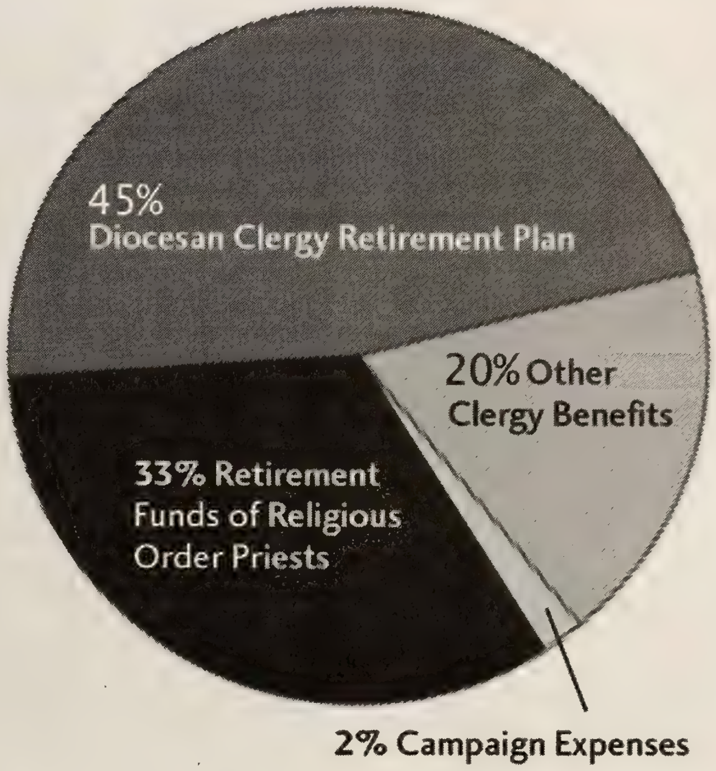

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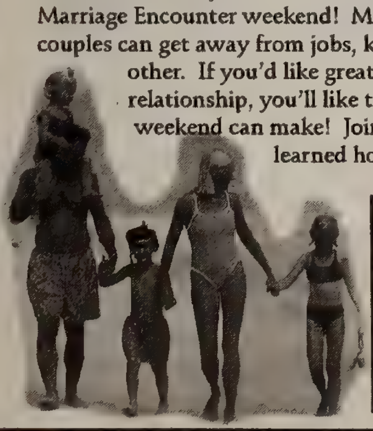

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Group of hundreds breaks ground for St. Francis Springs Prayer Center

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

STONEVILLE — On an overcast Saturday, Aug. 18, 2001, a group of approximately 300 priests, deacons, religious and laity gathered around Bishop William G. Curlin for the fulfillment of a long sought-after event of the Triad Catholic community.

This was the day of groundbreaking for the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville. The event is the beginning of an answer to a long-prayed-for dream of a humble and courageous visionary, Franciscan Father Louis Canino.

The center is an independent Catholic institution in the diocese and will be operated by Franciscan clergy who serve here. Father Canino is currently director of The Franciscan Center in Greensboro.

The celebration was the first culmination of the work of not a few people. Initial stages were undertaken by the St. Francis Springs Steering Committee, which has met regularly over the last three years providing the groundwork for the project.

Another group that assisted in the endeavor is the Building Committee.

Together, with all of the friends of St. Francis, their prayers, their talents and their financial support has made the dream a reality.

Bishop Curlin in his address said anyone can build schools and churches, but he prayed to witness the change needed in the spirituality of the people. St. Francis Springs Prayer Center is a place for both contemplation and a place from which action will flow, he added.

Through the reflection, silence and prayer that will be afforded by the St. Francis Center, all people will be able to more easily take that interior journey to know God, he said.

At the same time, through the Institute for Peace and Justice that will be located on these grounds, there will come an active ministry to a world in need of healing. As bishop of this diocese, Bishop Curlin said his goal "is to help people find Jesus in ourselves and in one another ... and this love isn't truly love until it is given away."

Through this facility, people will be taught the contemplative life and then learn how to bring Jesus to others. "We must set the world on fire with divine love," the bishop said.

Franciscan Father David Hyman, provincial counselor of the Holy Name Province and a former chaplain at North Carolina A & T University, added that Father Louis is a visionary and a dreamer and that the faithful are the pragmatists who bring the dreams into reality.

"Through this St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, you will become the voice of the voiceless. Justice is the constitutive of the Gospel. St. Francis Springs will focus on this aspect of doing justice. This is where people will come and then go out to do justice. It is a place which will stand against the ideology of war. It is revolutionary by its very nature," he said.

Father Canino expressed his pleasure that Bishop Curlin was not only able to be present at this celebration, but more importantly that he brought with him his enthusiasm for the project. He told of how this endeavor was not a pious whim but a Spirit-led operation which was long in the undertaking.

Father Canino personally spoke to over 250 people about this project along the way, and all who responded to his questionnaire, both Catholic and non-Catholic, responded positively to this venture. And even though the groundbreaking is just taking place, people are already booking the Center for next year.

Franciscan Father Edward Flanagan said he is "overwhelmed and extremely excited knowing that this Prayer Center, with the grace of God, will truly transform the people."

Father Thomas Selvaraj, pastor of St. Joseph of the Hills Church in Eden, knows that this endeavor is guided by the Holy Spirit, and that it is "going to be a tremendous success in the lives of the people through the United States. And it will spread to other countries."

Art Schneider, who came from Asheboro to the celebration with his wife, Rosemary, said, "Father Louis' dream is our dream: that through this Prayer Center a miracle of faith and growth is going to happen."

Loretta Bednar, who came from Winston-Salem, says, "This is the heart of the Gospel — knowing Jesus and teaching justice," while Teresa Hairston, who hails from Greensboro, implies that she is "very interested in the contemplative way of prayer life and spirituality — that out of prayer will come the work."

PHOTO BY REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY

Franciscan Father Louis Canino addresses the crowd that gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony. A longtime dream of Father Canino's, the prayer center will serve the spiritual needs of people in the Triad area of North Carolina.

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Franciscan's story a profile of faith

By REV. MR. GERALD POTKAY
CORRESPONDENT

GREENSBORO — Franciscan Father Louis Canino, who was born in upper New York State, was educated in the parochial system of Syracuse, N.Y. He says he was inspired to the priesthood through a Franciscan priest early on. Even though he tried to dismiss this calling in high school, he felt more drawn than ever while at a senior retreat. His resistance was finally broken when his confessor convinced him to at least try it.

Father Canino started his seminary training with the Franciscans in Callicoon, N.Y. From there, he went through an intense year of prayer as a novice at Lafayette in New Jersey. Here, he was able to begin grasping onto the spirituality of St. Francis. After graduating from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C, Father Canino was ordained into the Order of Friars Minor in September 1969.

Franciscan Father Louis Canino

Father Canino's first assignment was as an assistant pastor at St. Elizabeth Church in Wyckoff, N.J. Two years later, he was transferred to St. Anthony's Shrine in Boston, Mass. Here, he shared the ministry with 55 other friars for five years. Energized with a master's degree in pastoral counseling, Father Canino was sent to St. Joseph Monastery, Wilkes Barre, Pa., where he served as pastor and director for six years. Then, as he tells it, a very reluctant yet obedient Father Canino, who had dreams of a prayer center, was reassigned to St. Anthony's Shrine as rector.

This was to become for him a very strong conversion experience as he met and embraced his personal leper — this, in the persons of the dirty, needy people waiting in the bread line outside his church. It was a time of de-institutionalization of patients with mental illnesses who had nowhere to go. And where there had been no bread line when he left St. Anthony's Shrine in 1976, upon his return there was now a line of 150 to 200 people per day.

Motivated by Father Canino, community and religious leaders, combined with the efforts of the Franciscan friars and the generosity of friends, bought and renovated a building in downtown Boston to shelter and feed the homeless. Suitably, this shelter was named St. Francis House. Father Canino was named one of the co-directors of this facility, where he served until 1989.

Two months into a year's sabbatical, Father Canino was called by his provincial. It was then that he first expressed his view on the need for a "prayer center." Yet again, reluctantly but in complete obedience to his superiors, Father Canino came to Greensboro to establish The Franciscan Center instead of fulfilling his dream — as he says: "God works in mysterious ways."

At The Franciscan Center, Father Canino saw the need for spiritual direction, counseling and programs on spirituality. Weekends saw him filling in at St. Pius X Church. He also filled in as campus minister at both Bennett College and North Carolina A & T State University. As the years passed, Father Canino expanded his services to other area parishes in need of weekend help.

According to Father Canino, he receives numerous calls from within and outside of the Diocese of Charlotte, from Catholics and non-Catholics alike, with a variety of questions on spirituality. This makes The Franciscan Center like a "resource bank," a "Catholic haven" wherein nonjudgmental listening is the key to assisting those who seek advice on topics including sin, estrangement from the church, divorce and even decent housing — this, along with two talks a week and Mass every Wednesday.

With all of this, Father Canino never lost sight of his dream for a prayer center.

With the help and generosity of the Friends of the Franciscans, St. Francis Springs Prayer Center is fast becoming a reality. Resting on 140 acres, it is located about 30 miles north of Greensboro. When completed, it will have as its base meeting facilities, scheduled conferences and a Justice and Peace component. Its purpose will be to "provide a peaceful atmosphere for prayer and contemplation that has life changing possibilities for people of different faith traditions, all in the spirit of St. Francis."

At the same time its mission is to sensitize all to the social justice teachings of the Gospel and the church.

Already there are bookings for the year 2002 from churches in the Diocese of Charlotte, the Diocese of Richmond and the Diocese of Raleigh. Another important factor is that people of other faith traditions are validating the need for this type of prayer center in the Triad area.

All who join this worthwhile effort will be asked to give four to six hours per week at The Franciscan Center which will not lose its importance in Greensboro.

To avoid interference with the building up of the local faith communities, Father Canino says that there will be no scheduled Sunday Masses at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center. Prayerfully, with the help of Secular Franciscans from Greensboro and from places as far away as Burlington, Rocky Mount and Raleigh, along with other volunteers, the spiritual center will become as successful as the other ventures Father Canino has been committed to.

Lewis Institute celebrates, welcomes new campus ministers

By COLLEEN McDERMOTT
SPECIAL TO THE CATHOLIC NEWS & HERALD

BALTIMORE — For nearly 30 years, the Frank J. Lewis Institute has served new campus ministers. From July 10-17, 28 campus ministers from across the country gathered in Baltimore at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland for the Frank J. Lewis Institute — East, an eight-day orientation program for new campus ministers.

Four campus ministers from the Diocese of Charlotte attended the institute as team members or participants.

The campus ministers were warmly welcomed at the opening liturgy presided by Bishop W. Francis Malooly, the Archdiocese of Baltimore's newest auxiliary bishop. Among those in attendance was Dr. Mary Pat Suerkamp, president of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

The institute's pedagogical component began in dialogue with Dr. Monica Hellwig, who reflected on the "shattered experience" of post-modern Catholic students. She urged campus ministers to create places of trust in which Catholics may practice commitment and community. "We are called to be bridge builders," she said.

Msgr. John Strynkowski discussed the implementation of "Ex Corde Ecclesia," the 1990 apostolic constitution by Pope John Paul II establishing worldwide norms for Catholic colleges and universities, and the ecumenical theology of "Dominus Iesus," the recent Vatican document which emphasized Christ as the unique savior.

Greg "Dobie" Moser supplied the group with a portrait of the "millennial generation" and urged the campus ministers to become familiar with family systems and addiction in order to assist young adults in their developmental tasks toward mature adulthood.

Dr. Michael Galligan-Steirle, assistant secretary for the U.S. Catholic Conference's Campus Ministry & Higher Education department, stated that the goal of campus ministry is simply for all Catholics on campus to grow in faith. He emphasized the gift of campus ministry to higher education.

"We must stand at this crossroads of faith and culture with confident modesty," he said.

Pete Rogers helped the participants to answer this question: "How do we accompany our flock in the process of becoming morally mature?"

Jesuit Father Dan Ruff provided the framework for justice and higher education, while Alexia Kelly of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Eileen Emerson of Catholic Relief Services offered practical guidelines and resources for implementation of Catholic social teaching principles.

Prayer, reflection, community, fun and hospitality were key elements of this institute. In addition to gathering for daily prayer and the Ignatian examen, the participants were publicly welcomed by the worshipping community of Mary Our Queen Cathedral in Baltimore.

Jesuit Father Harold Ridley, president of Loyola College of Maryland, and President Mary Pat Suerkamp of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland hosted the institute for various receptions and dinners.

The goal of the Frank J. Lewis Institute is to provide a welcoming, hospitable environment where new campus ministers can relax, have fun and more deeply reflect upon their own giftedness for this ministry. It is about helping them to actualize these gifts and their potential, reflecting upon this in the awareness of God's abundance grace in their lives, on campus and in the church community.

Frank J. Lewis was a devoted Catholic who established a foundation to assist the Catholic Church's work of evangelization. The eastern and western Frank J. Lewis Institutes, supported in part by the Frank J. Lewis Foundation, have helped train thousands of campus ministers in their service to the church.

The next Frank J. Lewis Institute — East will be held at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland June 17-24, 2002. The next Frank J. Lewis Institute — West will be June 6-15, 2002, in San Diego, Calif.

For more information, send e-mail to cmmcdermott@charlottediocese.org.

Colleen McDermott is director of campus and young adult ministries for the Diocese of Charlotte. She serves as director for the Frank J. Lewis Institute — East in collaboration with the U.S. bishops' office of Campus Ministry & Higher Education.

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Book Review

Hahn's book hailed as comprehensive resource on Mary

Reviewed by CHARLOTTE MILLER
Catholic News Service

Scott Hahn's "Hail Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God" may well be the definitive book on Mary for the lay Catholic, or any other lay Christian, for that matter.

In his usual methodical manner, Hahn takes the reader through the Bible to demonstrate step-by-step, passage-by-passage, verse-by-verse what he sees as the proper place of Mary in Christian thought.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN: THE MOTHER OF GOD IN THE WORD OF GOD, by Scott Hahn. Doubleday (New York, 2001). 191 pp., $19.95

Reflecting St. Augustine's premise that the New Testament is concealed in the Old and the Old is revealed in the New, Hahn looks carefully at the Garden of Eden story, the role of the Ark of the Covenant in Israel's history, the function of the Queen Mother in the Davidic monarchy (including not just David but his successors as well), the Gospels, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the book of Revelation.

Over and again, he arrests the reader with astonishing insights, parallels that most believers — even those who consider themselves relatively familiar with Scripture — might never see on their own.

For instance, students of Scripture recognize the similarities of the opening of the Gospel of John with the opening of Genesis. Genesis says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," while John's Gospel says, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God." Shortly, both biblical texts refer to the creation of light to shine in the darkness, followed by the Holy Spirit hovering above the waters. These are used by Hahn as reminders of what readers may already know.

But who could see on his own the next parallels? John begins counting off the days of the new creation: "the next day" (1:29), "The next day" (1:35), "The next day" (1:43), and then, strangely, "On the third day" (2:1), despite the fact that this would seem to be the fourth day of John's narrative. However, as Hahn points out, if John means the third day after the days already mentioned, this would, in fact, be the seventh day, significant in the Genesis story, and significant in the Gospel as well. For the seventh-day episode in the Gospel is none other than the story of the wedding feast at Cana, at which Jesus defers to his mother's implied request.

Mary, ever the intercessor, has only to suggest to Jesus what needs to be done, and he does it. All the pieces for the recapitulation of creation are in place.

Hahn uses a number of the church fathers to support his argument, but as always his strength is his use of the Bible.

His weakness — and this is really a petty point — is his affection for puns. This little idiosyncrasy was noticeable in the title of one of his first books, "Rome Sweet Home." But he reaches new heights of punning in this latest work with section titles such as "Maternity Warred," "Mary, Mary Reliquary" and "Cutting the Unbiblical Cord."

The book is relatively easy reading, relatively short and relatively inexpensive. The text is just 175 pages, with another 15 pages of "Sources and References" to assist the reader in finding documentation and further discussion in Scripture, other church writings and even secular documents.

As always, Hahn's enthusiasm for the Bible and all other things Catholic is evident. Coming into full communion with the Catholic Church as an adult, this former Presbyterian minister, scholar and renowned apologist loves the Bible, the church, Jesus and Mary. While the book is not intended to be a devotional book, it cannot help leading the reader to a closer relationship with the Blessed Mother.

Miller writes from Little Rock, Ark.

Word to Life

September 2, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C Readings:
1) Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Psalm 68:4-7, 10-11
2) Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
3) Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

By JEAN DENTON
Catholic News Service

Once, when I was visiting the town of Oaxaca in a mountainous region of Mexico, I noticed that there the higher one goes up the mountains the poorer the houses and inhabitants become. This contrasts with residential patterns in U.S. cities situated among hills or mountains, where the houses increase in value and grandeur as the location gets higher.

Today's Gospel, explaining how the Lord honors humility, reminds me of my experience on that trip to Mexico. I was part of a small group being hosted by the missionary Maryknoll sisters who were working with the poor in the colonias, or neighborhoods, on the hillsides surrounding Oaxaca.

Each day we visited with families whom the sisters served. Walking up the mountain roads we would feel increasingly humbled as we observed the difficulty of the people's living conditions. In one of the highest colonias, we visited several times with a young boy, Jorge, and his mother and two sisters. Jorge had cerebral palsy, and the sisters helped provide physical therapy and personal attention for him and moral support for his mother.

Their tiny house was spare in its furnishings but unbelievably clean with a dirt floor that practically shined from Jorge's mother's continual sweeping. The family offered joyful hospitality to visitors and displayed a loving attentiveness to their son and brother. They talked of their thanks to God and their appreciation for the sisters, whose assistance had helped them tend to Jorge's great need.

The peaceful, happy attitude of this family, beset daily by poverty and disability, belied their overriding reliance on God's goodness. After an afternoon in their home, where we "helped" only a little, but enjoyed sharing the unmistakable presence of God in Jorge's family, we descended the mountain and felt our spirits rising from the experience.

That evening, I sat on the roof of the house where we were staying and, in awe, looked toward the dwelling of Jorge — lifting my gaze high to the lowly.

QUESTION:

When has humbling yourself brought you a sense of God's presence and pleasure? How does our lifestyle discourage the practice of humility?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 2-7

Sunday, Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-18, 22-24a, Luke 14:1, 7-14; **Monday (St. Gregory the Great),** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Luke 4:16-30; **Tuesday,** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11, Luke 4:31-37; **Wednesday,** Colossians 1:1-8, Luke 4:38-44; **Thursday,** Colossians 1:9-14, Luke 5:1-11; **Friday,** Colossians 1:15-20, Luke 5:33-39; **Saturday (Birth of the Virgin Mary),** Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

Readings for the week of Sept. 9-14

Sunday, Wisdom 9:13-18a, Philemon 9b-10, 12-17, Luke 14:25-33; **Monday,** Colossians 1:24 - 2:3, Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday,** Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday,** Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday (St. John Chrysostom),** Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross),** Numbers 21:4b-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Saturday Our Lady of Sorrows),** 1 Timothy 1:15-17, John 19:25-27

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Movie Capsules

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Following are recent capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Bubble Boy" (Touchstone)

Mean-spirited spoof in which a young man (Jake Gyllenhaal) who has lived his entire life in a bubble to protect his weak immune system constructs a mobile bubble and travels to Niagara Falls to stop the wedding of his childhood sweetheart (Marley Shelton). Director Blair Hayes' forgettable road-trip comedy crawls along with one-note, foolish characters and base, unfunny jokes that mock human frailties. Recurring slapstick violence and mayhem with some sexually suggestive dialogue and crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Happy Accidents" (IFC Films)

Quirky romance in which a young woman (Marisa Tomei) with chronic relationship problems thinks she may have found Mr. Right (Vincent D'Onofrio), until her new love confides that he is actually a time traveler from the year 2470. Written and directed by Brad Anderson, the film rises above typical situations and familiar cliches with the intense relationship between the lead characters being both entertaining and believable. An implied sexual relationship, brief drug abuse and intermittent rough language with an instance of profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Maybe Baby" (USA)

Thin romantic comedy about a scriptwriter (Hugh Laurie) and his wife (Joely Richardson) who try every which way to conceive, and, unbeknownst to her, he uses their experiences to write a movie. Written and directed by Ben Elton, the film has a few witty, touching moments but the spotty script does not address the moral questions involved in artificial means of fertilization. Some sexual situations with partial nudity and several crass words with an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"O" (Lions Gate)

Sordid tale of jealousy set in a tony prep school in which a black basketball player (Mekhi Phifer) is convinced by his envious friend (Josh Hartnett) that his girlfriend (Julia Stiles) is cheating on him, leading the hoop star to make some desperate choices. Director Tim Blake Nelson's brutal modernization of Shakespeare's classic story "Othello" is involving, but the inescapable presentation of remorseless teen killings leaves the senses numb. Vicious, explicit images of teen violence, including rape and suicide, some sexual situations, a few scenes of drug abuse and recurring rough language and profanity. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

"Summer Catch" (Warner Bros.)

Strained romantic drama set in Cape Cod about a poor local boy (Freddie Prinze Jr.) with big dreams of playing baseball in the major leagues who falls for a wealthy, out-of-town girl (Jessica Biel) vacationing in his home town. Filled with witless dialogue, stilted performances and wooden characters, director Mike Tollin strikes out with this formulaic film about social class divisions that runs out of steam in the first inning. A few implied sexual encounters, much underage drinking, fleeting rear nudity, brief fisticuffs and intermittent crass expressions and profanity with an instance of rough language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Tortilla Soup" (Samuel Goldwyn)

Pleasing comedy about a Mexican-American widower (Hector Elizondo) and his three grown daughters (Jacqueline Obradors, Elizabeth Pena, Tamara Mello) who experience unexpected romances and discover their true passions while their chef father cooks elaborate gourmet meals for them each Sunday. Director Maria Ripoll's spicy story about family, food and romance entices the taste buds while tugging on the heartstrings with visually succulent dishes, delightful characters and an engaging narrative. A sexual encounter and a few sexual references with brief profanity and crass language. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

CNS photo from Samuel Goldwyn Films

Scene from movie 'Tortilla Soup'

The movie "Tortilla Soup" blends family, food and romance. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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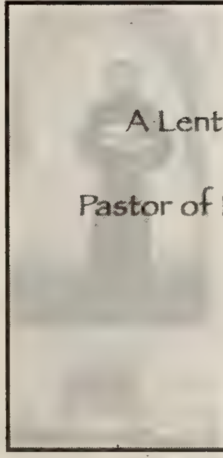

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Morning prayer helps orient people against wickedness, says pope

By JOHN THAVIS
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II used a page from the Book of Psalms to illustrate the value of prayer in daily life.

After listening to a sung version of Psalm 36, on "human wickedness and divine providence," the pope explained the scriptural passage for several thousand people attending his weekly general audience Aug. 22.

He said that, in contrasting the evil of the sinner with the goodness of God, the psalmist had described the intensity of both realities. The sinner is seen planning wickedness even before he rises from his bed in the morning, while God's desire for man is depicted with images of generous love, bounty, life and light.

"God's love is characterized by faithfulness, tenderness, justice and providential care of his creatures. The psalmist used the images of food, drink and light as tokens of the gifts that God gives us, leading ultimately to a share in divine life itself," the pope said.

"Praying this psalm helps us to face the challenges of daily life with trust in God's loving care and protection," he said. He suggested that morning prayer is a good way to orient oneself spiritually before heading out into the "not always straight streets" of contemporary life.

"Every time a day of work and human relations begins, there are two fundamental attitudes one can take: Choosing good or giving in to evil," he said.

In remarks in English, the pope also greeted delegates of a South African ecumenical center in Cape Town and offered a prayer for increased unity among Christians.

Pope protests Lebanese army's wave of arrests of Christians

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II protested a recent wave of arrests of Christians in Lebanon, saying the move illustrated the risks facing democracy in the Middle East country. During a noon blessing at his summer residence outside Rome Aug. 19, the pope recalled Lebanon's long history of internal divisions and said he wanted to remind the country's leaders that "the values of democracy and national sovereignty must not be sacrificed to the political interests of the moment." He said the recent arrests of anti-Syrian Christians were symptomatic of the serious political tensions that "block national dialogue" in Lebanon.

The Bottom Line

ANTOINNETTE BOSCO
CNS Columnist

The Goodness in Today's Youth

With all the emphasis in the newspapers these days on school crime and bullying, along with drugs, crazy dressing and disrespect for peers and teachers alike, people are judging youngsters to be a generation out of control.

I think that judgment is skewed. And I think the media are to blame. If there's a choice between running a story on trouble or on youths doing good, guess which one wins out? The bad news, of course.

I would like to suggest that everyone take a month to focus on what the majority of young people are really like, looking into the activities that so many of them take on. I am convinced that we would find young people remarkably good, especially when called upon deliberately or unexpectedly to achieve something important for themselves or others.

As one example, a daily newspaper in my area carried a story recently headlined "Teens Save Life of Elderly Woman." The story was about six teen-agers who were boating on a river, planning a leisurely day in the sun. Unexpectedly, they spotted a woman's head bobbing in the water. They got closer to ask her if she was all right, and she said, yes, she was just swimming. A little while later, they noticed she was struggling to get hold of a slippery boulder — and that she was fully clothed. Again they called out to her, and she said she didn't need help.

The youths were unconvinced. They found another boat with a group who had a cell phone, called 911 and decided to go back themselves to check on her. They noticed that their fuel was low, but took a chance anyway. When they got close to her, seeing she was in trouble, some of the boys swam to the rock to hold her, while the others lashed a water-ski tow rope from the boat to a tree to hold her.

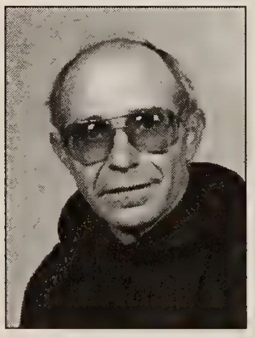
They stayed with her, keeping her safe until firefighters arrived. Later, the woman, 67, told police she had been walking by the river and fell in. Without the brave and caring action of these teen-agers, she might not have survived the ordeal.

I had a firsthand experience with some great youths this summer when we had a family reunion — with more than 100 of us showing up. To our surprise, some of the nieces and nephews put a newspaper together in honor of the occasion. They called it The Family Buzz, and the tone was one of joyful celebration.

Most of us just thanked the good Lord for our young ones, realizing how blessed we are in them.

A summer issue of Modern Maturity looked into the truth about young people and reported: "Surprise! Today's teens are the most optimistic, hard-working generation since World War II. You hear a lot on the news about bad kids. But when you look at this group as a whole, what you see is an overwhelming majority of great kids."

In a new book called "Millennials," authors Neil Howe and William Strauss write, "This can-do youth revolution will overwhelm the cynics and the pessimists." I think the authors have it right.



Guest Column

FATHER JOHN C. AURILIA, OFM Cap.
Guest Columnist

Prejudice: Handle with Care

The explosive issue of prejudice is not an issue of the 21st century or, even less, an American issue. St. John the Evangelist dedicates a full chapter (Chapter 4) of his Gospel to the reality of welcoming the outsiders.

Serb-Kosovo, Palestinian-Israeli, Black-White, Brown-Hispanic, gender bias, class bias, age bias, religious bias and, back to the New Testament times, Jew-Samaritan.

Traveling in Samaritan territory, Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman. Jewish-Samaritan hatred began when the Samaritans, who had been carried off into exile, allowed Alexander the Great to build them a temple on Mount Gezerim. Probably by John's time, there was sizeable contingent of Samaritan Christians. John reminds the Jewish Christians that Jesus himself had bridged that hatred.

We easily miss the point of the Gospel's story if we become enchanted by the artistry of the marvelous dialogue and interaction between Jesus and the woman. The real power of this event is that Jesus makes a sacrament of the ordinary things of our daily lives. Notice, for instance, the symbolism of the well and the water.

John's trees are so splendid that we easily miss his forest. Wouldn't it be ironic to tell the story of what Jesus did and to miss the point? To change the metaphor, it's like being so impressed with the motorcade that we fail to see the dignitary who rides in it.

The 54 verses of Chapter 4 of John's Gospel tells us that Jesus initiates a face-to face contact, and that Jesus welcomes the people whom the woman brings.

The disciples, on the other hand, don't drive the Samaritans away as they did with the children, or, perhaps, Jesus did what he did when the disciples were not present, thank God. Later on, the disciples learned to let the Master be the Master. Does this Master want a Samaritan on board? So be it. We don't know if they were happy about it.

One of the fragile connections between "us" and "them" is that one of us or one of them is in denial. God knows which one! We do engage in a dialogue sometimes, and I wonder if the dialogue is simply academic and superficial, a face-to face encounter, or even better, heart-to-heart sharing.

When a Methodist minister refused to come to the platform because a Unitarian clergyman was already there, Father Taylor, "the rum-free evangelist," fell to his knees and prayed, "O Lord, deliver us here in Boston from bad rum and bigotry. Thou knowest, O Lord, which is worse."

History tells us that the three most important things in life are to be kind, then to be kind, then to be kind again. I personally like Mark Twain's advice: "I am quite sure that I have no race prejudices, and I think I have no color prejudices nor caste prejudices nor creed prejudices. Indeed, I know it. I can stand any society. All that I care to know is that a man is human being, that is enough for me; he can't be any worse."

Capuchin Father John C. Aurilia is pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

Letting It Go

Sifting through a box of old, forgotten school records, I recently found a report card from my childhood. It had my marks in math and the verbal skills from the first through the sixth grade. Most of my grades were pretty decent, but during the sixth grade, my math scores start to take a dip. Attached to the card is a notification that some math tutoring might help. I never did get that tutoring. In fact, I just struggled on, trying to make sense out of the wonderful world of the so-called "new math."

Finding that report card and recommendation from my teachers, addressed to my parents, made me wonder: Why hadn't they gotten me the suggested math tutoring? I mean, truth be told, math remained a constant difficulty for me straight through school — sometimes with comic results.

In one case, I was mistakenly placed in an honors class of advanced trigonometry. Protesting the placement, I was told by my high school guidance counselor that I'd have to remain listed in the class for the whole term whether I attended or not. At the end of the year, I received a 10 in the course. Seems the final had a gift question that you couldn't get wrong, so even someone who didn't take the test could still get a 10 percent.

Moving on to college after that debacle, I found I'd been placed in advanced mathematics once again. When I protested that I had no particular ability for the subject, counselors begged to differ. Seems that in computer speak, my 10 percent grade had been translated as 100 percent. And certainly anyone with a 100 percent in advanced trigonometry must be gifted. It took a while, but I finally escaped mathematics.

Recently, with the newfound report card and recommendations in hand, I decided to confront my Mom. "Why," I argued, "did you and Dad ignore the teacher's recommendation?" I concluded by saying, "You know, Mom, I might have had a very different life and career with an ability to do math." She listened to my protests with a stoic face. Then, she laughed. "What are you laughing at?" "At you, dear, of course."

And then, gently, she let me have it. "You know, Jim, so many of the boomers in your generation do so much complaining. 'What I could've been ... what I should've been ... what might have happened if ....' And the truth is that as parents we surely do make some mistakes. I mean, we only learned how to do the job by doing the job. Somewhere along the line, you guys have to let go of all the blame, all the perceived missed opportunities, all the worrying about how it could have been different, and just live your lives."

She reminded me of the obvious: "You know, even without great math ability, you've really enjoyed a wonderful life. Can't you see all you do have — and stop complaining about what you don't?"

Mom is right. Too often, we look at all the perceived mistakes our folks made and spend a lot of time in the "second-guessing" game. Of course, parents deserve criticism in more egregious cases. But for most of us, I suspect, our parents did a whole lot more right than wrong.

It's important to acknowledge mistakes in our lives, those made by others that affected us and those that we made ourselves. Yet at some point, we've got to let go — drop the resentment, extend forgiveness, and move ahead. Letting the past swallow up the future is an awful waste of a lifetime.

Msgr. Jim Lisante is director of The Christophers.

Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

The Church's Position on When Human Life Begins

Q. Catholics receive much opposition and ridicule because of the church's position that human life begins with conception. Doesn't the church itself make a distinction between the moral status of human life in and out of the womb when it does not require a baptism, funeral or Christian burial after a miscarriage? (Louisiana)

A. I don't know where you received your information, but it is mistaken. According to directives followed in Catholic (and many other) hospitals, deceased fetuses normally are given proper burial as is "consonant with the dignity of the human body."

I say normally because in some instances baptism and burial may not be possible. For example, since the fetus is less than an inch long until many weeks after conception, it is possible for a miscarriage to occur several days before either the mother or physician is aware of it.

Furthermore, full Catholic funeral rites, including Mass, are celebrated for children whose parents intended them to be baptized, but who died before baptism (Canons 1176 and 1183). Since it is not required that the body of the deceased be present, a funeral or memorial Mass is appropriate and common after a miscarriage.

Other ceremonies, with prayers and Scripture readings chosen to meet the particular needs of family and friends, are provided for in the church's "Order of Christian Funerals" in the section on funeral rites for children.

Clarification on Mormon Baptisms

Q. We are grateful for your enlightening column on Mormon beliefs in relation to Christian faith. Shortly after we read that, our daily paper reported that Mormon baptisms (for the living) are not considered valid by the Catholic Church. Is that true? (Ohio)

A. Your local newspaper was correct. In July the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith ruled that baptism conferred by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is not a valid Christian baptism.

The Vatican newspaper announcing the ruling noted that the Catholic Church teaches the validity of baptism in other Christian communities when the sacrament is administered with an invocation of the Holy Trinity. When baptized members of these communities are received into the Catholic Church, they are not re-baptized.

However, as I explained in the column to which you refer, many Christian teachings have significantly different meanings for Mormons. The Mormon baptism formula — "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" — only appears to be Trinitarian.

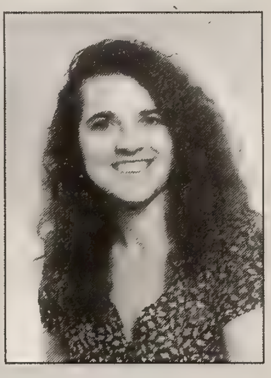
Mormons, said the Vatican article, believe the Father is "an exalted man, originating from another planet, who acquired his divine status through a death similar to human death," the necessary way to becoming divine.

"God the Father has a wife, the Heavenly Mother, with whom he shares responsibility for creation," the article continued, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are their children. Mormons teach baptism is not a sacrament established by Jesus Christ, it said, but was begun by God, and the first to be baptized was Adam.

In that context, Mormon baptism could not be what Christians believe this sacrament to be.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about the sacrament of penance is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

Coming of Age



AMY WELBORN
CNS Columnist

Can't a Kid Get a Break?

Sometimes you are just tired, aren't you?

It seems the treadmill never stops for you to get off, even for just a few minutes. And now school's starting again, and you know what that means: six or seven teachers, each under the distinct impression that you are only taking this one class.

Whatever the gender breakdown, the story's the same: homework, tests, quizzes, projects and papers — seemingly all due the same week. Then you've got sports, drama, music or dance practice, or any combination of the above.

You might also have a job. You definitely have a home, meaning a room to keep reasonably clean, household chores to do and that fun thing called "family dynamics" to deal with.

Can't a kid get a break? Doesn't anyone believe kids deserve a rest once in a while?

Sure. God does.

You might be surprised to learn that God not only believes you deserve a rest, he has issued orders that you take one. Maybe this sounds familiar:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work" (Exodus 20:8-10).

Yup. It's an actual, real, carved-in-stone commandment. The third, to be exact.

Take a break. Rest.

It's one of the Ten Commandments, to be taken just as seriously as the others.

The Sabbath rest God is ordering you to take isn't about being lazy or mindless. It actually has a spiritual basis or two.

If you think about it, the work you do during the week is all about joining with God in his continued work of creation. You're using the gifts he's given you to bring good things like beauty, justice, healing and love to bloom in the world. You're cooperating with God to develop your own personality and character so that it more fully reflects his image.

In other words, you're busy doing lots of good stuff.

But the fact remains, you're not God. You're not in charge of the world. Sometimes, when we're really busy, we tend to forget that. We tend to think that the world's turning depends on us and our efforts.

Taking a break is an act of humility. When we rest on Sunday, we're telling God that we know he's really in charge and that we'll give this day over to remembering that and thanking him for it.

Honoring God this way is just part of the reason you should take a break from work on Sunday. The other reason is that it's God's gift to you, and it's pretty ungrateful to turn your back on it.

God knows you better than you know yourself, and this gift of the Sabbath shows that he loves you a whole lot too. He knows you need a day where, as much as possible, you'll push schoolwork from your mind, stop worrying about games, performances and your paycheck — a day when you can just relax with your friends and family and maybe even all by yourself, if that's what you really need.

So, the next time Sunday rolls around, try taking God seriously. Offer a prayer of gratitude at Mass, then go home and enjoy that Sabbath rest without guilt.

After all, you wouldn't want to break a commandment, would you?

Three awarded Eagle Scout rank at Greensboro court of honor

GREENSBORO — The Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Boy Scout Troop 107 was called to order Aug. 14 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro, where three young men were awarded the rank of Eagle Scout.

Drew Wofford, a freshman at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, developed for his Eagle Scout project a recycling program at Dolan Manor, a housing facility associated with St. Pius X Catholic Church in Greensboro. He is the son of Tita and Tom Wofford and plans to major in pre-med.

David Girguis designed and built mobile planter boxes for gardening for residents at Friend's Home West. The son of Mary Girguis, he is a freshman at North Carolina State University in Raleigh who will major in biology.

Joseph Simkins landscaped an area at Jefferson Elementary School and built four picnic tables that will give students an outdoor area for study programs and lunch. Simkins is a junior at Northwest Guilford High School and is the son of Jan and Scott Simkins.

Troop 107 is chartered by St. Paul the Apostle Church, where Oblates of St. Francis de Sales James O'Neill serves as pastor. Father O'Neill opened the court with prayer and a talk about doing a good deed daily, the building of character and scouting as an integral part of youth ministry in the Catholic Church.

To achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, one must complete a minimum of 21 merit badges, hold leadership positions within the troop and carry out a service project to benefit the community.

Boy Scout Troop currently serves more than 45 youth from age 12 to 18. A new Venture Unit is being organized this fall for young men and women ages 13 to 18.

Cub Scout Pack 107 is also very active and serves boys from age 6 to 11.

Scoutmaster honored with St. George Award

GREENSBORO — Ken Shahbaz, scoutmaster of Troop 107, St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, was recently presented the St. George Award. A national award given by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, the award recognizes adults involved in scouting who have made a significant contribution to Catholic youth.

Shahbaz has been active in the community of Greensboro, serving on several nonprofit boards of directors and at St. Paul the Apostle Church. While he has served as scoutmaster, 12 boys have received the "Ad Altari Dei" Religious Award, and since 1995, 16 young men have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

For more information on scouting, call Ken Shahbaz at (336) 574-1438 or e-mail him at kshabaz@mindspring.com.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left: Scoutmaster Ken Shahbaz, Joseph Simkins, David Girguis, Father James O'Neill and Drew Wofford.

Salisbury parish gathers to support local youngster in need

By BETTE BARTHOLOMEW
Correspondent

SALISBURY — Samantha Washko, a plucky little 5-year-old girl fighting a battle with a rare form of leukemia, quietly played games with her mother, Nancy, at Winston-Salem's Brenner Children's Hospital, while the community of Salisbury and environs united in prayer and blood typing hoping to find the necessary combination for a bone marrow transplant.

Once again, Sacred Heart Parish of Salisbury pulled together as a unit as they joined the family of Steve and Nancy Washko in hoping for a miracle for Samantha.

Samantha's family had called Sacred Heart when they found out that Samantha needed the transplant. Parishioner Nancy Weber organized the drive with the Washkos.

The American Red Cross was blood typing people Aug. 14 at the church hall in order to find the perfect match for Samantha's bone marrow. They had planned on 150 to 200 donors. In a few hours, they had long gone past the estimate.

Supplies and money were running out and the crowds still came. Organizers contacted Rick Hendrick, a Charlotte businessman and also a leukemia patient, who had already donated but agreed to pay for typing 250 more donors. The Community Marrow Donor Program was also involved early on with aid.

Salisbury Academy, where Samantha had registered for kindergarten, joined in active support of the drive.

Under Barbara Casey's leadership, there was a rosary every two hours upstairs in the church for Samantha's intention.

While people stood in line they pulled money out of their pockets and cell-phoned friends for financial aid. In all they raised $13,750.

"It can be expensive — $73 — to tissue type a donor," said Cathy LaMarre, Samantha's aunt.

No one was more surprised than Michael Bestler when he heard himself being paged and found that Steve and Danielle Martini of Concord, friends who had heard the news, were calling to tell him to put in $250 for them. Bestler left the line to run to the bank.

Though they were subscribed over and beyond their hopes, Paul Biernacke, bone marrow consultant for the American Red Cross, closed the drive at 5:30 p.m. when they ran out of supplies.

Veronica Hobbs, who had worked all day, reiterated, "Funding was a very real issue here today. It was marvelous to see how this community pulled together."

Ken Washko, a dentist in Spencer and Samantha's father, stood at the entrance all day thanking donors.

"This alone is a miracle," he said. "Samantha still has to undergo more chemotherapy, and she knows the reason is leukemia — she tells everyone that much — but she has no idea of the seriousness of the disease and keeps our morale going with her cheerful response to everyone at Winston-Salem Brenner Children's Hospital."

Her doctors announced recently that Samantha's leukemia is in remission, although she must undergo chemotherapy treatments before the transplant can take place at Duke University.

Sacred Heart parishioners are grateful for the support of the entire community for pulling together in a time of need. The need for blood and platelets is very real because they are sustaining Samantha's life while she awaits a transplant.

Nancy Weber of Sacred Heart Parish felt compelled to take on the community organization because within her own family there had been a need for bone marrow transplant.

"It was a way for me to pay back," she said.

Classifieds

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Padre Pio,

from page 5

his room to ask him and said, 'Father, I want to go to confession,' and he said, 'OK, kneel down.' He had a kneeler in his room. I was trembling, and he said, 'What's the matter with you? Why are you so nervous?' I said, 'I heard that you can read hearts,' and he said, 'Relax. Enjoy.' And it was a beautiful confession."

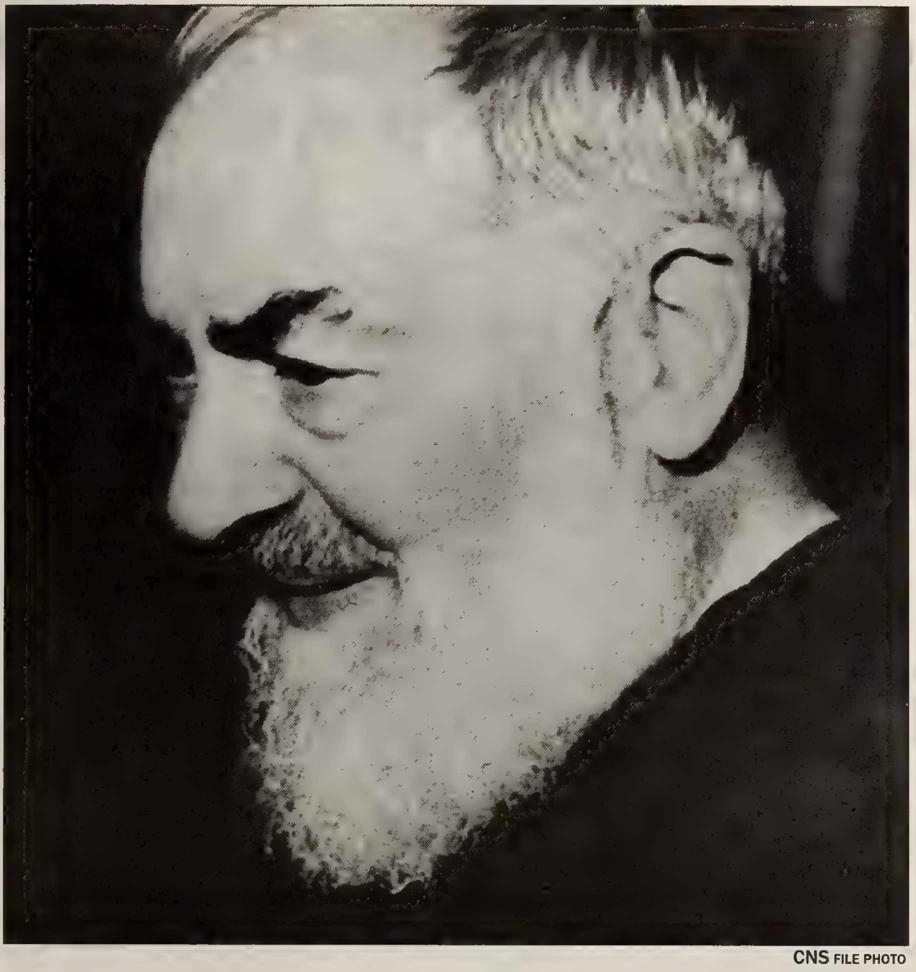
But it was in performing his duties as a secretary that Father Aurilia found his life changing. He was assigned to answer the Italian correspondence, but there were also secretaries to handle letters in French, Spanish, German and English. Padre Pio received sacks of mail every day. Most of the letters were requests for prayers. The secretaries answered every letter, but sought Padre Pio's help in responding to letters that contained requests for guidance. Padre Pio blessed all the letters before they were mailed.

"Just reading all the letters changed my life," Father Aurilia said. "So much faith in God, so much suffering in the world, and Padre Pio had to pray for all of them. And he was so simple, so humorous, he was one of us. I experienced during that month of August that he could read minds and hearts. I didn't want to go back to teaching. One day I went to him to ask how to answer a letter, and he said, 'You're going back to Vico Del Gargano.' I had never told him what I was thinking."

On another occasion, a woman asked whether her son should become a doctor or a priest. Father Aurilia says, "Padre Pio said, 'Tell her he can be a medical doctor,' and he had not seen the letter."

However, he refused to be relegated to the role of fortuneteller. When a woman asked him what the weather would be during her upcoming ocean voyage he replied, "You ask me? Check the weatherman." Father Aurilia chuckles at the memory.

After Padre Pio's period of isolation, people packed the churches when he said Mass, even when Mass was at 4 a.m. At first, he celebrated Mass in the monastery church, which held about 300 people. Then the monastery built a church that accommodated 2,000 people, and that one was packed as well.


CNS FILE PHOTO

Padre Pio is seen in this undated file photo. The priest known worldwide for his holiness and mystical experience of the faith died in 1968.

And the Masses were not short. "He had a priest to assist him, because he would begin to meditate and he would have stayed in that," Father Aurilia said. The priest would nudge him to remind him to continue with the Mass.

Meditation during Mass had been one of the things that made his isolation bearable. Celebrating Mass alone, he could meditate as long as he wished. Father Aurilia recalls that, "We said to him, 'You were persecuted.' He said, 'No, I had a good time.' He praised the pope, and he never complained about the situation."

He was always humble.

"Fame had no affect on him," Father Aurilia said. "He was convinced that all those people came to where he was to honor Jesus. He was right. When we say Mass, we act 'in persona Christi,' in the person of Christ. He was personifying Jesus so beautifully that people were coming to experience Jesus through him.

"He opened the window to bless the people twice a day. He was famous, but then he would come into the seminary and he was one of us — cracking a joke, snuffing a little tobacco. If I didn't see thousands of people packing the church, I would say, 'What's the difference?' He was just like any of us — like Father John [Salvas] or Brother Michael [Malloy]," who serve with Father Aurilia in Hendersonville.

In fact, Father Aurilia wishes that biographers and those interested in Padre Pio's miracles would also pay attention to his humanity. "Those books miss the point — the simplicity, the humility, the inner spirituality. Padre Pio was great in the ordinary things, the Franciscan spirituality: We make ordinary things extraordinary, not vice versa. He had a real Franciscan attitude. This guy was the image of Jesus, the image of St. Francis. He was not a great preacher [in words], but he would preach without words. He was what Francis said, 'Preach every day, and if necessary use words.' "

Once, when Father Aurilia was stationed in Virginia, a representative from the television show "Unsolved Mysteries" contacted him to learn if Father Aurilia had witnessed any of the more spectacular things, such as bilocation, for which Padre Pio was famous. Father Aurilia replied that he hadn't. The TV rep said, in effect, "Don't call us, we'll call you."

"Unsolved Mysteries" apparently wasn't interested in reporting on the quieter times, such as Padre Pio's prayer life. "I never saw anyone on earth praying so many rosaries," Father Aurilia said. "He was in constant prayer. Like St. Francis, he was not praying, he was the prayer — the intensity of prayer. When he was praying, he was in it, in another world. He would sometimes spend all night in prayer. He was working in the garden — he was saying the rosary. He didn't waste any time."

He couldn't afford to. He prayed for everyone who asked for his prayers, including asking God to heal cancer victims and give him the cancer.

"Padre Pio had influence in making my vocation stronger — just knowing that I was going to see Padre Pio once in a while and get his blessing. I was looking at him as the picture of St. Francis. So, for me, Padre Pio became St. Francis. He was always peaceful, always encouraging other people, always happy."

Father Aurilia plans to lead a pilgrimage to Italy Feb. 26-March 7, 2002. The pilgrimage will include visits to San Giovanni Rotondo, Assisi, Pompeii, Naples and Rome. For more information, email: catholictravel@aol.com, or write: catholictravel, P.O. Box 240242, Charlotte, NC 28224-0242.

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Deacon derives strength from dedication to Jesus

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — Jesus' presence has always been a source of strength and inspiration to Rev. Mr. Joe Smith who has seen his fair share of rough times during his life. He and his siblings experienced some lean nights without dinner during the Depression when he was an adolescent, and the Smith children lost their mother to a car accident when Joe was 16. Mr. Smith had to raise his family of eight as a single parent and work nearly 16-hour days in a Philadelphia cotton mill to support his family.

Visits to the chapel in his Catholic high school kept young Joe Smith grounded and helped him to complete his high school years, where he found classes difficult. Also, being an altar boy and serving at early morning Masses helped to start his day in the mindset of God. His father, a daily communicant, was an early role model. He could not stay for Mass but would receive the Eucharist right before heading to work every morning.

Rev. Mr. Joe Smith

After high school graduation at the start of World War II in 1941, Joe went to work in a machine shop, and shortly thereafter, entered the Army for nearly four years. His four months in combat were spent mostly behind a machine gun in the cold, wet trenches in the unfamiliar country of France.

"When I was in combat, I can't remember a time when I did not have my rosary in my hand," remembered Rev. Mr. Smith.

He was the brunt of the unit's jokes at first because he would say his prayers on bended knees. After a while, the other men began to develop an affinity for the devout cradle Catholic. "I really appreciated the fact that they respected my prayer life. Someone would yell, 'Hey, Smitty's praying,' and the room would get quiet. I always thank God that I was able to stay close to him."

"Trench foot," a condition similar to frostbite which can lead to amputation, removed the young soldier from combat, and after being hospitalized, he was sent to England to the Army Air Force as an officer's orderly. At a dance, he met his soulmate. Joe courted Jean, who converted to Catholicism before marriage, and they became husband and wife in her home country of England.

After his release from service in 1946, he and his wife moved back to Philadelphia and were welcomed home with their own neighborhood "ticker tape" type welcome. They were greeted with shouts, streamers and refreshments all in honor of his new bride. "As old as I am now, I can still visualize the flags and neighbors out shouting. Jean really felt like she was a part of the family."

He went back to work as an operator at the machine shop where he worked before the war. He later had a couple of odd jobs when he began working for the Philco Corporation as a quality control inspector for TV's and radios. He received his first exposure to the Southern part of the country as he traveled to High Point, N.C., to perform inspections.

A new position as a quality control supervisor from another TV parts company brought him, his wife and two sons to North Carolina in 1955. The family immediately settled in at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point. Nearly 30 years would pass before Smith would hear the words "permanent diaconate," but when he did, the suggestion came from all sides.

"When it (the permanent diaconate) first came out, I never paid attention to it. My wife said, 'Why don't you sign up?' I said, 'I don't want to be a deacon.' My son called and asked me the same thing, and I had the same response. At least five people came up to me later and mentioned the same thing," recalled Rev. Mr. Smith. "Sometimes, the Lord speaks to you through other people."

Ordination in 1983 cleared the path to ministerial work with hospital and nursing home patients, work with prison inmates and other diaconate duties. For Rev. Mr. Smith, it was a continuation of some of the volunteer work he had been doing before being ordained.

A few years later, his wife of 43 years died from complications of diabetes. He lost his life companion and best friend but experienced some relief at her passing.

"Some people look at me strangely when I say this, but I am glad she passed away. I didn't want her to be in pain anymore. When someone you love is sick, why would you want him or her to suffer?

"I thank God that he took her peacefully in her sleep in the hospital."

The grandfather of three works for the YMCA part time as a desk clerk five days a week, performs his ministry for his home parish and attends Mass at Christ the King Church in High Point every morning.

"A lot of people don't realize that I am an ordained minister, and we are a part of the hierarchy of the church. I take my position in the church seriously," said Rev. Mr. Smith, who remarked that his wife remains his greatest inspiration. "The permanent diaconate put me more in focus with the Lord, and I gained a whole new purpose."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

Twin transplant surgeons say faith in God sustains their work

By ELLIE HIDALGO
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Twin brothers Rafael and Robert Mendez, who both work as transplant physicians at St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles, said their belief in God is integral to their work.

"Every time you see someone recover and do well, you know it's by the grace of God," Robert Mendez told The Tidings, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

He said that on surgery days, he turns to God. "I just say to myself, I know he's guiding my hand. Though I have to look after the patient, I know there is someone above looking after the patient," he said.

Both received their callings as transplant surgeons as young adults.

Robert Mendez assisted in one of the earliest kidney transplants in California history while attending medical school at the University of California San Francisco. There, he witnessed a woman's recovery from death's door to life.

"It was so incredible to see this dramatic change in this dying woman to a healthy woman in two weeks. It became evident to me that this was the field of the future," he said.

In high school, the twins' father, noted trumpeter Rafael Mendez, asked a surgeon friend to allow his sons to observe an operation.

The experience made such an impression on the younger Rafael that he decided then that medical school was for him.

"It was just amazing. There was no question in my mind after that, that I wanted to be a surgeon," Rafael Mendez said.

The pioneering work of the Mendez twins, who began working at St. Vincent's in 1969, helped make the medical center into the most active transplant center in the western United States. Last year, medical staff performed more than 280 transplant operations.

The brothers recalled the early days of transplant surgery, when the patient's life expectancy was low and the government and insurance companies refused to cover the costs of the new procedures.

Those days "took great patience and great faith," said Robert Mendez, a longtime parishioner at Corpus Christi Church in Pacific Palisades.

He said the success rate in those days was 50 percent.

"We would sometimes sleep in the bed next to the patients through the first few nights just to make sure they would get through it," he said.

In time, the brothers were among those leading the way in curtailing the rejection rates of donated organs.

Acceptance rates are now at 90 percent for those who receive an organ from a relative. Hospital stays following transplant surgery average four days, compared to 32 days in the early years.

Rafael Mendez said one element of his job that he enjoys is seeing the generosity exhibited by others.

"It is remarkable to see the coming together of people for totally humanitarian purposes in their donation," he said.

"Everybody, regardless of their religion, ultimately grasps this sense of being a part of something much, much bigger than who we are here on this particular day," he said.

Rafael Mendez, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said his faith sustains him, particularly when a patient dies.

"Many times, the realization is that you've done everything that is known at this time and that maybe he's being called back by a power greater than you," he said.

CNS photo by Ellie Hidalgo, The Tidings

Rafael and Robert Mendez work as transplant surgeons at St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles. The well-recognized work of the twin brothers has helped make the hospital the most active transplant center in the western United States.

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Inside

Adults key in passing on faith, says speaker ... PAGE 7

People 'excited' about new BMHS, principal says ... PAGE 12

Local News

Students study technology at Salisbury school ... PAGE 8

Diaconate provides comfort to family ... PAGE 20

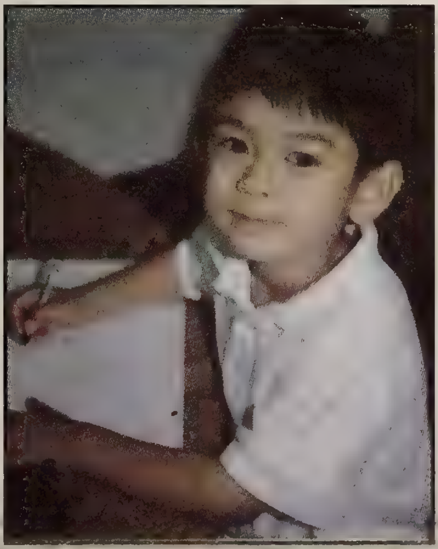
Every Week

Entertainment ...PAGES 14-15

Editorials & Columns ...PAGES 16-17

> "Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple"
>
> – Luke 14:27

NCEA sets "Catholic Schools: Where Faith Knowledge Meet" as theme of new school year



PHOTOS BY ALESHA M. PRICE

"Where Faith & Knowledge Meet" is the National Catholic Educational Association's theme for the new school year. Pictured clockwise from St. Leo School in Winston-Salem is second-grader Kaitlin Jones busy matching color words with crayons. Pictured above left is Noel Bien Carlos, kindergarten, pausing from drawing to smile, and during recess, first-graders Isabel Wilson and Jacqueline Lee pose below with stuffed animal Brittany the cat. See stories throughout this issue on Catholic schools in the diocese.

BY JIMMY ROSTAR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As a new year begins for students, the 17 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charlotte join with other Catholic schools nationwide in celebrating a yearlong theme: "Catholic Schools: Where Faith & Knowledge Meet."

"Whether in the chapel or classroom, the children and youth are reminded that each person is unique and valuable, that all have a promise hidden within them, that knowledge is integral to the living of faith, that studies are to lead to service," said Father James Hawker, vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

"Day after day, (teachers) stress to those in their care that expanding their knowledge and cultivating their skills are never ends in themselves," he said. "The discipline of learning is related directly to the devotion of living as a faith-filled child of God."

While the landscape and structure of the diocese's 17 schools may differ, they are united in one focus, said Dr. Michael Skube, diocesan superintendent of schools.

"Our schools have placed a maximum emphasis on the Catholic identity of the school and constantly emphasize it through programs and in everything we do at the school," he said.

"Attending a Catholic school also assists children to learn that the practice of religion is not just a private or family matter," Skube said. "A Catholic school says to the student, 'Our faith is meant to be carried into the everyday world and lived there."

The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) announced the theme this summer as part of a yearlong campaign to promote Catholic education.

Daniel Curtin, executive director of the NCEA's Chief Administrators of Catholic Education, said the theme of the campaign to illustrate Catholic school life underscores the importance of faith-based education.

"The new campaign message continues to celebrate the vital role Catholic schools play in our communities," said Curtin. "Our schools are a shining light in this country because we graduate individuals who are well-educated, good citizens and have a strong commitment to their faith."

More than 250 Catholic schools have opened in the past 10 years, including, most recently in this diocese, the new Bishop McGuinness High School in the Triad. Enrollment in Catholic schools has steadily increased, with a notable rise in early childhood programs, according to the NCEA.

The yearlong celebration of Catholic school identity will include Catholic Schools Week, to be observed Jan. 27-Feb. 2, 2002. National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools will be celebrated Jan. 30, 2002.

Dr. Veronica Bereen, principal of

SEE THEME, PAGE 18

CNS PHOTO BY DEBBIE HILL

Mother, children walk street in Beit Jalla

Iman Nicola Alam walks with her children near an Israeli tank outside her home in the West Bank town of Beit Jalla Aug. 29. Residents referred to the town as a war zone after Israeli armored vehicles moved in to curtail fire from Palestinian gunmen aiming at the Jewish settlement of Gilo.

Lay ministry programs form as well as inform, survey finds

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic lay ministry formation programs form their students spiritually while preparing them for ministry intellectually and pastorally, according to a national survey of directors of those programs. A summary of the results of the study, commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on Lay Ministry and conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, was sent to the bishops in August. "This report is a quite positive one," said Bishop Joseph P. Delaney of Fort Worth, Texas, chairman of the subcommittee. He said the results indicate "that spiritual formation is being taken very seriously by the programs that are preparing our future lay ecclesial ministers."

Women are called to fulfill unique role in church, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Old Testament story of a woman who saved the Jews from annihilation demonstrates that women are called to fulfill unique and important roles in God's plan, Pope John Paul II said. Speaking at his weekly general audience Aug. 29, the pope said the story of Judith also reveals God's inclination to use those who are considered weak to manifest his power. Vatican officials moved the audience into the blazing sunshine of St. Peter's Square to accommodate some 12,000 pilgrims from around the world. Summer audiences usually are held in the air-conditioned Paul VI Audience Hall.

Irish missionary shot dead by kidnappers in Philippines

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (CNS) — An Irish missionary was shot dead Aug. 28 while returning by motorcycle to his parish in the southern Philippines. Columban Father Rufus Halley, 57, was shot in the head when he refused to leave with three kidnappers from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, police told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. The son of a rebel commander has been implicated in the priest's death, police said. Father Halley was a parish priest in Malabang, about 500 miles southeast of Manila.

Austrian cardinal says tensions due to diverse nature of church

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — An ongoing discussion between Austria's laity and church officials represents the diversity among Catholics and not serious tensions among the hierarchy and laity, an Austrian cardinal said. "There's a great diversity of nations, cultures and even rites in the Catholic Church, and this is appropriate and even good," said Vienna Cardinal Christoph Schonborn during a late-August visit to Poland. "Diversity and differentiation are elements of the order of creation and belong in the church as well," the cardinal said. In an interview with Poland's Catholic Information Agency, KAI, Cardinal Schonborn said the Catholic Church faced "new challenges" all over Europe and should ensure the continent's "economic and political mechanisms" were backed by a secure "cultural and religious identity."

Downpour greets day of prayer for rain in West Texas

SAN ANGELO, Texas (CNS) — The drought in West Texas was hurting crops and community water supplies, so Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo decided it was time to appeal to a higher authority. On Aug. 10 he wrote to San Angelo Mayor Rudy Izzard and 22 other mayors in the region asking them to declare Sunday, Aug. 26, a day of prayer for rain. He also wrote to all Catholic parishes in the diocese asking them to offer special prayers that day. The local weather forecast Aug. 25 was hot and sunny with only a slight chance of rain. But a storm front moved down from Oklahoma during the night, and heavy rains hit San Angelo between 2 and 3 a.m. Aug. 26. The day's rainfall officially measured .94 inches, nearly doubling the city's total for the whole month.

Lectionary volumes renumbered; two volumes to become four

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the new weekday Lectionary for the United States comes out, the traditional numbering of the entire set of Lectionary books will be changed. The Lectionary contains the Scripture readings for Masses throughout the year. The August newsletter of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Liturgy reported that the bishops' conference has issued publishing licenses for the recently approved weekday Lectionary "and publication is anticipated before the first-use date of Ash Wednesday, 2002." The newsletter noted that traditionally the Lectionary has been published in two volumes. "Due to the large amount of text, what was previously referred to as Volume 2 will be published in three separate books, bringing to four the total number of volumes in the Lectionary for Mass," the newsletter said.

After apartheid, xenophobia emerges as new South African scourge

DURBAN, South Africa (CNS) — Some seven years after the collapse of apartheid, a new form of racism has emerged in South Africa, affecting immigrants from other African countries. Refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants have been victimized by various forms of racism, from rude comments to violent attacks, said participants in the World Conference Against Racism's forum for nongovernmental organizations. "A lot of the discrimination and xenophobic attacks in South Africa are against other Africans," Rachael Reilly, director of refugee policy for the New York-based Human Rights Watch, told a workshop organized by the International Catholic Migration Commission.

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Episcopal calendar

Bishop William G. Curlin will take part in the following events:

September 15 — 12:45 p.m.
Speaker at diocesan Justice and
Peace Conference
St. Paul the Apostle, Greensboro

September 16 — 11 a.m.
Installation of Father James Hawker as pastor
St. Luke, Charlotte

4 p.m.
Rosary Makers' Mass
St. Patrick, Charlotte

September 20-23
NACDLGM Conference

September 22 — 6 p.m.
NACDLGM Eucharistic celebration with
Bishop Walter Sullivan
St. Peter, Charlotte

Diocesan planner

September

9 CHARLOTTE — A charismatic Mass will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1621 Dilworth Rd. East, this afternoon at 4 p.m. with prayer teams at 3 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. in the school cafeteria. For further information, contact Josie Backus at (704) 527-4676.

10 CHARLOTTE — A bereavement support group facilitated by Ruth Posey, CSS counselor, for those grieving the death of a loved one will begin tonight from 6-7:30 p.m. and will continue every Monday in the family room of St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. For further information, call (704) 370-3238 or the church office at (704) 364-5431.

11 CHARLOTTE — The St. Gabriel Church Arthritis Support and Education group will meet every second Tuesday of the month from Sept.-May from 10-11 a.m. in Room D of the parish ministry center located at 3016 Providence Rd. This month's program will focus on fibromyalgia and Oct.'s program will be focus on strength training for fall prevention. For further details, call (704) 362-5047, Ext. 217.

12 CHARLOTTE — The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Church, 8451 Idlewild Rd., will be conducting a meeting this morning at 11 a.m. with a program and lunch in the parish center. Donations are being accepted during the meeting. For more information, call Louise Brewer at (704) 366-9592 or Gloria Silipigni at (704) 821-1343.

12 CHARLOTTE — A session for those who are grieving and those who are in bereavement ministry entitled "Grief as Rehabilitation" will be held at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd., tonight from 7-8:30 p.m. in the parish ministry center. In this session Larry Dawalt will review different impacts of loss, ways to create a grief rehabilitation plan and setting realistic goals for the grief process. For details, call the church office at (704) 364-5431.

14 CHARLOTTE — A renewal confer-

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

Brothers carry casket of priest killed in Phillippines

Brothers of Irish Father Rufus Halley carry his casket during funeral services in the Philippine city of Cagayan de Oro Sept. 1. The Columban priest was shot and killed Aug. 28 in the Philippines when he refused to go with three kidnappers from an Islamic rebel group.

Vatican accepts bishops' decision on U.S. confirmation age

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican has accepted the U.S. bishops' decision to set the normal age range for conferring confirmation "between the age of discretion and about 16 years of age." Within that range, each bishop can set a more specific policy in his own diocese. In the Diocese of Charlotte, policy states the sacrament of confirmation should be conferred by the end of a child's eighth-grade school year. The age of discretion is usually considered to be about 7. Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, communicated Rome's action to the U.S. bishops in late August and decreed that the new U.S. norm will take effect July 1, 2002. It changes the current temporary norm, which is to confirm children ordinarily between the age of discretion and about 18. The norm affects only the Latin Church in the United States.

Announcement of embryonic stem-cell lines prompts new controversy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New controversy over human embryonic stem cells broke out after the federal National Institutes of Health said Aug. 27 that it had identified 64 stem-cell lines eligible for use in federally funded research. Researchers at Goteborg University in Sweden, identified as having 19 of those lines, said only three were ready for research. Officials at some laboratories named by NIH said their stem-cell lines are currently ready to be used for research, but others said some or all of their lines still need further testing or analysis before they can be made available for research. Four of the labs identified are in the United States, two each in Sweden and India, and one each in Australia and Israel.

Pope discusses elderly, disabled, immigrants with Rome mayor

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II discussed the problems of the elderly, the disabled and immigrants in Rome during a private meeting with the city's mayor, Walter Veltroni. Veltroni, a leader of Italy's Democratic Party of the Left, spoke with the pontiff for 30 minutes Aug. 30 at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome. Veltroni told reporters afterward that the talks focused on the social conditions of the most vulnerable groups in the Eternal City. "We spoke in particular about the loneliness of the elderly, the problems of families with disabled children and the type of welcome given immigrants," he said.

Pro-life ad campaign faces problems in Philadelphia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The city of Philadelphia was refusing to allow a scheduled display of bus shelter advertisements for a new "second look" campaign about abortion. The Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had planned to launch the "Second Look Project" in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey Sept. 4. The campaign was to use a combination of ads on five radio stations, signs inside buses and trains, and posters at 34 bus shelters around the city. But a few days before the campaign was to be announced Aug. 28, the secretariat was notified by the city that the posters would not be permitted because they were considered controversial and because "issue ads" are prohibited, said Cathleen Cleaver, spokeswoman for the secretariat.

Scientific researchers must answer to moral limits, pope says

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope John Paul II warned that scientific researchers must answer to the moral limits of good and evil, not just to the financial laws of the free market. Unless science is carried out with a sense of service to humanity, its advances can become the focus of "competitive bidding" that places financial gain above the common good, he told a group of Polish university rectors Aug. 30. Speaking in the courtyard of his summer residence outside Rome, the pope said globalization had helped increase the risk of "unhealthy rivalry" among scientific researchers, fueled by financial ambition.

Australia church agency calls for acceptance of asylum seekers

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council has called on the government to allow entry of more than 430 asylum seekers stranded on a freighter off Christmas Island. Australia should receive the asylum seekers because the country "has a special duty to extend hospitality to those in need or danger," said Bishop William Morris of Toowoomba, acting chairman of the council. "There are over 50,000 illegal residents in Australia. Our infrastructure has coped with these people. Surely, we can cope with 400 people in need," Bishop Morris said in an Aug. 31 statement. The 433 mostly Afghan refugees have been stranded on the Norwegian freighter Tampa since Aug. 26, after being rescued from a sinking Indonesian boat.

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ence, sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Service Team of the Diocese of Charlotte, will be returning to Charlotte area thoday and tomorrow at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 1400 Suther Rd., with liturgies and music from the Perpetual Hope Gospel Choir of Our Lady of Consolation Church in Charlotte and Rev. Mr. Keith Kolodziej. Father Patsy Iaquinta, chairman of the National Service Committee of the Renewal, and Dr. Richard Collings from the Share God's Love ministry of Greensboro will be presenting at the conference. For more information, call (336) 760-1110 or e-mail jmanna@triad.rr.com.

14 HOT SPRINGS — Mercy Sister Soledad Aquilo will be presenting "Beads, Beads, Beads," a weekend retreat for women focusing on bead jewelry as a way to express one's spirit and prayer, today through Sept. 16 at the Jesuit House of Prayer, 289 NW Hwy 25/70. The weekend begins at 7 p.m. tonight and closes at 11:45 a.m. Sept. 16 after the liturgy. For more details, call (828) 622-7366 or e-mail vpaul@madison.main.nc.us.

14 MAGGIE VALLEY — All are invited to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center, 103 Living Waters Lane, for an ecumenical experience with Dr. Barbara Nelson, an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She will explore the interpersonal relationship between God and the individual through dreams, prayer, meditation and contemplation. For further explanation, call the center at (828) 926-3833.

16 CHARLOTTE — St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., is hosting its Christian Coffeehouse tonight from 7-9 p.m. Join parishioners and others for spiritual messages with live Christian contemporary music provided by Kathy and David with Redeemed, fellowship and refreshments. Proceeds will benefit Brian Couture who recently had liver transplant surgery. For further information, group reservations and sponsorship opportunities, call Kathy Bartlett at
(704) 614-9100.

17 CHARLOTTE — The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 1 Mecklenburg County-St. Brigid, an Irish-Catholic social and charitable inter-parish group, will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. Anyone interested in exploring their Irish-Catholic roots, call Jeanmarie Schuler at (704) 554-0720 for further information.

20 CHARLOTTE — The women's Cursillo weekend will take place today through Sept. 23 at St. Matthew Church, 8015 Ballantyne Pkwy., with the closing occurring at 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 23For more information, call Aliceann Coon at (704) 540-8696 or Dan Hines at (704) 544-6665.

23 CHARLOTTE — The Pathfinders, a separated and divorced peer support group, welcomes all to a 10th anniversary Mass with Father Richard Bellow today at 2:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall where participants can learn more about the group. For details, call Nancy Cardo at (704) 752-0318.

23 GREENSBORO — Tom Franzak, a contemporary Christian musician, will bring "Saints: In Their Own Words," his musical celebration, to St. Pius X Church, 2210 N. Elm St, today at 3 p.m. The proceeds from this presentation, sponsored by the Franciscan Players, will benefit local charities in the Triad area. Call Irene Czarnomski at (336) 855-9001 or e-mail iczarnomski@prodigy.net for ticket reservations.

24 CHARLOTTE — A support group meeting for caregivers of family and friends suffering from Alzheimer's/ dementia will be held today from 10-11:15 a.m. in room E of the ministry center at St. Gabriel Church, 3016 Providence Rd. With advanced notification, activities for the memory-impaired are also being provided. For more information about the support group or the non-profit Shining Stars Adult Day Respite Program for the memory-impaired, which meets every Monday and Wednesday and beginning on Sept. 13, on a third day offered at Sardis Presbyterian Church, call Suzanne Bach at (704) 376-4135.

Please submit notices of events for the Diocesan Planner at least 10 days prior to the publication date.

Saint Leo teachers bolster skills in summer workshops

By SUSAN deGUZMAN
Correspondent

WINSTON-SALEM — As school rolled to a close and summer break began last June, many teachers from St. Leo the Great Catholic School in Winston-Salem put their vacations on hold to attend a variety of enrichment workshops.

The middle-school math and science teachers attended a science workshop, and two of the primary grade teachers attended a workshop in mathematics. Four teachers from both the primary and middle grades attended one in computers.

Hands-on laboratory experiments in food chemistry, polymers, chemical reactions and probeware technology were the focus of "Operation Chemistry," a two-week science workshop funded by the Eisenhower Group.

The workshop was held at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

In its second year, the workshop was broken into two groups, OpChemI and OpChemII. St. Leo math teacher Pat Mathews explained that OpChemI, for first-year students, taught a lot of hands-on laboratory work. Most interesting to Mathews was the utilization of graphing calculators in conjunction with laboratory technology.

Given a stipend of $150 each, Mathews and fellow science teacher Mythily Isaac, who attended OpChemII, pooled their money to purchase a lab probe. The lab probe can be hooked up to graphing calculators, a set of which Mathews received last year through the school's Parent/Teacher Organization funds.

Mathews is excited to teach her students about measuring temperature and motion with the new equipment, as well, she says, "to incorporate some math and science lessons together (with Isaac) from the information and technology we acquired through the workshop."

OpChemII focused on nutrition. Isaac reports, "There was a lot of food chemistry in OpChemII. It will help me teach the children about calories and how to read food labels."

Isaac received a 1,000-page binder filled with activities and procedures for the classroom in addition. Another part of the OpChemII curriculum required each participant to plan and teach a day's lesson to the OpChemI students. Isaac says of the program, "Every year I learn a lot. It's wonderful."

OpChemII students also took part in a one-and-a-half day session with NASA scientists where they were asked to evaluate how a new design-engineering program would work with middle school students. The teachers performed mock teaching sessions and experiments of the program, "Earth to Orbit," which is sponsored by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Education Programs.

Isaac hopes that the Eisenhower Group will be able to secure funding next year. The organizers feel it would be valuable to offer a third session, OpChemIII, for the returning students.

A final requirement of both workshops will be presentations by each teacher at the North Carolina Science Teachers' Association Conference in November.

First- and second-grade teachers Sister of St. Joseph Emma Yondura and Wendy Piazza gained many new ideas from the workshop entitled "Mathematics Their Way."

Piazza tells that she learned activities to teach sorting, patterning, comparing and graphing. She also learned how use everyday materials to enhance these skills with the students.

She says, "It inspired me to utilize the things I already have or can easily gather in new ways."

Piazza found information about patterning to be most insightful. "The more that children work with patterns, the better problem-solvers they most likely will be," she said. "Kids who do more patterns tend to stick with problem-solving questions, particularly when they are difficult, for a longer period than those who haven't done as much patterning."

Other areas covered in the workshop were free exploration (how letting kids first approach new materials by seeing and playing with them is beneficial), measuring, money, number operations and place value.

Piazza and Sister Emma also learned many fun games to play with the children to teach these skills and received numerous materials, as well as the course book, which contains a multitude of pictures and exercises.

Four other teachers attended a weeklong computer class offered by Forsyth Technical Institute in Winston-Salem.

Middle-school teacher Mary Lou Schline, fourth- and fifth-grade teachers Patty Eiffe and Beth Newton, and French teacher Karyn Galiger learned how to use their classroom IBM compatible PC's with greater efficiency, which will be particularly helpful with grading work. They also learned the Power Point program to aid with presentations.

St. Leo's has a computer connected to a television monitor in each of its classrooms. Eiffe explained, "A parent helped me with a science presentation on the body last year. She brought in a MRI (magnetic resonance image) on disk, plugged it into the computer, and showed it to the class on the monitor. It was very interesting."

Each computer is also connected to a main system run from the library. The school utilizes this technology to broadcast live addresses by student council officers to the homerooms every month. The administration also used this system for the first time this year to present information to parents at their opening meeting.

Another extremely beneficial advance has been the connection of each of these computers to the library catalogue. During the summer of 2000 the majority of the library was inventoried on computer, a huge project accomplished by librarian Christine Hurley. The remainder was completed this past summer.

Eiffe explains that all her students last year had learned how to use the computer to search for library books right from the classroom.

In addition, each computer is connected to the Internet for the teachers' uses. The school principal, Georgette Schraeder, hopes that one benefit of this will be easier staff communication as teachers will be able to e-mail her and each other directly from their classrooms. The credit for these technological accomplishments goes to the foresight and planning of the school's Parent/Teacher Technology Committee and Schraeder. It is also due to many fundraising efforts, including Book Fair profits and private donations. Much co-operation, time and a long-term effort enabled this progress.

Statement of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students and Personnel

Schools in the Diocese of Charlotte, mindful of their primary mission as effective instruments of the education ministry of the church, and witnesses to the love of Christ for all persons, shall not discriminate on athe basis of race, color, sex, age, physical condition, national or ethnic origin in the employment of personnel and administration of the educational policies, admission policies, loan programs, athletic and other school-administered programs.

Dr. Michael Skube
Superintendent of Schools

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Student leaders discuss ethics during orientation week

By CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

ARLINGTON, Va. (CNS) — During orientation week, more than 100 student leaders at Marymount University in Arlington discussed a lot more than upcoming events on campus.

Instead, the group — which included athletic team captains, residence hall advisers and leaders of campus student organizations — took on some of the ethical questions students might face during the year.

"How will you respond to the freshman who asks you, 'Who are the toughest professors in the English department and should I avoid taking classes with them?'" Jason King, assistant professor of theology and religion, asked the group.

"Any time you're asked an 'ought,' or 'ought not,' that's about ethics," he said.

The ethics seminar was taught by professors who work with the university's Center for Ethical Concerns, which also sponsors a faculty ethics seminar each spring to examine ways to incorporate ethical issues in the curricula.

The seminar for student leaders aims to support them in their role as informal advisers to underclassmen. A number of the student participants also assist faculty members in presenting ethical case studies during a fall ethics seminar that freshmen are required to take.

Marymount's president, James Bundschuh, described the orientation week seminar as a "cram-course review" of the freshman seminar on ethics.

During the 90-minute program, students were told that the working definition of ethics is "the critical reflection on the moral meaning of an action."

"That means you can't resolve an ethical dilemma simply by what feels right. Feelings change, after all," said Robert Draghi, professor of theology and religion and first holder of the school's John S. McDonnell Jr. endowed chair of ethics.

Draghi told students there were some basic principles involved in this kind of "critical reflection," including equal respect for persons, preservation of community, and the development of a person's character.

Giving more weight to some principles over others will lead to different solutions to a given dilemma, students discovered.

The students debated three cases — a freshman writing assignment on a topic some students find morally objectionable; students protesting a required seminar on contemporary social problems; and the issue of student overload.

The overload topic presented the common dilemma of a student who lacks the time to study for exams, report to a campus job, compete on the swim team, and go out on a date.

"I would try to remind the student of why he came to college in the first place," said Kristy Davis, a senior. "The student's girlfriend should understand his studies come first. I guess I'm suggesting he put character growth and community first."

"But his swim team is counting on him," said another student. "So even trying to be responsible about his homework, he's still going to let some people down."

"Exactly," King replied. "And those are the kinds of choices we face all the time, aren't they?" he told the group.

He suggested that by becoming more conscious of ethics and critically reflecting on the principles served by different choices, students will better navigate the many demands of college life.

In brief. . . .

Greensboro Council of Catholic Women Fall Luncheon

GREENSBORO — The Greensboro Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies to its Fall Luncheon at the Greensboro Country Club Pavilion Sept. 26 at noon. The speaker will be Franciscan Father Louis Canino, director of the Franciscan Center. For information on how to support the luncheon and council, directions and the Sept. 21 registration deadline, call Janet Law at (336) 288-6022.

Catholic Relief Services Program

MORGANTON — All are invited to St. Charles Borromeo Church, 714 West Union St., on Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. for presentations, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Justice and Peace, on the advocacy and educational initiatives entitled "Africa Rising: Hope to Healing" from Catholic Relief Services and "Africa: Hunger to Harvest" from Bread for the World. These initiatives are a joint effort to focus renewed U.S. attention and development assistance on Africa and raise awareness on both the needs and opportunities in Africa. Materials to facilitate parish involvement in these initiatives will be provided. Call Joe Purello, diocesan director, at (704) 370-3225 or Linda Franks at (704) 370-3231 for more information.

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Pope, screening 'Quo Vadis,' says believers can learn from past

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hosting the world premiere of "Quo Vadis," a major Polish film about Christian persecution in Roman times, Pope John Paul II said contemporary believers have much to gain by recalling their forebears' ordeals. "It's necessary to return to that drama to give birth to the question: Does something of that drama take place in me?" the pope said at the end of the Aug. 30 viewing, attending by 6,000 guests in the Paul VI audience hall. The pope said the movie's title — a Latin phrase attributed to St. Peter, meaning "Where are you going?" — should prompt modern Christians to ask the question of themselves. "Are you going toward Christ, or are you following other paths that carry you far from him and yourself?" he said.

'It's a Miracle' host says skepticism on miracles has dissipated

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — After three years of hosting "It's a Miracle," actor Richard Thomas says his skepticism about miracles has dissipated. Not that he didn't believe in miracles. But Thomas didn't know whether viewers were "really interested in an hour's worth of good news." The fact that "It's a Miracle" is going into its fourth season and is the longest-running original series on the fledgling Pax network's lineup gives evidence that Americans indeed like good news. "The word 'miracle' of course is complicated. You know, it can be highly circumscribed to a specific definition," Thomas told TV writers in Hollywood. "For the purposes of our show, if the people to whom these stories happen consider them a miracle, then that's what they are, as far as I'm concerned."

New U.S. ambassador to Holy See arrives to take up post

FIUMICINO, Italy (CNS) — The newly appointed U.S. ambassador to the Holy See arrived in Rome in late August, pledging his government's commitment to work with the Vatican in promoting freedom, justice and peace in the world. In a low-key reception in the VIP lounge of Leonardo da Vinci Airport outside Rome Aug. 30, Jim Nicholson told reporters he felt "delighted" and "privileged" to be representing the United States at the Holy See. Nicholson, a 63-year-old Catholic, and his wife, Suzanne, were welcomed by U.S. Embassy staff and a Vatican diplomatic official, Msgr. William V. Millea.

CNS PHOTO BY BILL WITTMAN

Young people enjoy World Youth Day Expo

Young people enjoy a performance at the World Youth Day Expo at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto Aug. 29. It was one of many events the World Youth Day 2002 organization is sponsoring leading up to the international Catholic youth festival in Toronto in late July next year.

Cardinal Maida bags first-ever hole-in-one

NORTHVILLE, Mich. (CNS) — Aug. 27 began as a typical day for Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit. He started with early-morning meetings at his residence, moved on to a television studio for a special interview program, traveled across town to celebrate Mass for a deceased brother priest, and then headed west to the suburb of Northville for a charity golf outing. Playing alongside a foursome in a Catholic Youth Organization fund-raiser at the Northville Golf Club, Cardinal Maida made a hole-in-one on the eighth hole. The eighth hole is a par 3, 125 yards. "Never had one in 50 years of playing golf," Cardinal Maida said. "It was a great thrill."

Bishop Aquila ordained as coadjutor bishop of Fargo

FARGO, N.D. (CNS) — Bishop Samuel J. Aquila stepped into his role as coadjutor bishop of Fargo during a solemn ordination ceremony that also highlighted the down-home friendliness of North Dakota Catholics. Bishop Aquila was ordained Aug. 24 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo. More than 700 priests, religious and invited guests filled the cathedral for the ceremony. Overflow crowds of 100 in the cathedral basement and 250 at First Lutheran Church across the street from the cathedral watched a video simulcast. Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul and Minneapolis presided and gave the homily, and Bishop James S. Sullivan of Fargo and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver, where then-Msgr. Aquila had been rector of St. John Vianney Seminary, served as co-consecrators.

Vatican: Milingo meets with Korean wife to say he's leaving her

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo met the Korean woman he married in May to say he was leaving her, the Vatican announced. In a statement late Aug. 29, the Vatican said the archbishop gave 43-year-old Maria Sung a letter telling her, "My commitment in the life of the church, through celibacy, does not permit me to be married. "The church's call to me to return to my first commitment is right," he said in the letter, which the Vatican released. The two were married May 27 in a New York hotel ceremony performed by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

Bishop vows to bring Iraq sanctions issue to full body of bishops

NEW YORK (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit said Aug. 29 that he would insist on getting attention for the issue of Iraq sanctions at the general meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops this November. In an interview in New York, he said he had submitted a proposed resolution for consideration as a "varium" under a special procedure of the bishops' conference that allows individual bishops to seek action without going through the normal committee process. If the bishops' Administrative Committee does not agree to put the resolution on the agenda, he will consider bringing supporters to the meeting site for a protest action outside demanding attention to the issue, Bishop Gumbleton said. "I'm determined," he said.

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Parents, teachers key in passing on faith to children, speaker says at CSO training session

By JIMMY ROSTAR
Associate Editor

The Gospel challenge of authentic moral living is one of vital importance to parents, teachers and the children whom they raise and teach, an expert on Catholic family life told religion teachers in the Diocese of Charlotte's Catholic schools.

The vice president of Benziger publishers, Irene Murphy speaks to teachers nationwide about the catechesis for the contemporary Catholic family. She addressed all of the Charlotte Diocese's religion teachers in Charlotte Aug. 15 and in Greensboro Aug. 16.

During a presentation filled with prayer and reflections, Murphy shared insights on the "Benziger Family Life" program designed by that widely used publisher of catechetical materials.

Murphy said the basic challenge for all principals and teachers in Catholic schools is to bring an honest love for God into the school community — to "enkindle that passion and that love for the Lord, that you go and you share with the ones who are sent to you this year, whether you are a beginning teacher or you have been teaching for many years."

She explained the family life program, which is taught in the Diocese of Charlotte, as a comprehensive moral catechesis for students from kindergarten through the eighth grade. The program is designed to reflect the teaching of the church documents the "Catechism of the Catholic Church," "The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality" and "The Gospel of Life."

The newest edition of the program is based on the moral principles described in the catechism.

Murphy urged the teachers to continually educate themselves in those church documents that are the foundation of the program "so that you become knowledgeable yourself in relationship to what the church teaches" and that "you become informed about the church in teaching religion and (understanding) the importance of family life education."

The program weaves five themes — God's gifts of family, self, life, love and community — through subjects taught in each grade. More than a human-sexuality or parent-education program, its designers say the family life program fosters partnerships between the parish, the school and the family.

Photo by Jimmy Rostar

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, left, chats with Irene Murphy, far right, and St. Gabriel School religion teachers Ted Morgan and Jamie Suddreth in Charlotte.

"Benziger Family Life" incorporates church-grounded explanations that answer children's questions — from basic themes such as adult authority and family traditions, to more complex subjects like sexual abstinence and substance abuse.

"We have to give our young people the truth — what it means, the importance of the solid value system that the church, that the parents, that the schools can give to help a young person in terms of questions that are definitely in their young minds," said Murphy.

John Stack

To do that effectively, Murphy reiterated the need for educators to be strong witnesses of Christ to all they encounter — especially in the classroom.

"Compare this room to a library, and each of us as a book," she told her audience in Charlotte. "For all of us in the book of our life, the beginning chapters are written and over. ... The last chapters are yet to be written for all of us.

"Fill that book of your life with the positive gifts that God has given you. When you do that, if you are a principal, it will spill over to the teachers that you are with. It will spill over to the parents.

"For the teachers, it will spill over to all those youngsters who are given to you to guide and watch this year."

Also addressing teachers at the gatherings was John Stack, national field consultant for publisher William H. Sadlier, Inc.

Stack offered a lively presentation on how educators can connect with students based on life experiences. He suggested devoting some classroom time to such methods as storytelling, puppetry, the use of props and models, and other creative means.

Those methods, he said, can lead to students' reacting to lessons more personally and making what they learn part of themselves.

The Aug. 15 and 16 in-service sessions were part of an ongoing series of training sessions presented by the Religious Education Office of the diocesan Catholic Schools Office.

Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for diocesan schools here, invites nationally recognized speakers to address a range of educational issues throughout the school year.

She said the training sessions supplement the diocese's official guidelines for religion curriculum from kindergarten through eighth grade.

"Our hope is that educators will find these guidelines and sessions helpful and productive as they plant the seeds of Gospel values in the minds and hearts of their students as a guide for their journey in life," she said.

Contact Associate Editor Jimmy Rostar by calling (704) 370-3334 or e-mail jtrostar@charlottediocese.org

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Students study technological world at Salisbury school

By BETTE BARTHOLOMEW
Correspondent

SALISBURY — When you walk into the Computer Academy of Sacred Heart School in Salisbury these days, you might just see students rummaging through a heap of parts that are the innards of a computer.

Computer literacy is being taught grades Pre-K through 8. One particular class will be expected within two weeks to identify, by name, the parts which will be passed around the room. Having examined the parts in relation to the inside of a computer, the students will also be able to identify their position within the computer and explain their function.

They will then begin repairing and upgrading some of the computers which have been donated to the school by industry as well as individuals.

As of this month, the school has received 48 computers which have been upgraded to state-of-the-art. Twenty are now in operation throughout the Sacred Heart complex. They are being used in the rectory, as well as the classrooms.

For the cost of approximately $100 per computer, thousands of dollars have been saved — and a more efficient operation has been achieved.

Teachers are using them for immediate updated information in the science and social science fields. Kathleen Miller, principal, was asked a question in her religion class. To make sure that she had updated information, she asked her student teacher assistant to look it up on the computer. The answer was in her hand almost immediately.

Being able to work out lesson plans, as well as having the latest research on any given subject, also excites teachers. Students are pleased with frequent grade averaging and graphs — all done by the computer.

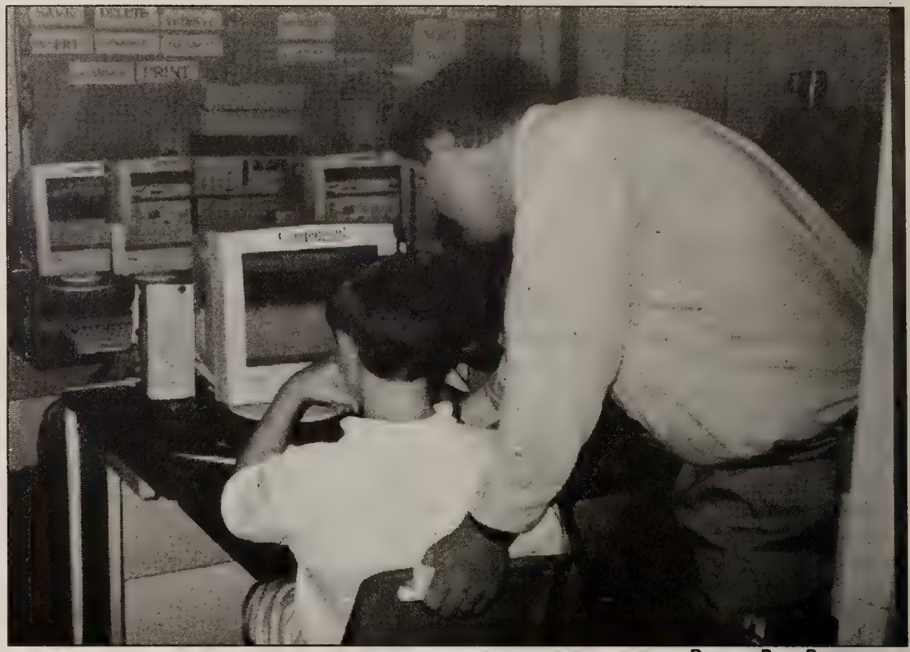
Journalism students are using technology to put out a school newspaper, and to establish a Web page. Teacher assistants, during their elective subject period, are assisting teachers with current information by using the computer.

Last spring, rectory employees, teachers and a few parents upgraded their computer skills under the tutelage of Charles Patton. Patton had a most unusual opportunity as a high school student at Oak Ridge High School in Orlando, Fla. NASA chose that high school to install a large computer lab strategically located on the Bee Highway — a straight line from Cape Canaveral, now Kennedy Center.

Patton learned a great deal by sheer osmosis as he observed some very sophisticated operations. And he was taken far beyond the computer operating stage, to uses and inventions.

Kathleen Miller decided to ask Charles Patton to set up a lab and to teach computer skills. Together, they decided on a program approach. And Shawn Villalpandol, assistant instructor, helped to rework the lab.

"Our goal is to develop vocational skills as well as communication skills, which will carry students through high school and college as well as life," said Miller. "To participate in these and more electives a student must exhibit professional behavior. We anticipate bringing our students to a high school equivalency testing level. We find the behavior patterns changing pleasantly throughout the entire school."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Lay ministry programs form as well as inform, survey finds

By **JERRY FILTEAU**
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic lay ministry formation programs form their students spiritually while preparing them for ministry intellectually and pastorally, according to a national survey of directors of those programs.

A summary of the results of the study, commissioned by the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on Lay Ministry and conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, was sent to the bishops in August.

"This report is a quite positive one," said Bishop Joseph P. Delaney of Fort Worth, Texas, chairman of the subcommittee.

He said the results indicate "that spiritual formation is being taken very seriously by the programs that are preparing our future lay ecclesial ministers."

"On average, respondents estimate that approximately one-third of a candidate's time is devoted to spiritual formation activities," said the CARA report on the study.

It said the program directors most often cited prayer as one of the most important elements in their candidates' spiritual formation, with theological reflection also high on the list.

Other elements most frequently cited as most important were experience of a sense of community, retreats and development of a healthy sense of self.

Diocesan, college and seminary-sponsored programs are more likely to require formation directors and spiritual directors as part of their program, while independent and clinical pastoral education programs are far more likely to focus on mentoring approaches, the report said.

Currently there are more than 300 professional Catholic lay ministry formation programs in the United States. They have a combined enrollment in excess of 35,000 — about 10 times the number of seminarians in post-college studies and 13 times the number of men in deacon formation programs.

The CARA study was based on a 117-item questionnaire sent to directors of 323 lay ministry formation programs. CARA received 207 completed questionnaires, a 64 percent response rate.

More than 70 percent of respondents said their program includes a "formal spiritual formation component." More than half said their program included a screening process to assess a candidate's spiritual readiness for the program, and 28 percent said they had a formal process to assess the spiritual formation of their students.

Bishop Delaney said the responses indicate that "these programs recognize and act on their responsibility to go beyond academic formation and address the fuller, spiritual development of the person."

Of the programs represented in the survey, 89 were diocesan, 62 were in a college or university, 25 were in a seminary or theological school, 11 were independent, and 11 were clinical pastoral education programs.

Some respondents did not name or identify the type of program they had; the study included their responses in the general analysis but excluded them when comparing different types of programs.

The program directors reported that two qualities particularly characteristic of candidates coming into their formation programs were commitment to the person of Jesus Christ and a desire to serve others.

Other qualities ranking close behind were commitment to the Catholic Church and a sense of personal call.

On a four-point scale of "very much," "somewhat," "only a little" and "not at all," from 93 to 98 percent of the directors described their incoming candidates as having those qualities "very much" or at least "somewhat."

The responses indicated that candidates advance significantly in those and other areas of personal and spiritual development as they go through their formation.

Only 54 percent of directors described their incoming candidates as "very much" committed to Christ, but 85 percent described their graduating students that way.

Similarly, 62 percent rated incoming candidates as "very much" having a desire to serve others; 84 percent rated their graduating students that way.

Fewer than 10 percent of directors ranked incoming students high ("very much") on a number of qualities important to ministry, including their commitment to social justice and their ability to articulate personal faith experiences, to invite others to a life of faith, to engage in discernment, or to reflect theologically.

By contrast, depending on the item, from 42 percent to 75 percent of directors described their program graduates as having those qualities "very much."

On the ability to reflect theologically, one of the chief academic goals of formation programs, only 2 percent of directors said incoming students already had that quality "very much," 63 percent thought their graduates were "very much" able to reflect theologically, and 97 percent thought graduates could do so at least "somewhat."

The bishops' Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth has posted the full CARA report on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Web site, www.usccb.org.

For details on the Diocese of Charlotte's lay ministry program, call Mercy Sister Mary Timothy Warren at (704) 370-3213.

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(704)-370-3212
cmmcdermott@ charlottediocese.org

Directory of Campus and Young Adult Ministers

The following list comprises the contact information for campus and young adult ministers in the Diocese of Charlotte.

Colleen McDermott
Director of Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry,
Diocese of Charlotte
(704) 370-3212
e-mail: cmmcdermott@charlottediocese.org

Sister Antonette Schmidt, RSM
Spiritual Mentor Coordinator
(704) 370-3316
e-mail: aschmidt@charlottediocese.org

Kathy Bartlett
Director of Development for Campus and Young Adult Ministries
(704) 614-9100
kschwabent@aol.com

Appalachian State University
Dr. Sal Inglese, Campus Minister
(828) 264-7087
e-mail: ingleses@boone.net

Belmont Abbey College
Father Kieran Neilson, OSB, Campus Minister
(704) 829-7196
e-mail: jaralynntrellue@bac.edu

Bennett College
Alberta Hairston, Campus Minister
(336) 272-5868
e-mail: theahouse1@juno.com

Brevard College
James Gensch, Campus Minister
(828) 883-9572, (828) 883-4626
e-mail: gallivant@citcom.net

Catawba College
Lynda Cody, Local Parish Contact
(704) 633-0591
e-mail: lcody@vnet.net
Chris Beal, Associate Campus Minister

Davidson College
Barbara Bagnall, Campus Minister
(704) 894-2917
e-mail: BB195@aol.com

Gardner Webb University
David Carscaddon, Campus Contact
(704) 406-4437

Greensboro College
See UNCG

Guilford College
See UNCG

High Point University
Terry Aiken, Campus Minister
(336) 884-5352
e-mail: ihm@highpoint.net

Johnson C. Smith University and Barber-Scotia College
Nanette Lide, Parish Contact
(704) 536-2340

Lenoir-Rhyne College - Newman Center
Dr. Phillip Blosser, Campus Contact
(828) 328-7186, campus box 7228

Livingstone College
See Catawba College

Mars Hill College
St. Andrew the Apostle, local parish
(828) 689-3719

North Carolina A&T University
See Bennett College

North Carolina School of the Arts
See Wake Forest University

Salem College
See Wake Forest University

Wake Forest University
Father Jude DeAngelo, OFM Conv., Campus Minister
Julie Ostergaard, Associate Campus Minister
(336) 758-5018 (for Father DeAngelo)
e-mail: deangejt@wfu.edu (for Father DeAngelo)
(336) 758-4214 (for Julie Ostergaard)
e-mail: ostergjm@wfu.edu

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Gloria Schweizer, Campus Minister
(828) 293-9374
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UNC-Asheville
Wendy Murray, Campus Minister
(828) 250-3841
e-mail: wen_phil@ioa.com

UNC-Charlotte
Mary Wright, Campus Minister
(704) 547-4069

UNC-Greensboro
Douglas Campbell, Campus Minister
(336) 334-5548, (336) 334-4264
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New principal takes the helm at Immaculate Heart of Mary

By DENISE KASPER
Correspondent

HIGH POINT — Computers, hot lunch and an honor code are just some of the changes new principal Ned Forney has in store for Immaculate Heart of Mary School.

"This school has so much potential," Forney said. "It's different (than my last school); it has more of a community feeling."

Forney, 38, took over the position on July 1, and is just about settled in at the helm of the K-8 school. Having met one-on-one with all the teachers, and working with the staff all summer, Forney seems to be at home at the school.

"It's just a good fit," he said.

Forney replaced former principal Margene Wilkins, who left to go back to teaching. Before coming to IHM, Forney was the head of upper school at Westchester Academy in High Point, as well as a history teacher there. He says he welcomes the change to a smaller school, as well as the move from a non-religious to a Catholic school.

"I went to Catholic schools growing up and I taught Sunday school here," he said.

Teaching is where Forney started, and it's one of his first loves, so almost naturally, he's has found himself in front of a class, as well as behind a desk as the principal. Due to an irresolvable teacher scheduling conflict, Forney is teaching fourth-grade religion. The students have adapted well to his dual role, especially his 9-year-old daughter Marie, who is in the class.

"It's great, because she sees me every day," he said. Forney, who lives in High Point and attends Christ the King Church, also has a 12-year-old son Ben who attends Bishop McGuiness High School.

One of the first changes Forney made at the school was instituting a hot lunch program Tuesday through Friday. Students can still bring a bag lunch, but as another option, local restaurants provide hot meals for $3 each.

"I just think mealtime, especially as a Catholic, is important," he said. "I want to teach the students community (through prayer), nutrition and manners. It's a three-pronged attack."

Forney has also equipped the school with 16 laptop computers for the middle-school students, as well as a central network so students can go on line for research and other projects.

A former Citadel graduate and U.S. Marine, Forney also has plans to implement an honor code. Working with the student council on this project, he expects the code to be in place by the beginning of the next school year.

"I want to set up an honor code because I think it's really important," he said. "I want to teach kids that telling a white lie, forging a parent's signature and taking things to borrow them and not returning them — that these things are all a big deal."

Recognizing the difference between lower-grade students and middle-school students, he would like to amend the school discipline policies, creating a separate set of rules for students in lower grades than those in middle school grades 6-8.

"Middle-school students are more mature and should be held more responsible," Forney said. "I expect more out of them. I expect more immediate results."

Forney, who spends some Saturdays with his children helping young Hispanic children with math and English at his church, would like to create more community outreach at the school, especially to the growing Hispanic community. A summer mission program could also be in the works.

"I want the students to see we are the church of the world," he said. "The Catholic Church is all over world."

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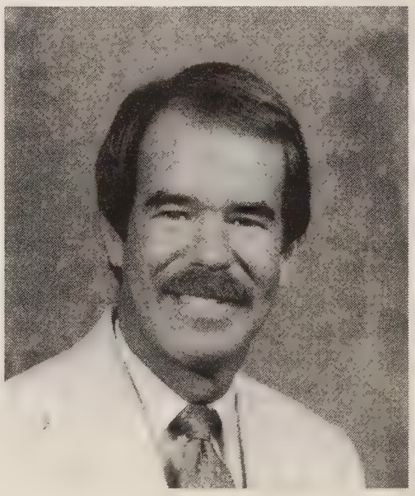
‘People are very excited’ about new BMHS facility, says principal

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

KERNERSVILLE — Students, faculty and staff have stepped into a new school year and have made their mark in a new facility. The smoke has cleared, and the nuts and bolts have been tightened as 400 students including 150 freshmen stretch their legs and minds across the recently built Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School campus, which extends over 44 acres.

Not only is the building new, but many different changes have taken place along with the switch in location, says George Repass, BMHS principal.


George Repass, BMHS principal

“We have seen significant growth over last year in terms of the number of students enrolled, and 400 students is what we had originally targeted. We have met our goal.”

A sign of that growth occurred when over 1,000 people gathered in the school this past August for a first glimpse for many of them during an orientation session of the school that has been the talk of the Piedmont-Triad area for months. The groundbreaking took place in February 2000.

“People are very excited, and we have received an extraordinary response from the public in general,” said Repass. “They have been very warm and welcoming; we have had so much support from everyone.”

Students can catch a few extra Z’s in the morning as the morning bell rings at 8:30 a.m. this year with the school day ending at 3:15 p.m. Repass says that there are a few reasons for the later start.

“Research has shown that adolescents need more sleep than they are getting in the early morning hours, and many of our students have to travel further now. Also, many of the kids have siblings that they drop off at other schools in the morning.”

Located on Highway 66, south of Interstate 40, the two-story building will be able to accommodate 800 students at its capacity, with a chapel seating 225 and a cafeteria seating 320. Amenities include a media center, music and art classrooms, computer labs, bookstore and athletic fields for baseball, soccer, track and field and softball.

The technical support and networking systems are what make the principal most proud. With color printers in every classroom and the Internet with firewall protection installed on every computer, Repass says that this means a new way of teaching for the school. “This type of technology is becoming the norm which presents a wonderful challenge that we are very eager and ready to meet. There is one computer per three students, which is a better ratio than the state or national standards of excellence.”

All are ready to cheer on the new varsity football team and to support the Fast Forward program, a college extension program from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Bishop William G. Curlin will bless the chapel and the school building on Sept. 30 with a general blessing at 7 p.m. The event will feature music and an academic convocation with speakers from the past and present.

“This new school will enable us to be a credit to the diocese above and beyond anything we’ve been able to do before,” said Repass. “The whole diocese can be proud.”

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NCEA’s assessment survey a vital tool, diocesan official says

WASHINGTON — How does a child’s relationship with God affect his or her development? How does prayer enhance his or her understanding of who God is?

These and other questions are answered in the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education, an assessment program of the National Catholic Educational Association.

The program helps Catholic educators survey students on religious knowledge, beliefs, perceptions, behaviors and practices of the Catholic faith.

“ACRE provides a systematic evaluation to assist, encourage and compare local results with diocesan and national trends,” said Mercy Sister Maureen Meehan, director of religious formation for the Diocese of Charlotte’s Catholic Schools Office.

The survey is a valuable resource, she said, because it “tracks student progress in religious knowledge and compares local results with diocesan and national trends, and assesses curricular needs and religious education program effectiveness.”

The survey also “applies data about students’ religious practices, relationships with their families and service opportunities to curricular emphasis,” Sister Maureen said.

The Diocese of Charlotte is among the 142 U.S. Catholic dioceses using the Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education, or ACRE. The student survey provides information on the effectiveness of catechetical and religious education programs in Catholic schools and parishes.

ACRE is also used in Canada.

Information from the ACRE reports aim at helping school, parish and diocesan leaders determine how well local and diocesan stated faith formation goals and objectives are being realized. More than 100,000 elementary and secondary students in church-operated schools and parish-based catechetical and religious education programs use NCEA’s student survey each year.

Newly revised and renamed as NCEA ACRE, the survey was delivered last month to school officials. After two years of revisions, the ACRE offers continuity with the previous edition while also providing new opportunities for student responses on themes highlighted in the “Catechism of the Catholic Church,” the “General Directory for Catechesis” and Catholic social teachings.

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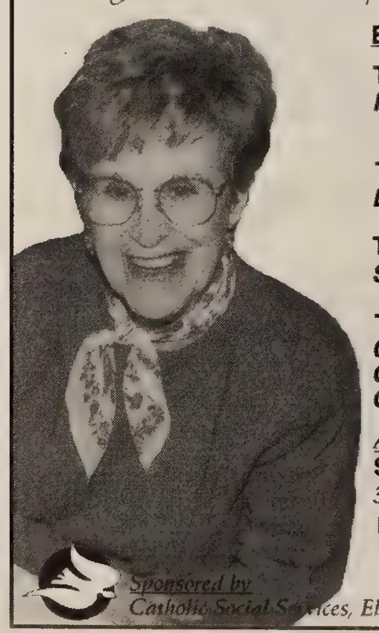
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Tuesday, Oct. 16th ***Senior Sensitivity***	*Bernadette Ford* *Gerontologist*
Tuesday, Oct. 23rd ***Confidentiality, Compliance, Consistency***	*Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, R.S.M.* *Pastoral Associate, St. Matthew*

All sessions will be held at:
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Book Review

Book on evolution integrates Darwin's theory and Christian thought

Reviewed by WAYNE A. HOLST
Catholic News Service

RESPONSES TO 101 QUESTIONS ON GOD AND EVOLUTION, **by John F. Haught. Paulist Press (New York, 2001). 143 pp., $12.95.**

"About 40 percent of American Christians still think evolutionary theory is inconsistent with belief in God, and their church leaders often officially support this opinion," says John F. Haught. Seminaries tend to do a poor job preparing ministers and religious instructors to meet the intellectual and spiritual needs of the scientifically educated.

Evolution is still too recent an idea for the world's great religious traditions to have fully digested. Yet, it is also apparent that an increasing number of informed believers want to know how evolution relates to religious faith.

"Responses to 101 Questions on God and Evolution" creatively integrates Darwin's evolutionary theory and Christian thought, offering essential building blocks for a theology of evolution. This book provides answers from a Christian perspective to questions coming not only from experts who have thought deeply about evolution, but also from nonexperts whose ideas about evolution may be casual and misinformed.

Haught, a Catholic theologian who teaches at Georgetown University in Washington, has spent his professional life studying issues in science and religion. His previous books on the subject include "Science and Religion: From Conflict to Conversion" (1996) and "God After Darwin: A Theology of Evolution" (2000). Using a question-and-answer format he gives concise, lucid insights from his work to date.

The current pope has done much to encourage a new rapprochement with Darwin, says Haught. "Too much time and energy is wasted trying to show that evolution is wrong." Religious believers should be asking whether our current understanding of God is too small to accommodate Darwin's world.

Charles Darwin, a British scientist, started to develop what came to be called his theory of "evolution" in the mid-19th century. Today that theory, modernized by genetics, biological science and other scientific disciplines, is stronger than ever.

Darwin's theory is remarkably simple. All forms of life descend by way of gradual modification over the course of time from a common ancestor. The explanation of this gradual modification, including the emergence of new species, is natural selection (the understanding that those organisms most able to adapt to their environments will be "selected" by nature to survive and to produce offspring).

It is the randomness, or chance factor, in natural selection that has long troubled Christians who have traditionally subscribed to the view that life in general and human life in particular were planned from all eternity because God is outside or above time.

Haught takes on religious creationism and intelligent design, advising that, instead of fighting chance evolutionary theory, Christians and other religious believers need to embrace it. When we do this, "it may turn out," Haught envisions, "that an appreciation of Darwin's revolution may considerably deepen and widen our understanding of God."

The author believes we need to develop other categories to express the religious intuition that we live in a meaningful universe. He borrows insights from Teilhard de Chardin, the priest, geologist and paleontologist, as well as the process philosopher Alfred North Whitehead, to focus on the "promise" rather than the "plan" inherent in nature.

Because "101 Questions" is a distillation of considerable thought, tested by the classroom and the lecture circuit, these tightly packed but mercifully short pieces may discourage the casual reader. The serious student will find much substance here and points for creative departure.

Haught offers a fresh view of God and the natural world in this mature reflection, by replacing the deity of static design and controlling power with the God of vulnerable self-giving love. For him, creation is not finished. The future of the cosmos is open.

Holst is a writer who has taught religion and culture at the University of Calgary.

Word to Life

September 9, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C Readings:
1) Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-17
2) Philemon 9-10, 12-17
3) Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

By DAN LUBY
Catholic News Service

The Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore in Florence, Italy, is one of the most beautiful in Europe. The prospect of a bird's-eye view of the interior and panoramic vistas of the Tuscan countryside makes a walk up the staircase to the observation porch atop the dome seem eminently doable. Before you commit yourself to the climb though, there are other things to consider.

Just inside the door the staircase narrows sharply. It's usually crowded and noisy. When you reach the dome itself, the stairs wind in a dizzying spiral.

The ceiling curves downward, requiring you to lean forward almost double. A too-tight belly pack is agony. A too-big backpack gets you stuck. Because the stairs only allow one-way traffic; the only way down is to go all the way up and descend by another staircase. For the hardiest, most eager climber, it's taxing; for the claustrophobic, the sore backed, the easily discouraged, it's a painful ordeal.

I've never met anyone who didn't find the trials of the ascent worth the beauty that rewarded them at the top. But many climbers, when things get tough, regret their decision and want to go back. A few, through fright or cussedness, turn around and bull their way through a rising tide of fellow climbers, escaping the rigors of the journey altogether.

The path of discipleship is like climbing the dome in Florence. Jesus reminds his enthusiastic would-be disciples that the glory of his triumph will be accomplished only at the expense of the cross. His sobering words about renunciation of all that impedes our communion with him, all that relegates him to a lower priority, remind us that the cost of authentic discipleship is high.

We should pay attention to what we are committing ourselves to.

QUESTIONS:

What is one of the costs of discipleship which you find especially challenging? What is a way you can prepare yourself more fully for the hard work of following Jesus in everyday life?

Weekly Scripture

Readings for the week of Sept. 9-15

Sunday, Wisdom 9:13-18a, Philemon 9b-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33; **Monday**, Colossians 1:24 - 2:3; Luke 6:6-11; **Tuesday**, Colossians 2:6-15, Luke 6:12-19; **Wednesday**, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 6:20-26; **Thursday (St. John Chrysostom)**, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 6:27-38; **Friday (The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)**, Numbers 21:4b-9, Philippians 2:6-11, John 3:13-17; **Saturday (Our Lady of Sorrows)**, 1 Timothy 1:15-17, John 19:25-27

Readings for the week of Sept. 16-22

Sunday, Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-32; **Monday (St. Robert Bellarmine)**, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Luke 7:1-10; **Tuesday**, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Luke 7:11-17; **Wednesday (St. Januarius)**, 1 Timothy 3:14-16, Luke 7:31-35; **Thursday (Sts. Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions)**, 1 Timothy 4:12-16, Luke 7:36-50, **Friday (St. Matthew)**, Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13, Matthew 9:9-13, **Saturday**, 1 Timothy 6:13-16, Luke 8:4-15

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The Catholic News & Herald

'State of Grace' series mirrors its creator's youth in N.C.

By MARK PATTISON
Catholic News Service

HOLLYWOOD (CNS) — The new Fox Family cable TV series "State of Grace" tends to mirror the youthful experiences of its co-creator, Brenda Lilly.

The show focuses on two girls — Catholic Grace (Mae Whitman) and Jewish Hannah (Alia Shawkat) — growing up in 1965 and going to a Catholic girls' school in North Carolina.

"This is loosely based on when I was growing up," said Lilly, a Catholic. "My best friend when I was going to St. Genevieve of the Pines was a Jewish girl who played the Virgin Mary in the Christmas play."

In the series, the girls go to St. Christina's in the Pines, a private Catholic girls' school. The real-life St. Genevieve of the Pines, since closed, was a private Catholic girls' school in Asheville, N.C., staffed by the Religious of Christian Education, a French order of nuns, with several members hailing from the Boston area.

"It was quite a liberal education for a young Catholic girl in the '60s," Lilly recalled. "These were very free-wheeling, free-thinking women that were teaching us. They, I think, really impressed upon us the need to question things. They really stressed education. It was really unique, too, because they all were so well educated ... really, really bright women, and young for the most part."

As for all-girl education, "I'm a firm believer in it. I was educated for 12 years in that environment," said Lilly, who was a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish and the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Asheville and now attends St. Charles Borromeo Church in North Hollywood. "I don't have kids, but for all my friends that do I tell them it's a great way to go."

"What we really wanted to do, and what we really wanted to embrace, was the sense that diversity is not a bad thing," Lilly told Catholic News Service. "When I was growing up, and where I was growing up — for the South in the '60s is a very odd place for this to be happening — it was about embracing people who were different from you."

"State of Grace" first took shape two years ago, according to Lilly. She and co-creator Hollis Rich had been looking at too many bad scripts and wanted to find "something we could be positive about writing, so we got together and started talking about what would interest us."

They created "State of Grace," she added, as "a show with a very positive girls' point of view, and a show that talked about friendship and imagination as an escape from unfortunate circumstances, which I think all kids feel like they're going through."

It takes place in 1965 "because we feel like that was a state of grace in our nation's history," Lilly said. "We chose the girls to be 12 years old because we felt that was a state of grace for them, between moving away from their parents' influence formulating their own thoughts and boys so influencing their life."

They offered the show to Fox Family first "because we felt there was a smaller hierarchy to go through there" with more control and less pressure "to put a boy in the lead," Lilly said.

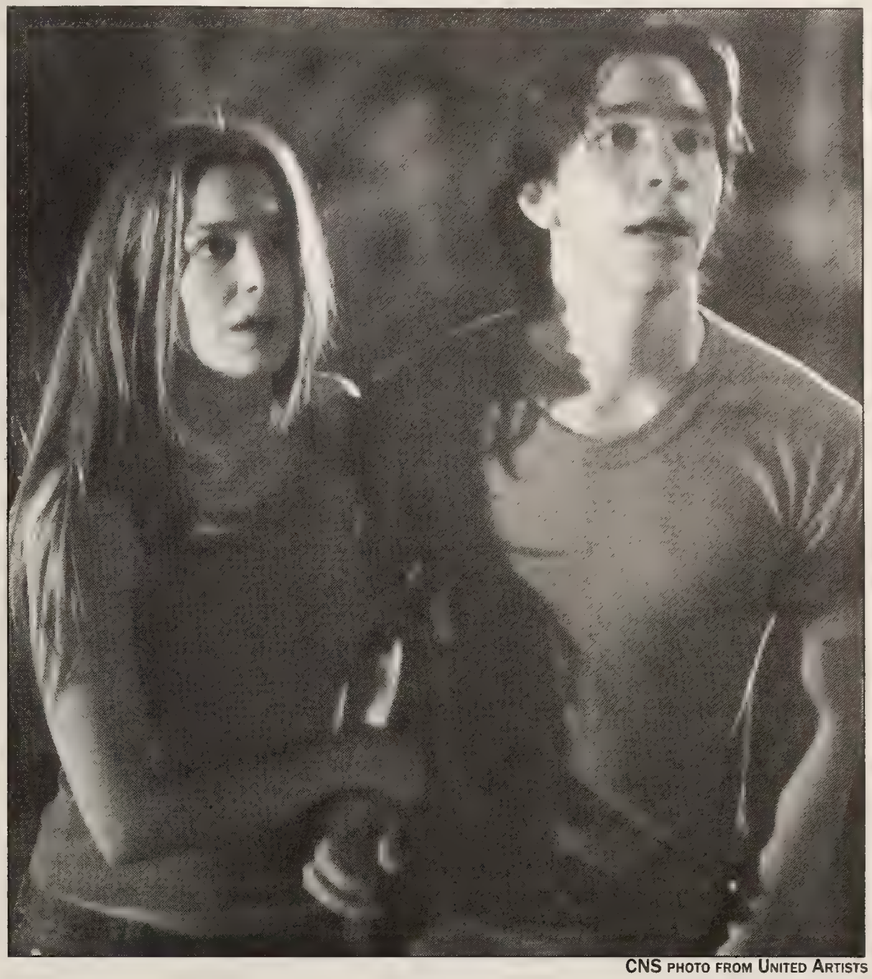
The "sweet new series ... clips along at a nice pace, introducing heartfelt moments that don't overstay their welcome," said a review of the series' first two episodes by Anne Navarro of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting

"There is a sense that the characters will grow and grow on you," she added. "The entertaining 'State of Grace' is likely to please both adults and children."

The half-hour "State of Grace" can be seen in back-to-back episodes 9-10 p.m. EDT Mondays and 10-11 p.m. EDT Wednesdays, with a fifth run 7:30-8 p.m. EDT Fridays.

Lilly said Fox Family ordered 13 more episodes for airing starting in January, but that was before Fox sold Fox Family to the Walt Disney Co., which is expected to rechristen the channel ABC Family by year's end, specializing in reruns of ABC, ESPN and Disney Channel fare.

Asked if she was worried that the sale would doom "State of Grace," Lilly replied, "I'm not worried. My mother taught me that worrying does nothing but give you wrinkles."



CNS photo from United Artists

Scene from movie 'Jeepers Creepers'

Gina Philips and Justin Long star in the film thriller "Jeepers Creepers." The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops classification is A-IV — adults with reservations. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R— restricted.

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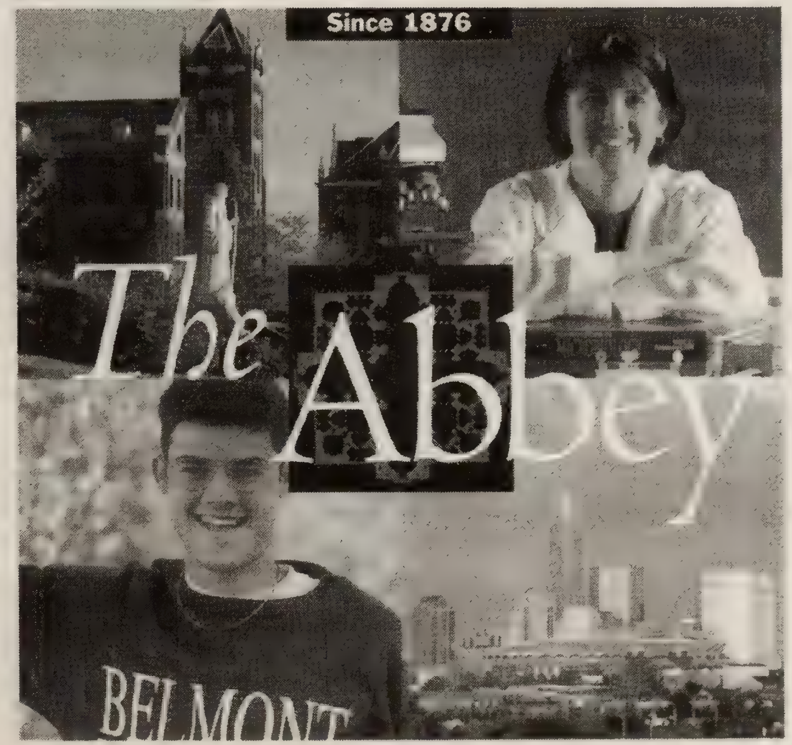

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The Pope Speaks

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Pope says surprising prophecy in Psalms fulfilled through Christ

BY JOHN NORTON
CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said a "surprising" prophecy in the Psalms that envisioned all the earth's peoples joined in God's praise found fulfillment through Jesus Christ.

Speaking at his weekly general audience Sept. 5, the pope said Christ's suffering and death broke down the barriers between gentiles and Jews, the people of the covenant.

Continuing a series of talks on the Liturgy of the Hours, the pope focused on Psalm 47, a hymn of praise to God as the king of the universe.

The psalm concludes "on a note surprising for its universal openness: 'The princes of the peoples are gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham,'" he told more than 12,000 pilgrims in St. Peter's Square.

Though the psalm also emphasizes God's domination, praising him for bringing "nations under our feet," it depicts the Jews' mission as one of directing "all peoples and all cultures toward the Lord, because he is the God of all humanity," the pope said.

"The Letter to the Ephesians sees the fulfillment of this prophecy in the mystery of Christ the redeemer," he said. Christ "is our peace, he who made both (gentiles and Jews) one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh."

All the earth's peoples are called "to encounter this king of peace and love, of unity and brotherhood," the pope said.

Church's main mission to announce Christ, Gospels, says pope

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The church's role in social development and humanitarian assistance throughout the world must never eclipse its main mission of announcing Christ and his Gospel, Pope John Paul II said. Unlike much of contemporary society, which tends to view progress in strictly material terms, Catholic missionaries should recognize that their first priority is deepening people's faith, the pope told a German missionary group Sept. 3. He said the ultimate failure of an attempt to build a world without God is seen in the "bloody traces that the history of ideologies and totalitarian regimes of the last century have left us." In the new millennium, he said, one "sign of the times" is the church's growing awareness of its duty to evangelize all people.

Back to School

DR. MICHAEL SKUBE
GUEST COLUMNIST

Catholic Schools: Where Faith & Knowledge Meet

Today's Catholic schools have changed from what many of us grew up knowing. If your image comes from the movie "The Bells of St. Mary's," you will be surprised at them today.

Formerly, most teachers were members of religious communities of sisters. Today, over 95 percent of the Catholic educators in our 17 schools in the Diocese of Charlotte are single or married women and men. Nationwide, the typical elementary teacher in a Catholic school is a married woman over 30 years of age who has been teaching in the school for over five years.

When this change from sisters to single and married women and men began, people asked, "Will the schools remain Catholic?" Our schools have placed a maximum emphasis on the Catholic identity of the school and constantly emphasize it through programs and in everything we do at the school. WWJD — "What Would Jesus Do?" — is a consistent focal point of comparison of what should be done.

We don't believe that Catholic schools are the most important part of a child's life. That honor goes to the family, which creates an environment that has the most profound impact on a child, for good or for ill. As the saying goes, "The apples don't fall too far from the tree."

Parents have more power than anyone else to shape their children's lives. But parents can certainly use all the help they can get, including assistance with their child's religious and moral formation. Catholic schools support openly the parents' faith perspective, their Catholic values and ideals. Everyday life presents dominant norms and values which challenge the role of the parent in abundance. Our Catholic schools give the parents more support — not competition — to their values.

Our Catholic schools live up to the name by supplementing and supporting the Christian family influences. Attending a Catholic school also assists children to learn that the practice of religion is not just a private or family matter. A Catholic school says to the student, "Our faith is meant to be carried into the everyday world and lived there."

Some critics state that Catholic schools isolate children and create an atmosphere that protects children from the harsh realities of life. If a Catholic school does distance students from some of society's more undesirable influences, such as drugs and violence, what parent would apologize for that? Catholic school students live in the same world as other students. But a Catholic school's powerful dedication to passing along a Christian perspective and an explicitly Christian moral code will give the child the extra knowledge, the skills and the support needed to deal with the "harsh realities" which they face each day and into the future.

In the words of one parent: "We send our children to a Catholic school because we want to give them not only an excellent academic education, but also every opportunity to learn the advantages of a Christian way of life. We do all we can to live our faith as a family, but we know that school is a big part of a child's life, too, and school experiences can have a profound effect. We think our children will be better people for having attended Catholic schools."

Dr. Michael Skube is superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Back to School

COLLEEN McDERMOTT
GUEST COLUMNIST

Calling Catholic college students

Your assistance is needed. Are you a college student or do you know a Catholic student who is attending college in the Diocese of Charlotte? Please call or email the Campus Minister or Parish Contact to register for Campus Ministry (Numbers are listed on page 10).

Over 15,000 Catholic students started or returned to colleges throughout the Diocese of Charlotte this fall. Campus ministers, student leaders and parishes have been preparing to welcome them and provide them with a multitude of opportunities. They've planned liturgies, weekly dinners, retreats, service trips, confirmation preparation classes, RCIA and Bible studies. This year, we welcome new campus ministers at Belmont Abbey College, University of North Carolina-Asheville, Catawba College and High Point University.

Karen de la Motte and Geralynn Trellue will organize retreats, coordinate student service opportunities and outreach to students at Belmont Abbey College. Karen joins campus ministry in addition to the classes she teaches, and Geralynn provides outreach to students and alum as well through her work at the alumni office. Benedictine Father Kieran Neilson continues as the college chaplain and Abbot Placid Solari will work with students preparing for the sacraments.

Wendy Murray will initiate the Catholic Campus Ministry program at the University of North Carolina-Asheville where the Collaborative Campus Ministry House has just been established. Wendy will work with the Presbyterian and Methodist Campus Ministers to provide hospitality to UNCA students. Wendy brings to campus ministry her rich experience in Catholic schools and counseling. Father Frank Cancro, the pastor of St. Eugene Parish, has worked closely with Dr. James Mullen, the chancellor of UNCA, to make this dream a reality.

Chris Beal, a student at Belmont Abbey College, is the new campus ministry intern at Catawba College. Chris will work with Lynda Cody, the director of faith formation at Sacred Heart Church in Salisbury, to develop the Campus Ministry program at Catawba College.

Terry Aiken, an alum of High Point University, will work with the Office of Student Development to organize the Catholic Campus Ministry program there. Terry, who is also the youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in High Point, comes to ministry after a career as a youth advocate in the juvenile justice system. Terry is also a diversity consultant and has offered his expertise in many departments throughout the Diocese.

Mercy Sister Antonette Schmidt also joins the staff of the diocesan Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry as the new spiritual mentor coordinator. Sister Antonette will work with local religious congregations to connect young adults with the rich tradition and charisms of these communities. Sister Antonette has been in ministry in the Diocese of Charlotte serving in schools, hospitals and retreat centers for over 35 years. The Mercies of the Americas of Belmont have graciously donated the salary for this position and will host various events for young adults throughout the year.

The work of campus ministry is to connect the Catholic college students, staff and faculty to the local church, to provide opportunities for faith formation, worship and leadership development. The campus ministers also serve the colleges through committee work assisting their institutions to create communities where all are encouraged to develop spiritually as well as academically. The church assists colleges to develop communities and curricula that develop servant leaders.

Light One Candle

MSGR. JIM LISANTE
Guest Columnist

No Accidents, No Mistakes

Some people you just remember. It's not just their looks or intelligence. It's something in their presence, their very essence. That was my reaction when I first heard Kay C. James speak. A beautiful, charming, self-possessed, articulate woman, she commands your attention by the sureness of her convictions.

Kay James has held a number of major positions with the government and with charitable organizations. She was an executive with the Washington, D.C.-based One-on-One Foundation, and also served as President George Bush's assistant secretary for public affairs in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

And some folks would suggest that gifted and accomplished person should never have been born.

Let me set the context. Among her many educational efforts, Kay James has also argued for the right of children to be born. As an African-American, she is keenly aware that few are targeted for abortion more frequently than poor black Americans. Following one presentation, Kay James was confronted by a woman who identified herself as a counselor at an abortion center. Her attack on James was deeply personal, suggesting that because Kay James dressed well and enjoyed a privileged lifestyle, she was in no position to advise the poor on their choice for abortion. The critic said: "Mrs. James, you don't know what you're talking about. You are obviously so middle-class that you can't relate to the needs of the poor. You don't understand why a poor woman would need abortion services to improve the quality of her life."

Now, Kay James is no fool. So she responded to the criticism with a question: "Tell me how would you counsel a woman who comes to you in tears and says, 'I'm pregnant and I don't know what I'm going to do. I already have four children. My husband is suffering from alcoholism and he physically abuses the children and me. He can't hold a job, and I don't know how I'm going to put food on the table.'"

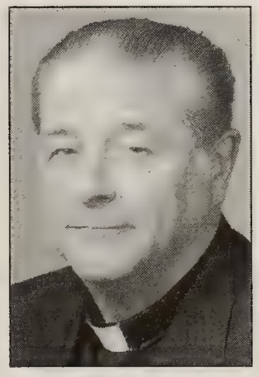
The abortion counselor had a ready answer. "The most loving thing that woman could do would be to have an abortion. What loving mother would bring a child into the world under those circumstances? What quality of life could that child be expected to have?"

And then Kay James lowered the boom. "I have a vested interest in how you would counsel that woman, because that woman was my mother. And that fifth child she carried was me. And in case there is any doubt in your mind, the quality of my life is very, very good. My husband Charles and I have three children and have adopted a fourth. I was born into a family struggling against poverty and alcoholism, but I am an example of what the power of Jesus Christ can do in the life of a believer."

Many people in our society see children as a personal choice, or as an accident of timing, or as a mistake in planning. Kay James thinks differently. She knows that there never has been and never will be a child conceived who is a "mistake" or an "accident" in the mind of God. Others believe that only when conditions are close to "perfect" should we dare to let a child be born. But as Kay James's life indicates, sometimes the most imperfect of situations produce abundant blessings.

When Kay James was only seven weeks old in her burdened mother's womb, she had a unique and distinct set of fingerprints. No one in the world could match them. Because that's how we're made: individual, precious. And each of us has a purpose which is uniquely our own.

Kay James's mother knew that. The world is richer for her choice to give life a chance.



Question Corner

FATHER JOHN DIETZEN
CNS Columnist

When Should Children Receive the Blood of Christ?

Q. I am the mother of five children. At what age do you think it is appropriate for children to receive the blood of Christ at Mass? (Missouri)

A. It is liturgically appropriate for children to receive Communion from the cup at any age. In most parishes, children receive under both species at the time of first Communion, either on the day itself or shortly after.

Parents who have particular concerns about their child may decide to wait until later, perhaps after discussing the problem with their parish priest.

Polygamy's presence in the Bible

Q. If we're to believe the Bible, polygamy was common in Old Testament times. Jacob is simultaneously married to Leah and Rachel. David and Solomon both have multiple wives. Is there a reason for this practice?

By the end of the Old Testament and throughout the New Testament, polygamous marriage is no longer mentioned. Is there a passage in the Bible that prohibits polygamy? Was polygamous marriage ever accepted by mainstream Christian tradition? (Maryland)

A. For Hebrew people, as for most ancient agricultural cultures, a large family was seen as a joy and blessing from God. (See for example Psalm 127.) A wife who could not bear children was considered cursed by God (Gn 30. 1 Sam 1:6)

The desire for children, particularly sons, and the status many wives and a large harem bestowed on the rich and powerful, are without doubt the reasons for both polygamy and concubinage.

Scripture tells us King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines. King David also had many of each. Even allowing for popular exaggeration as such stories were passed down, the practice obviously was widespread. The prophet Ezechiel (23) tells that, at least metaphorically, even Yahweh God had two wives.

Concubines were much more than "mistresses" in those days. But the precise difference between concubines and wives is uncertain, and changed significantly through the centuries.

At any rate, after the time of the exile (sixth century B.C.), polygamy appears to have nearly died out.

Interestingly, alongside the practice of polygamy was a strong monogamous tradition, especially in the later centuries of the Old Testament. The second story of creation in Genesis (2:18-24) declares clearly that marriage, as it came from the Creator, involved one man and one woman whose relationship would make them one flesh.

The books of wisdom, especially Proverbs and Sirach, written not long before Christ, consider monogamy as the ideal state of the marriage relationship.

Polygamy never was accepted in mainstream Christianity. Jesus himself returns to the Genesis story (18:24) of one man, one woman, one flesh and applies it not only to marriage in general but to each individual marriage.

A monogamous union is presupposed by St. Paul in the fullest treatment of marriage in the New Testament (1 Cor 7). Paul's celebrated passage in Ephesians 5 presents the union of bride and groom as a symbol of the "marriage" bond between Jesus Christ and his people. Again, he distinctly frames this vocation in the context of one husband and one wife.

All related passages in the New Testament reflect this monogamous understanding of marriage.

Back to School

FATHER JAMES HAWKER
Guest Columnist

The Catholic School: A Faith-Filled Environment

Recently, I enjoyed a pleasant meal with a wonderful priest who has had a truly remarkable influence upon my life. In 1951, I entered Cathedral High School in Boston as a freshman. Father Paul Moritz, the chaplain, was one of the first to welcome me as I crossed the threshold of the setting that would be my home away from home for the next four years.

During that truly significant period, Father Moritz, together with the staff, taught me by their words and actions that Cathedral High School was founded upon Jesus Christ. Its mission was to reflect His image, to share His message. Father Moritz and those with whom he served addressed not only my head, but my heart and my soul. I shall always be grateful that I was touched and transformed by their caring and challenging presence.

Four decades have unfolded since I initiated my memorable journey through Cathedral High School. Yet, I'm well aware that the mission of the Catholic school has remained the same over the years. While its procedures and tactics may have been altered, its nature and purpose have remained constant.

Since the 19th century, the Catholic school has been a unique and valuable component of the Church's educational mission within the dioceses of the United States. Its purpose has been to enable the participants to mature in their relationship with the risen Lord and in their sense of responsibility towards others. Its aim has been to transform the minds and hearts, the talents and skills of the children and youth. Its objective has been to assist the attendees to be all that they can be as God's children and to do all that they can do to place their learning and knowledge at the service of their Faith.

The Catholic school, then, must never be viewed or described as just another private school. On the contrary, it is a setting that proclaims publicly that Jesus is Lord and that His vision, values and virtues are integral to its raison d'etre.

Whether in the chapel or classroom the children and youth are reminded that each person is unique and valuable, that all have a promise hidden within them, that knowledge is integral to the living of faith, that studies are to lead to service. Those who teach in the Catholic school, regardless of the subject matter they present, exercise a sacred and serious responsibility. Day after day, they stress to those in their care that expanding their knowledge and cultivating their skills are never ends in themselves. The discipline of learning is related directly to the devotion of living as a faith-filled child of God.

After I shared those memorable moments recently with my mentor and friend, Father Paul Moritz, I thanked the Lord for the gift of the many people who enriched, enlightened and enabled me during the formative years of my life. I expressed gratitude as well for those who serve in the Catholic schools of this diocese so that faith and knowledge might meet in the lives of the children and youth entrusted to their care.

Father Hawker is vicar for education for the Diocese of Charlotte.

Charlotte Catholic Alumni Association unveils Web site

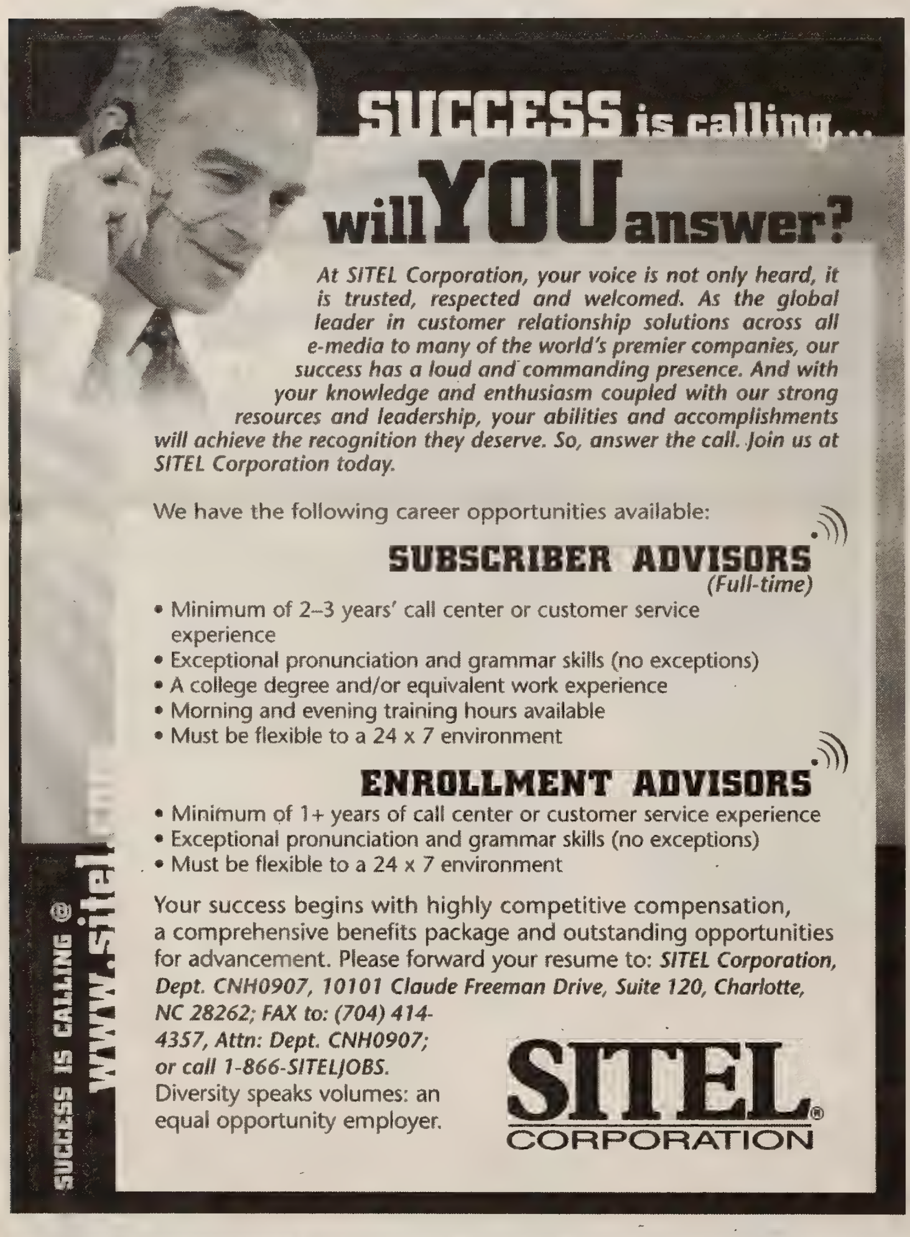
CHARLOTTE — Charlotte Catholic High School's Alumni Association has announced the launch of the CCHS Alumni website, www.charlottecatholicalumni.org.

Visitors will be able to read about the alumni board of directors and upcoming events at CCHS, subscribe to alumni updates, view reunion news, send e-mail address changes, announcements, and news and photos to the Alumni Association, and make donations to the CCHS Alumni Fund through a secured server.

The Charlotte Catholic High School Alumni Association was founded in 1987 to provide social, spiritual and educational enrichment for alumni, students and friends. Its mission is to provide a source of additional funding to enhance the academic, spiritual and cultural missions of CCHS that cannot be met through tuition alone.

The Alumni Board of Directors works closely with the school administration to determine long and short term needs. The annual Alumni Fund is essential to the added advantages that provide CCHS students with the best educational opportunity that the Charlotte Catholic Community can offer.

Since its inception, the Alumni Association has raised over $300,000 for the benefit of Charlotte Catholic.



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In brief...

Weaver Prize winner to be honored

BELMONT — The winner of the Richard M. Weaver Prize for Scholarly Letters for 2001 is Diana M. Schaub, associate professor of political science at Loyola College of Maryland. The Weaver Prize is a $25,000 award funded by the Ingersoll Foundation of Rockfield, Ill., given to scholars who write within the Western European tradition. Professor Schaub is the first woman and the youngest person to ever win the Weaver Prize. She holds both master's and doctorate degrees in political science from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree from Kenyon College. Dr. Schaub has published articles in The American Enterprise, The Public Interest, Legal Studies Forum, The National Interest, Perspectives on Political Science and New Perspectives. The Weaver Award will be presented to Professor Schaub at a symposium from Oct. 19-20 at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont.

Theme, from page 1

Asheville Catholic School, said the Catholic school is indeed a place where faith and knowledge meet. She said one way to evidence that theme this year will be by celebrating the multicultural traits of the Asheville Catholic School community of 240 students.

"During Catholic Schools Week, for instance, we will be celebrating our heritage and the knowledge that while our faith is universal, all of the backgrounds bring great diversity," said Bereen.

"Faith at Asheville Catholic is, of course, extremely important," she said. "We do a lot of service projects to bring our faith out into the community." At the same time, she said, "knowledge is absolutely imperative to be able to articulate that faith."

And while the schools will celebrate the theme in specific ways throughout the year, Skube reiterated the importance that the students' families have in fostering that theme in everyday life.'

"Parents have more power than anyone else to shape their children's lives," he said. "Catholic schools support openly the parents' faith perspective, their Catholic values and ideals. Our Catholic schools give the parents more support — not competition — to their values."

The National Catholic Educational Association contributed to this story.

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One-year hitch to teach English becomes a love of a lifetime for a Maryknoll affiliate

By MATT DOYLE
NC Catholic Staff

RALEIGH — Mary Ellen Majors has spent a year in coastal China teaching English to eager native-born college students. In September, she will be returning "home" to Zhanjiang to continue that work.

Majors told her story Aug. 12 at a meeting of the Triangle Chapter of the Maryknoll Affiliates. She told the gathering she always wanted to do something to "step out of my own life."

Majors first heard of the work when a Maryknoll priest visited St. Francis De Sales Church in Lumberton. After a lot of hesitation, she packed up what she wanted to keep and sold off what would be a burden and decided to take a chance.

She said she knew she could do anything for the little more than 10 months she would actually be on her assignment. To her surprise and satisfaction, Majors is not just putting up with it, she is in love with the people she teaches and the work she does.

The pitch she heard for 30 teachers in China led her to "take the biggest risk of my life." Now she is going into her second year and she does not regret a moment of it. "I learned how creative I could be."

Majors made it clear that while Maryknoll supplies support and facilitates the work, the organization stresses they are there to assist the Chinese and are in the country at China's invitation.

Majors urged others to "give up everything you know and leave it all behind." She said it has led to "the most wonderful time of my life."

While she said that teachers and Americans are revered, honored and respected by the students and the population at large, she does her best to remain apolitical. She said she defers any discussions that might make her an unwelcome guest of the Chinese.

Majors said she is in China to teach English "because that is what they want." She said she is not trying to change China or the people.

"I am there to teach them English because they want to learn English and they want American teachers," said Majors. "It is a way to get a good job (for the Chinese)."

"They want an American accent," said Majors. "They don't want another accent."

Her often-expressed attachment to her students shows she would be reluctant to change them even if she could. Majors lovingly describes her students and their families as being warm and caring.

Christianity is often an issue because so much of literature taught to the students contains allusions to matters with which they are not familiar. When teaching works by Milton, Dante or Donne, it is necessary to explain the biblical allusions to the students.

Because they are guests in a country where the Catholic Church is directly under the control of the government, Maryknoll workers do not seek converts to the Catholic Church. They will discuss faith with those who ask, but it is not their primary mission.

Zhanjiang is a port city formerly known as Canton. It is a military port and one of the most prosperous areas of China.

The area has a tropical climate and is very close to Hainan Island where an American surveillance plane landed after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet.

One of the most interesting discoveries for Majors was that all of the Chinese students take an English name. They get to choose what that will be. "Snow White" is one of her best students.

Majors said she had "an incredible time." She has some advice for anyone who might want to follow her into China.

"Any opinion you have of China, forget it. Americans are treated with respect and honor. The people are fed and clothed."

The age limit to participate in program like the one Majors is working in through Maryknoll is 70 years. Most of what is needed is taken care of through Maryknoll and there are many opportunities.

More information can be obtained through e-mail at chinaserve@iohk.com or on the Internet at maryknoll.org.

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Diaconate provides comfort, support to family

By ALESHA M. PRICE
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — Rev. Mr. Gerald Hickey did not grow up in a conventional family, although he remembers a happy and fulfilling childhood. His mother had to work long hours as a registered nurse during the height of the Depression, and with no immediate or extended family available in the Bronx, N.Y. area, his mother sent him to live with another family while she was at work.

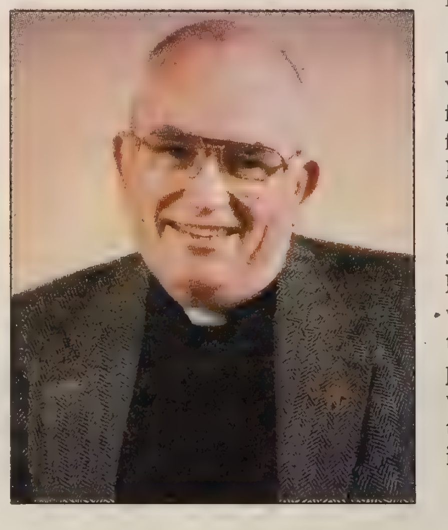
"She wanted me to have more of a family life and felt that it would be a better situation for me," said Rev. Mr. Hickey, who was educated in the neighborhood Catholic school. "Mrs. Inge, my caretaker, was very good to me, and school was a positive environment as well."

Scouting was a large part of his life as he developed strong ties with the young men who were also involved in the age-old, extracurricular activity. "I wasn't just involved with them at Boy Scout meetings. I met their families and became a part of their lives."

Scouting remained as a constant in his life during the turbulent years surrounding World War II around the time of the "transition from the Depression to war mode."

"You just realized then that there were some things that you had to do without," he said of the government rations.

Delivering overseas cables led him to a job working for Yale Locks, first as a clerk in the manufacturing division, then in the customer service division as a customer sales representative, where he remained for nearly 44 years. After being transferred to Connecticut early in his career, he traveled to his mother's house in Brooklyn on the weekends.



Rev. Mr. Gerald Hickey

Life went along at an even pace until the early 1950s, when he met Joan on a group outing to the beach in Long Island. Even though she was out on a date with a mutual acquaintance, sparks flew between the two. After that first date, things rapidly changed, and they tied the knot at the bride's parish in the Bronx in 1955 after a two-year courtship.

After moving to various locations in the general area because of work and family responsibilities, the company was moved to Monroe, N.C., and the Hickey family followed in 1972. "We left part of ourselves up in New York as did our kids."

They settled in Charlotte and began attending St. Vincent de Paul Church. It was then that the stirrings of the permanent diaconate began to swirl around in his mind, subtle at first, but nonetheless present. "I saw the need for someone to help the priest, so I became a lector, cantor and a Eucharistic minister and got involved with Right-to-Life."

After hearing that the diocese would have its first diaconate formation classes, Hickey responded positively. "I had felt something similar years ago when I thought that I might be a priest. I felt like I was being called to ordained ministry and felt that there was a need. I think the Holy Spirit had something to do with it."

He had his family's support, and his daughter attended classes with him while his wife worked in the evenings. "I thought about giving it up often because I hadn't been in class in years, but my wife encouraged me."

He said that he also gained support from the other men in the class and was inspired by their stories of faith. "All of us had our own talents. There was a solid group of men who really felt that same calling that I felt."

After being ordained in 1983 and plunging headfirst into various ministries at St. Vincent, his class partner, his daughter Donna, succumbed to cancer in 1986, leaving behind her parents and two brothers. Times were tough for the Hickeys after Rev. Mr. Hickey had a heart attack not long after Donna's death, but through prayer and a strong faith life bolstered by the permanent diaconate, the family swam through their rough seas.

"The strength that the permanent diaconate provided seemed to help all of us," said Mrs. Hickey. "I realized later that it prepared us for what was going to come. The death of our daughter took a toll on all of us, but we knew that it something we had to deal with."

The grandfather of three, who has recently become involved with the airport chaplaincy and is also involved with perpetual adoration at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte and right-to-life, said that he enjoys meeting with people and talking with them about their lives.

"The service of the church is what the permanent diaconate is all about. Deacons are a bridge between people and the holy priesthood, and I want to make people feel as welcomed in the church as I can."

Contact Staff Writer Alesha M. Price by calling (704) 370-3354 or e-mail amprice@charlottediocese.org.

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